



MINUTES

Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition
Board Meeting
Nov. 10, 2008
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. MST
Sandhills RC&D, Mullen, NE

Chairman Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. on Nov. 10, 2008. Present were:

- Jim Carr
- Scott Cotton
- Dana Larsen
- Bob Broweleit
- Jim Luchsinger
- Michelle Wendell
- Twila Phillips
- Tamara Choat
- Paul Swanson (on conference)
- Sid Salzman (on conference)
- Lynn Myers (on conference)

Minutes for the Oct. 6 meeting were not received by everyone, so time was taken to re-email minutes and review them by those who were present. Approval of the minutes was postponed until everyone had a chance to review.

Twila presented the Treasurer's report. The current balance is \$-7,628.22, including uncleared transactions (that have not yet been mailed). We are waiting for a deposit of approximately \$24,000 from NET, which will cover all our bills and provide an approximate cash flow of \$6,000 for estimated expenses for the remainder of the quarter. Scott moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Michelle Wendell seconded it.

Scott reported progress on the Value-Added grant activities, and said we are approximately 75% complete with requirements. We will set up at the NE Cattlemen's and NE Farm Bureau conferences, and need to find one more venue to set up an NGLC booth at, to replace the ICON conference. Will continue to distribute surveys and grazing sticks at various conservation events. Dana and Scott will work on creating fact sheets.

Tamara discussed the new Web site and the features it will contain. She reported a contract has been signed with Intellicom out of Kearney to design a new web site with a multitude of interactive features, while keeping in mind the majority of our audience has limited access to high speed Internet. The cost of the redesign and Web site will be \$4,069. This will include all graphic design work and implementation of DotNetNuke content management system, designed to give the client the most possible access to making updates, as well as 12 months of site hosting fees and junk mail filtering. This payment will come entirely out of the \$5,000 designated through the NRCS FY08 grant, although there are additional grants with designated monies for web site development still available.

Discussion followed on web site monies and the SARE grant. We currently have \$1,300 in credit with Doreen Butterfield (payment originally came from the SARE grant). \$2,699 remains in the SARE grant. Kellie's invoice for \$1,400 has been paid, but not invoiced through SARE grant, so that money will be cash flow. Jim Luchsinger mentioned that at one point there was a collection of professional photos collected by The Nature Conservancy sent to Doreen Butterfield, and we should try to obtain that.

The group noted they would like to see generic NGLC business cards created without a name, but with Tamara's contact information. Tamara noted that her goal is to create a branded image for all marketing collateral. The brochure is still in the works, and will follow the branded image of the other pieces.

Discussion followed on a draft reimbursement policy. What defines a steward? How do we provide reimbursement for time for "mentors," especially if it is time that could be justified as a speaking fee? Should we create a set standard of requirements (reports, agreement to share information, etc.) in return for reimbursement for "mentees"? Need criteria for stewards. Suggested that new stewards have to be board approved. Generally agreed

that the “stewards” need to be exclusive, approved members. Who gets paid reimbursement for stewardship traveling? Suggested: “If they (currently) have a bio, they get paid,” due to the fact that these people who we interviewed for bios had been identified and approved as stewards. Is there merit to identifying people who are acting as stewards but don’t want to do it publicly? Do we need different levels of stewards? Lynn noted that original list of stewards were people who had been peer recognized as leaders in conservation. Jim requested a committee be set up. Jim Luchsinger moved to set up a committee to designate the roles of stewards and the reimbursement policy for stewards. Lynn noted we should pull in some of the original advisors. Members appointed to the committee include: Lynn Myers, Jim Carr, Jim Luchsinger and Tamara Choat. Lynn will contact other original advisors about joining the committee, mentioned Pat Reece and Brent Plugge. Jim L. will set up the conference call and contact everyone.

Discussion followed about the creation of an annual report. The group informally agreed there is a need to pursue the creation of a professional annual report. Tamara noted that in order to create such a document, she would like to either own software (Adobe Design Premium CS4) or contract the work out. Discussion followed on: NGLC purchasing software through an educational discount, who owns the software, if it would be PC or Mac format, who would own the files, what the contracted rate/hour would be, and other issues. Tamara expressed that she wanted transparency in ethics, ownership and property. Jim Luchsinger stated that is not a critical rush to get the annual report immediately, and requested Tamara to submit a list of options with pricing, bids, etc., concerning the annual report, which she agreed to do.

Dana reported on the joint SRM/GLCI meetings held in Valentine Oct. 5-6. Discussion followed on the option of working with South Dakota to host a bus tour. Funds for such a project would have to come from the network development funds. Scott Cotton, Dana Larsen and Tamara Choat will form a committee to meet with South Dakota.

Mitch Stephenson and Sid Salzman were recognized as being appointed to the board. Bob Broweleit was asked to serve in an official capacity as advisor. Jim and Tamara will continue to move forward with asking additional board members to serve.

Tamara announced there would be a drought meeting in Imperial on Nov. 19, and that all board members should have received a copy of the press release and flyer. She also noted that discussion on creation of a newsletter in the Cattle Business Weekly could be postponed until more information was received from Kendra Gordon.

Having a fee for membership was discussed. Jim Carr mentioned the benefits of South Dakota having a paid membership that created a pool of interested participants as well as a group of people to elect board members from, carry the work load, etc. It was decided this subject would also be discussed in the committee meeting concerning roles of stewards and reimbursements.

Bob Broweleit reported the Sandhills RC&D was working on sponsoring carbon credit workshops. Scott discussed the history of carbon credits and reported that he and Cindy Tusler (UNL Extension) have been hosting carbon credit seminars across Nebraska. Discussion followed that NGLC’s involvement would possibly be in the form of sponsorship, in supporting the original topical interests of the Panhandle/Western Sandhills network group formed at the August Cowboy Logic meeting.

Sherry Vinton joined the group via conference call to discuss the carbon credit issue. Sherry pointed out the importance of viewing this topic from an economic viewpoint, especially concerning the issues of rolling average reporting, international rates vs. U.S. rates, and the long-term effects and decisions involved in choosing aggregators and marketing the credits. Discussion followed on politics of carbon credits. Tamara reported that

carbon credits were a subject of interest reported by Panhandle/Western Panhandle group the at the August meeting.

It was agreed that Tamara would work with Bob in hosting a carbon credit seminar, to fulfill the interest of the Panhandle/Western Sandhills group.

Attendance at the NE Farm Bureau and NE Cattlemen's conventions was discussed. Jim Carr, Tamara Choat, and Ross Garwood, will attend the NE Farm Bureau; Tamara Choat and Dana Larsen will attend NE Cattlemen's.

Discussion followed on the possibility of sending stewards on scholarship to attend the Ian Mitchell-Innes workshops in November, organized by Terry Gompert. The group decided that there was not adequate time to inform and select scholarship recipients to attend, and it would be difficult given the fact that we do not have a formal steward reimbursement policy formalized. Jim Carr will be attending the workshops.

Nomination of presenters for the National GLCI Conference were discussed. Scott said this is a very impressive conference, with the majority of the presenters and attendees being ranchers. Tamara was instructed to get more information on the actual application, send out an email to the group requesting additional names to nominate to be presenters or bring posters. Suggested nominees for presenters included:

- Don Reeves
- Michelle Wendell
- Jim Carr
- A.B. Cox
- Bruce Troester

Michelle brought up the topic of EQIP multi-species targeted grazing. Dana reported that the money is implemented through the general EQIP guidelines. Interested applicants must go to their local NRCS office and see if their local work group has listed multi-specie grazing. Multi-species grazing has been on the docket for more than a year, under the pest management scenario. Currently, the EQIP money is on hold until the new rules are released. The Special Initiative for Invasive Plants is likely the most feasible way to obtain funding. Currently the NRCS is waiting on new rules for further guidance. Likely right now most of the money has been dispersed. Also, the Special Initiative is not formalized. If that happens, Dana said they will set aside a pot of money for Invasive Species treatments. The NRCS Technical Guide on Targeted Grazing is in the process of being finalized and will eventually be posted. Scotts said their group approved it as a practice, but doesn't know if there has been anyone signed up. Doug Whisenhunt at Curtis is willing to try. Nadine Bishop's group voted not to approve it. Dana said if there were any local working groups in the state who had ranchers who had utilized the program, she would like to know.

A conference call meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m.-12 noon MST. Depending on the number of agenda items to be discussed, there is a possibility this could turn into a full meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m., and Tamara Choat and Jim Carr left to attend a meeting with Kyle Graham and Jim Van Winkle with the Sand Hills Task Force in Valentine.