



MINUTES
Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition
Board Meeting
Oct. 6, 2008
7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. CST
Holiday Inn, Valentine, NE

Joint Meeting with South Dakota Grasslands Coalition
October 6, 2008

Kyle Shell and Tamara Choat opened the meeting by introducing their respective chairmen: Lavern Cook and Jim Carr. Lavern and Jim introduced the members of their board, and then everyone went around the room and introduced himself or herself.

Kyle shared a list of past and future SDGC activities, and members of the SDGC spoke about their experiences and the scope of the projects, including:

- Bird Tour
- Bus Tour
- Grazing School
- Pasture Walks
- Terry Gompert/HRM Workshops

Lavern Cook spoke about the passion for grass and the reason he is involved in the SDGC. Rod Baumberger spoke about the history of the national GLCI and the national conventions. Larry Wagner spoke about Bootstraps.

Tamara Choat – NE

- Great participation
- Strong reputation across states
- We want to learn from you – look for opportunities for future partnerships: Bootstraps program, newsletter,
- grant funding and organization

Jim Carr – history, Cowboy Logic Stewardship Network and mentor training

Dana Larson – Reeves Ranch Project

Scott Cotton – VA grant and multi-species tour/seminar

Sherry Vinton – relative newcomer to NGLC

Ross Garwood – interaction of NGLC with state organizations

Jim Luchsinger – interaction of NGLC with TNC

Tamara – Loess Canyons Burn Seminar, future goals

Quote of the day from Judge Jessop:

“Land so poor you can’t raise hell on it with a fifth of whiskey.”

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The meeting of the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition was called to order at 9:15 p.m. on Oct. 6, 2008, by Chairman Jim Carr at the Holiday Inn Express meeting center in Valentine, NE. The meeting was held in conjunction with the joint conference of the Nebraska and South Dakota chapters of the Society for Range Management and the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition.

It was stated that the minutes from the Aug. 11 meeting were distributed via email after the meeting. Scott Cotton moved to accept previous minutes. Ross Garwood seconded.

Sherry Vinton provided the Treasurer's Report and total amounts used in the four grants. Discussion followed concerning the NRCS grant deadlines and grant totals. It was cleared up that with the FY08 NRCS grant deadline ended Sept. 30, but invoices could be submitted that are dated after the deadline, as long as the work was completed before. Ross moved to accept Treasurer's Report. Jim Luchsinger seconded.

A sample of the the *Range & Pasture Journal* was distributed from the South Dakota group. Discussion followed on creating a similar insert from the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition into a paper such as the *Cattle Business Weekly*. Goal is to inform people about Cowboy Logic program and upcoming workshops. It was decided to invite Kindra Gordon to attend our next meeting to present on the newsletter, including circulation and cost.

Rod reported on his local working group. They're group had a pasture walk awhile ago, and attended a Cerizea Lespedeza workshop at Indian Cave State Park in September. He stated the main concern he sees with it involves awareness, and producers becoming concerned and taking action. Rod was encouraged to find and work with a rancher in a different state who had experience with Cerizea Lespedeza and invite him or her to come visit using Cowboy Logic Network funds.

Jim reported on the Ranch Management Network club that was started in the Atkinson area. Jim worked with the county extension agent, Gary Stauffer, to send out more than 100 letters to local ranchers. Seventeen ranchers showed up for the meeting, which was held from 7-9 p.m. Results from the meeting showed an interest in learning more about carbon credits. Ross Garwood suggested Gary Liney from UNL, also available at www.carbon.unl.edu. Dana Larson mentioned the name Jimmy Richards. Discussion followed concerning Scott's involvement with carbon credit sign up workshops.

Scott reported on the Multi-Species Tour and Seminar. Seminar attendance was very low, with only nine in attendance. However, the tour the following week was attended by 31 people.

Discussion evolved to distributing the grazing sticks at the four conventions listed in the grant. Tamara was assigned to contact both the NE Cattlemen's Association and the NE Farm Bureau to reserve space for a booth at their respective convention trade shows. Jim Carr said he would be attending the Farm Bureau convention, Dana Larson said she will be attending the NE Cattlemen's convention. Tamara will be attending both. No one was available to attend the ICON convention on Nov. 1, so it was tabled for further investigation.

Discussion followed on the example of a Greener Pastures. A decision was made to table the discussion, and form a subcommittee to pursue the option at the next meeting.

Southwest group is still anxious to host a drought seminar. Arnold Norman was unable to attend. It was recommended that we pursue a workshop with a rancher who has used the Drought Calculator (SDSU) as the keynote speaker.

Idea for keynote speaker for drought management workshop:

Jim Skavadhl, Marslin, NE
308-665-1127

Dana will contact Jim and report back to Tamara, with the intent of still attempting to hold the workshop this fall.

Discussion moved to the selection of new board members. It was decided that Jim would contact (the purple members) to ask them if they would be interested in serving as a board member. Tamara will provide phone numbers to Jim on those people, and will also work to find additional contacts in the SW corner of the state.

Discussion followed on adopting a tag line for the organization, with the following suggestions available:

- Grazing for Tomorrow
- Better Grazing, Better Tomorrow
- Better Grazing, Better Nebraska
- Sound Grazing, Strong Tomorrow

- Good Grazing, Healthy Lands
- Preserving Rangelands, Protecting Our Future
- Preserving Grasslands, Protecting Our Future
- Protecting Pastures and Prairies

Jim Luchsinger moved to accept the tag line "Grazing for Tomorrow." Sherry Vinton seconded it. Discussion followed on the aspect of the term "grazing" eliminating other aspects of grass management. Three ayes. One opposed. Two abstained. Motion passed.

Discussion followed on a plan for state conservationist awards. Does the NGLC want to nominate people for each of the following awards each year?

- Leopold Award
- Master Conservationist
- SRM Excellence in Management
- Omaha World Herald
- Grasslands Stewardship ... (Ross was a past winner)

Scott mentioned in Colorado they sponsored two ranchers who were doing a good job to a membership in the Society for Range Management or possibly taking them to a national GLCI convention. Tamara will investigate deadlines and compile applications for these awards.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.