

Michigan Forage Council Board Minutes

July 25, 2012

MSU Agronomy Farm, East Lansing

Present were: Steve Adsmond, Ray Moses, Ken Langmesser, Phil Kaatz, Rodney Oats, John Strieter, Mike Lauwers, Tom Cook, Dr. Kim Cassida, Dr. Jason Rowntree, Mike Metzger, Lance Johnson, and Jerry Lindquist.

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Lauwers at 10:00A.M.

Motion to approve the minutes by Ken Langmesser; seconded by Ray Moses. Motion approved.

Election of officers: elected were Mike Lauwers, president; Rodney Oats, vice president; Dr. Kim Cassida, treasurer; Jerry Lindquist, secretary.

Dr. Kim Cassida was introduced to the board. Kim explained to the board her background and experiences that brought her to Michigan. She has talked to Dr. Leep and Dr. Dietz to learn of the on-going research trials and hopes to maintain all of them. She has some targets she would like to pursue including: improving the forage web sites; researching new forage and grazing varieties especially alfalfa for grazing and warm season grasses.

Hay Report

- SE – may be worse than 1988 from a supply standpoint. Heavy winterkill, lots of alfalfa weevil damage. \$7-8/bale for hay square bales, straw yield and quality was good.
- Western MI – weevil damage, heavy leafhopper damage, very droughty.
- Lake City Research Station – even under irrigation the cool season grasses are not recovering from grazing.
- Thumb – rainfall is highly variable.
- Central St. Johns MI – highly variable, have good crops and then 3 miles away severe drought damage.
- Hillsdale – western hay is entering state at \$380/ton
- Northern MI - \$250/ton dairy quality; \$140-160/ton for 1st cutting mixed hay
- Jackson – no rain, \$6-8 for square baled hay

MSUE Report

Corn Silage Field Day, August 17, in Argyle. Discussion was held on the Forage Council website. Moved by Moses; seconded by Adsmond to get the Forage Council website up and running with Extension and Gary Carmichael's help. Motion approved. Kim Cassida agreed to serve as the editor of the Forage Council Newsletter.

Discussion was held on the Forage & Grazing Conference. Jerry presented the final budget. The conference was in the black with a balance of \$516.56. Group then discussed that maybe we could do a two day conference every other year. In the off year we can hold the annual meeting with some educational topics being offered. Maybe focus one day on dairy and one day on livestock like the Forage Technology Conference of old.

Treasurer's report was provided by Jodie Schonfelder. Ending balance is \$11,660.22. There are currently 93 paid members.

Discussion was held on the newsletter mailing. Should we move the newsletter to an electronic mailing? Moved by Moses; seconded by Adsmund to move the newsletter to an electronic mailing adding as many members as possible with a postcard mailed to all member. Motion passed.

Moved by Langsmesser; seconded by Adsmund to hold a one day annual meeting at the MSU Kellogg Center during ANR week. Motion approved.

Next meeting is September 19th at the agronomy farm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Lindquist".

Jerry Lindquist,
Forage Council Secretary