

Michigan Forage Council Annual Meeting

October 15, 2014
MSU Agronomy Farm
East Lansing, MI

Present were: Ray Moses, Phil Kaatz, Gary Carmichael, Mike Lauwers, Rodney Oates, Terry Stiles, Jerry Lindquist, Dr. Kim Cassida, John Strieter, Al Simon, Phil Smith, Ken Langsmesser, Tom Cook, Howard Straub, Betsy Dierberger, and Don Nevill.

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Lauwers at 10:05 A.M.

Minutes of the last regular board meeting were presented by secretary, Jerry Lindquist. Motion made to approve minutes as presented by Ray Moses and seconded by Ken Langsmesser. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report was provided by treasurer, Dr. Kim Cassida. Total balance is \$20,422.80 on October 15, 2014. This total includes \$4,789.20 being G.L.C.I. funds and \$7,757.07 being the Forage AOE Team which leaves the M.F.C. a balance of \$8,876.53. Motion made to approve treasurer's report as presented by Tom Cook and seconded by Ray Moses. Motion passed.

The board was saddened to learn that long-time board member Frank Lipinski had passed away over the weekend.

Michigan Hay Supply report - was discussed. In general everyone said it was a difficult summer to make dry hay. Low quality hays are in adequate supply but good quality hays are in low supply. Many that sell hay said they believe demand will increase for hay this winter and they are keeping their prices the same as last year.

G.L.C.I. – Howard Straub gave the National Grazing Lands Coalition (N.G.L.C.) report. The N.G.L.C. is the new name of this organization. Howard will serve as the vice chair of the N.G.L.C. in the Midwest. Next conference will be in Grapevine, TX, December 13-16, 2015.

Michigan G.L.C. report was given by Betsy Dierberger. We need to re-vitalize the State Board and will await guidance from the National Board to see what direction they take for future activities.

MSU Extension report – Jerry Lindquist provided a written report on 34 different forage field days and pasture walk events that were held across the State with three more to be held yet this fall. Board advised there are holes across the State where these events are not being held and this issue needs to be addressed.

Dr. Kim Cassida reported that there has been increased funding for forage research trials that she has received. She listed the numerous trials that these include.

Dr. Jason Roundtree could not be present, but wanted everyone to know that the National Grass Fed Exchange is coming to Mt. Pleasant September 16-18, 2015.

Mike Lauwers gave the N.A.F.A. report. They continue to work on improving crop insurance for alfalfa crops.

Betsy Dierberger gave the N.R.C.S. report. N.R.C.S continues on a continuing resolution for funding till December 11. Betsy is now the State Resource Conservationist which has taken time away from her grazing focus. She is hopeful that the Grasslands Forage position can be re-filled with a person to replace her within a year. It was felt the G.L.C. State Board should meet with the N.R.C.S State Conservationist by late 2014 to emphasize the importance of the Grasslands Forage position.

Forage Council Website – no additions have been made to it. Jerry Lindquist will have Kevin Carmichael add the Gabe Brown videos on the web-site.

Dr. Kim Cassida said the issue of the tax exempt status is now officially resolved and we are again a non-profit organization in the eyes of the IRS.

Dr. Kim Cassida investigated having the National A.F.G.C. take over our dues collection process as directed by the board. Because there was a slow response from A.F.G.C., Dr. Kim Cassida advised that we not go down that road and we continue to collect our dues at the State level. There was no objection from the board.

Discussion was held on the request from the Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food for Standardized GMO Labeling to endorse their effort. After discussion, no action was taken on this request.

Phil Kaatz then led the Industry Issues Identification process for Project GREEN issues. Top priorities identified were:

- Birdsfoot Trefoil Establishment, Yield, Management (6 votes received)
- Interseeding Grass into Alfalfa (6 votes received)
- Alternative Forages & Cover Crops related to Soil Fertility & Winter Hardiness (5 Votes received)
- Alfalfa Varieties Selection, Baling vs. Net, Low Lignin Maturities, (7 votes received)
- Company Economics of Alfalfa/Corn/Soybeans/Grazing (2 votes received)
- Grazing Forages with Limited Resources (2 votes received)

Jerry Lindquist will send these priorities to Project GREEN office.

Planning for the 2015 Great Lakes Forage & Grazing Conference – the date of March 12, 2015 is booked at the Kellogg Center for the conference.

Motion made to keep the G.L.F.G Conference at the Kellogg Center for 2015 and check out alternative sites for future years by Ken Langemesser and seconded by Don Nevill. Motion passed. Possible topics include:


- Cover Crops / Soil Fertility
- ITDNDF – Feeding Testing, Dave Combs, U. of WI.
- Economics of Grazing vs. Harvesting Crop
- Hay Preservatives & Hay Drying Methods
- Hay Equipment Updates
- Grass Fed Beef Update
- Alfalfa Variety Selection (Kim)
- Clayton Gerald, farmer from Kentucky on hay making
- Improving Soils with Forages

- Ray Archeletta, NRCS, Indiana on Soil Health
- Bob Barrons, U.P. Grazing Dairy Farmer – “If you can graze them here you can graze them anywhere”
- Jay Castleman

Whereas Frank Lipinski had been a MFC Board member for 22 years and an outstanding spokes person for Michigan agriculture it was moved by Ken Langemesser and seconded by John Strieter to donate \$100 to an appropriate memorial in honor of Frank. Terry Stiles and Jerry Lindquist felt an appropriate charity the family had named would be the Father Fred Foundation in Traverse City whose mission is to feed the poor. Motion was approved unanimously.

Moved to adjourn by John Strieter and seconded by Phil Smith. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Lindquist,
Michigan Forage Council Secretary