

The AWSGP Annual Meeting was called to order by Chair Will Brandau. He welcomed the members and discussed the growth the Association had experience in the last year.

Will read the minutes from the February 8, 2017 meeting which were approved as read. There were 21 present. The officers from the spring election are Will Brandau – President, Dan Arnett – Vice President, Judy Box - Secretary/Treasurer. A decision was also made on our logo.

Treasure's Report: 831.50 in our account. Judy Box reported that there are monies to be deposited from dues and the Annual Meeting BBQ.

Old business:

Website: Will improved the Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and with our name getting out to the public more we are seeing about 10 visitors a day. At this time, we are pleased with the web traffic.

Joe James suggested a thank you to Will for all his efforts and dedication. It was followed by a round of applause.

Nonprofit status: NEPA Alliance will help us, but since RC&D Council is a member we can use them for any grants that require nonprofit status. There is no reason to get it now.

All Things Biomass Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota April 10-12, 2017. Our association had about 10 members there and Will Brandau and Larry Hartpence were speakers. It was a fantastic opportunity to speak with the editors of the magazines and to have more information shared on grass the other biomass in the future. The editors of BioMass Magazine would like to receive articles from us, so please send your articles to Will. We have been invited to attend next year's conference in Atlanta, Ga.

New business:

Membership changes: As it is there are 140 people on the email list and they all had the right to vote in the spring election. The question is should we limit the voting rights to dues paying members of which we have 30? After discussion, it was decided that the Steering Committee members need to be dues paying members and only dues paying members can vote. If they paid dues in the name of a company or organization and the individual may pay dues as well giving them two votes. Example: George Kauffman is the representative of RC&D Council -1 vote, he also pays dues as an individual (a requirement for the Steering Committee) and giving him his own vote.

Ag Grove Teck – Travis Hendrick is looking to expand the operation -needing more growers more acreage. They lease the land for an annual rental fee and they do everything from planting to shipping. For more info 336-763-7212 or Cell 561-262-7423.

Ag Progress Days: August 15-17, 2017 Last year's participation was a success. There was a lot of interest generated. Discussion on this year's event included having the table with Penn State, Sarah Wurzbacher believes we can have this again (which worked well) or moving outside where we could have more on display. We should take this opportunity to gather information on other growers, who they are, where they are located how much and what they are growing. We need to have volunteers to be at our stand. Frank McDonald volunteered for a day and believed Matt Glennon would work with him. If you are interested in working at Ag Days please let Will know. If we don't have the help we don't need the stand.

Sarah suggested that we should go to Ag Days in 2018 to fill the SARE grant outreach requirement. Mike Palko made a motion we go to Ag Days and seconded by Len Reggie.

Pipeline project: Len Reggie - Providing warm season grass as a cover crop that can be harvested. The pipeline will finance some of the cost. After discussion, Lenny will be the chair and contact John Balakas, environmental consulting, and Andy Fisher will co-chair.

Sarah Wurzbacher to draft a simple but complete survey form on what crops are being grown by whom, where what and how many acres. This would be helpful at Ag Days.

Will is going to put together a map on the web site that will convey that information.

Larry Hartpence brought up the question about when dues are due- since we have open membership year-round. Will to bring it before the Steering Committee for a decision.

Adjournment -Larry Hartpence

Seconded – Frank McDonnell

Respectfully submitted, Judy Box, Secretary