

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance

Minutes of meeting – Sept. 4, 2008 Konza Prairie

Present:

Bill Sproul
Rich Porter
Mike Collinge
Nancy Sproul
DeVere Winter
Tom Moxley
Gene Towne
John Briggs
Iralee Barnard
Rob Manes
Paula Matile
Walt Fick
Jim Wineland
Alex Miller
Kelly Kindsher
Tim Christian
Ed Miller
Jim Minnerath
Jim Lewis
Greg Kramos
Myra Richardson
Ron Klatasky
Roger Wells
Jeff Davidson

The 12 noon Lunch & Learn presentation was given by John Briggs, director of Konza with assistance by Gene Towne. It was a very interesting program, with insight into building projects at Konza and effects of burning on prairie vegetation dynamics.

Chairman Bill Sproul called the official meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. and each person attending introduced themselves.

The treasurer report was given by Roger Wells. Mike Collinge moved, Rob 2nd that we receive the treasurer report as presented.

Minutes were approved as e-mailed last March.

The staff report was given by Myra Richardson. She reported that \$31,307 were obligated for sericea spot spray work in 2008, so far. About 1600 acres are currently pending. She said there is also some interest in alternative burning dates, patch burning and possibly polyethylenc glycol (PEG) portions of the grant. Jeff reported that those dollars were committed to a study that ESU would be doing. Myra also reported that she had taken the opportunity to go prairie chicken trapping, and she and Jeff had revised the spot spray rates this summer.

The group had a general discussion about sericea, and the frustration of continuing control efforts. Jeff mentioned that concentrating in a particular watershed where all landowners were willing to work on it would be an ideal situation, as compared to our somewhat unplanned, shotgun approach. It was mentioned that later in the fall was the time that grazing could distribute the seed throughout a pasture, or even move the seeds to another pasture. Another observation was that ½ or ¾ stocked pastures seemed to have less of it than season long stocked. Patch burning appears to slow the spread, but not stop it. Jeff reported briefly on the ESU research, stating that it will take the money ear-marked in the grant for alternative burn, PEG, and patch graze.

Iralee Barnard handed out a few samples of a proposed publication “Secrets of Prairie Plants” After review and some discussion, Roger Wells moved we pay 1/3 of 1500 copies. Ed Miller 2nd and the motion carried.

Tim Christian reported on the summer’s range schools. 43 attended the eastern school held at White Memorial camp. 12 attended the western school held at Camp Aldrich. Both schools seemed well received with good comments from those attending.

Greg Kramos handed out and discussed the use of the Prairie Chicken football which will indicate when chicken have enough cover. This generated quite a bit of discussion. Someone mentioned that Brian Obermeyer is conducting a study on forb-rich hay. He is comparing cattle gains of the forb rich hay to forb deficient hay.

Ron Klataske brought up the problem of old world bluestems. Perhaps we need to begin a major public awareness campaign about the invasive plant.

Announcements: Roger Wells mentioned that there would be a WRAPS tour beginning at Allen, KS at 7 am on Sept 9 that would go to a creek on his place that would be looking at streambank stabilization.

Next TLA meeting will be Nov 6 at Bazaar school. Jane Koger will present the lunch and learn. Jane is a Chase County rancher who will also be presenting at a meeting in Wyoming in October.

The meeting adjourned and was followed by a TLA board of director meeting.