

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance

conserving and enhancing the biological, economic and cultural integrity of the tallgrass prairie

Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance was held on Thursday, May 8, 2003, at Saint Anthony's Hall in Strong City, Kansas.

Attendance:

Rose Bacon	Eddie Ingalls	Tom Moxley
Ron Betzen	Elaine Jones	Paul Ohlenbusch
Louise Carlin	Kelly Kindscher	Rich Porter
Leigh Ann Crofoot	Ron Klataske	Paul Seeley
Mark Crofoot	Brad Loveless	Bill Sproul
Bob Culbertson	Damien Miller	Bruce Wells
Jeff Davidson	Edwin Miller	Roger Wells
Pete Ferrell	Steve Miller	
Harold Garner	Jim Minnerath	
Dave Hartnett	Tim Miser	
Mike Holder		

Dave Hartnett, Director of the Konza Prairie Biological Station, presented a lunch and learn session on Konza studies and research.

Chairman Tom Moxley called the meeting to order at 1:50 P.M.

Jim Minnerath moved and Brad Loveless seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2003, meeting. The motion carried.

Tom called for committee reports.

Economics:

Pete Ferrell reported that he had asked TLA members to list ten profitable ranch ideas, not specific to commercial beef production. The committee received 18 responses or a list of 180 ideas. The Economics Committee met to review the list and eliminated five items because it was felt they did not meet the biological, cultural, or economic guidelines that TLA members can support. A handout of the report, *Ideas for Enhancing Ranch Profitability*, was distributed.

On Page 1 of this report, third paragraph under Biological, it was recommended that the word "native" be inserted to read: "*Represents the greatest potential for native biodiversity*". On Page 2, under Harvesting, it was recommended to add Item 9, "*Forb-rich hay for mulch*".

It was pointed out that Page 1 of this report would present the least dissention from the general TLA membership, that items on page 2 would be somewhat questioned, and that items on page 3 would raise the most objections.

Kelly Kindscher moved that TLA endorse and encourage the Economic Committee's ideas for enhancing ranch profitability. Harold Garner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pete mentioned that the dissolved Tallgrass Prairie Producers might possibly share their eco- and ag-tourism feasibility study with TLA. The study was prepared for ten ranchers.

There was discussion of pulling together with convention and visitors bureaus (CVB) in the area to promote eco- and ag-tourism. Native and wildflower tours should be linked with CVB's. There was also discussion for the need of a coordinator to work with tour groups on ranches.

Invasive Species:

Jeff Davidson reported on the sericea lespedeza research project by Greg Mantz, Utah State University PhD student. More information on this study can be found on Page 2, Issue 4, of "*The Prairie Pen*" dated April 15, 2003.

Easements:

This committee had nothing to report.

Tom announced that the Kansas Livestock Association's Easement Structuring Committee will meet next week.

Public Relations:

Jim Minnerath reported that TLA brochures were distributed to Wildlife and Parks and NRCS offices across the state.

Public Policy:

No report.

The status of Senate Bill 134 was briefly discussed.

The Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS) conducted a series of five Farm Bill workshops across the state in April. There was discussion on the need for producer information on Farm Bill programs.

It was moved and seconded to plan an informational workshop on various government programs available in the state that can benefit a producer. The motion carried. Rich Porter, Roger Wells and Jeff Davidson will work together with Brian Creager to plan this workshop.

Jeff received information from Roger Wells on a grant opportunity for the TLA and an e-mailed grant application just did meet EPA's deadline.

Following a brief break, Paul Ohlenbusch presented a proposed TLA web site. Items to be included on the site are goals, history, organizational representation, minutes of meetings, events, links and contacts.

The web site included a proposed TLA logo that was designed by a Kansas State University graphic artist. Ed Miller had previously drafted a couple of TLA logos. Ed Miller will e-mail his logo designs to Paul for the graphic artist to work with. If anyone else has a logo design they would like to present, please e-mail them to Paul: ole@ksu.edu

Paul announced that he will be retiring June 3, but K-State Research and Extension will create the TLA web site and Paul volunteered to maintain the site.

Mark Crofoot moved and Bob Culbertson seconded the motion for Paul Ohlenbusch to update and maintain the TLA web site. The motion carried.

Pete Ferrell moved and Tim Miser seconded the motion to accept Ron Klataske and Harold Garner as TLA producer members. The motion carried.

Tom Moxley recommended that "*friends of TLA*" be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. This idea may be a logical step to develop a base of support to disseminate information to communities.

Jim Minnerath announced that Fish and Wildlife Service has cost-share grant monies available for good range management practices that provide adequate nesting cover for the Greater Prairie Chicken.

Mike Holder is Secretary/Treasurer of the TLA and Tom announced a board meeting would be held to determine where to establish a TLA bank account and how to handle the bookkeeping activities.

Ron Klataske distributed the Kansas Department of Transportation's *Kansas Wildflower, Native Grasses and Shrubs* brochure.

Pete Ferrell moved that the next meeting of the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance be held Thursday, July 10, 2003, at St. Anthony's Hall, in Strong City. The motion was seconded and carried. A Smart Growth video program on redevelopment of urban areas may be presented at this meeting.

Mike Holder announced that the Chase County wildflower tour would be held June 11, 5:00 P.M., beginning in Matfield Green.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.