

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance
Minutes of Annual Meeting Jan. 15, 2009 Emporia, KS Westar Offices

Present:

Jeff Davidson
Dale Kirkham
Bill Sproul
Mike Holder
Roger Wells
John Davis
Mike Collinge
Brad Loveless
Paul Seeley
Harold Garner
DeVere Winter
Dennis Toll
Jim Minnerath
Myra Richardson
Ed Miller
Paula Matile
Keith Long
Tim Christian
Brian Obermeyer
Mike Hudson
Ron Klataske
Wendy Laueitzen

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Sproul at 1:10 p.m. following a “chat n chew” presentation by Dennis Toll about the Flint Hills Tourism Coalition and the possible formation of a Flint Hills Heritage Area.

Bill asked for additions to the agenda, and there were none. Brad Loveless who was hosting the meeting welcomed everyone, and mentioned the snacks and drinks that were available. (hint to future hosts).

Mike Holder moved approval of previous (11-6-08) minutes, Roger Wells 2nd and the motion carried. Bill had us do a “round the room” introduction of ourselves and Roger then presented the treasurer report. Harold Garner moved and Mike Collinge 2nd approval of the treasurer report – motion carried.

Myra Richardson reported that 18,000 acres of sericea lespedeza have been treated in the 5 pilot project counties of GW, LY, CH, BU and MR. The group had a fair amount of discussion about the sericea problem and the idea that while we did so much a few

years ago, we needed to do more public education. Myra pointed out that we needed to work harder this year to spend our grant money treating more acres of sericea. Dale Kirkham suggested a news release in the five counties explaining the program.

Tim Christian reported on the Rx Fire Council, which is newly formed and will have an exhibit at the KS Natural Resources Conference. He also reported on the KS Grazing Land Coalition which will have its next meeting on Feb. 19. He announced that the Tallgrass Range Management School will be August 11-13, 2009 at White Memorial camp on Council Grove Lake. The mid/short grass school will be Aug. 18-20 at Camp Aldrich near Claflin. The KGLC board will be involved in developing a KS rangelands condition report, and is also considering how to support a coordinator for TLA and Comanche Pool, as well as other grazing groups.

Bill Sproul mentioned that at the KS Livestock Association Natural Resource Committee meeting, Bill Edwards brought up the Old World Bluestem as a problem invasive plant. After considerable discussion including the fact that some ranchers out in western KS considered it a good plant, Mike Holder suggested that guidelines needed to be developed. These guidelines would refer to the transport of seed, use of mulch on roadways, encouragement of appropriate agencies to deal with it before it becomes a major problem. TLA should take the lead on encouraging landowners to begin taking action on it. We need to take action on how to address it.

TLA minutes continued 01-15-09

(Old World Bluestem discussion) TLA and KLA could work together on educating the public that Old World Bluestem is a serious invasive plant. Groups to work with include KS Dept of Transportation (roadside aesthetics task force), Dept. of Ag (plant division), and KGLC.

The discussion turned back to the *Sericea lespedeza* invasive plant. Jim Minnerath mentioned that we just need to increase awareness of the seriousness of *sericea* – there is still a number of people who don't know what it looks like, and are not concerned about it. Paul Seeley suggested that a booklet should be developed. One is available, but has not been distributed as fervently in recent years as it was 8 or 9 years ago. Bill Sproul mentioned that KC Olson of KSU Animal Science Dept. would be looking for *sericea* hay to begin a trial of how to make cattle eat more of it. Jeff Davidson said he would contact KC and offer plenty of hay.

We had some discussion concerning the NRCS state technical committee and the EQIP wildlife/fire frequency idea. This proposal (if approved) would allow payments to producers who burn a said pasture once, but only once every three years. Chair Bill said he would develop the TLA position regarding EQIP wildlife/fire frequency and provide to Roger Wells and Tim Christian who will be representing TLA and KGLC (respectively) at the upcoming KTC meeting. .

Election of board of directors: Dale Kirkham reported on the action of the nominating committee. DeVere Winter, Walt Fick and Ed Miller were nominated to serve a 3-year term on the board of directors. Jim Minnerath moved a unanimous ballot be cast, Mike Holder 2nd, and the motion carried.

Announcements: A grazing workshop featuring Dale Kirkham and Gary Kilgore is to be in Alta Vista, Jan 27. KS Graziers Association will meet in Assaria on Jan 17, and concentrate on extending the grazing season. Bill announced that John Davis has attended enough meetings to be an official member now. Regular meeting adjourned.

The TLA board met briefly and elected to retain current officers another year. The TLA board for 2009 consists of:

Chair	Bill Sproul	wgsproul@yahoo.com
V Chair	Mike Collinge	mcollinge@kans.com
Treasurer	Roger Wells	rnwells@bluestemtelco.com
Secretary (non-bd)	Jeff Davidson	jdavidso@ksu.edu
	DeVere Winter	
	Harold Garner	jpgarner@powwwer.net
	Rich Porter	porter@millers.com
	Walt Fick	whfick@ksu.edu
	Ed Miller	edm@wp.state.ks.us
	Mike Holder	mholder@ksu.edu

Respectfully, Jeff Davidson, Secretary