

**GLCI Steering Committee Meeting**  
**September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Attendees: Bob Drake, John Spain, Evert Byington, Howard Straub, Dave Forgey, Keith Bartholomay, Jon Gustafson, J. Elrose Glick, Conrad Fisher, John Courtney, H.K. Gibson, Jeff Repp, Mark Muir, Clifford Hawbacker, Duane Hertzler, Jana Malot, Dick McElhaney, Robert E. Lee, Gerald Jaeger, Larry Hensley, Tom Sommer, Roger Hanson, Dennis Thompson, Karen Hoffman, Rod Baumberger, Troy Bishopp, Chuck Stanley, Jim Dobrowolski, Pat Pfeil, Chuck Pritchard, Tacy Currey, Allen Green, Gene Fults, Aggie Helle, Janet Mawhinney, Eunice Biel, Bob Bolton, Kristie Maczko, John Peterson, Rooter Brite, Kim Stine, Kevin Ogles, Craig Derickson, and Monti Golla.

Bob Drake asked for everyone to go around and introduce themselves, and afterwards read the GLCI mission statement to remind everyone why we are here.

***4<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Grazing Lands – John Peterson***

John said that right now funds are very tight, but that he has drawn up a budget that will make the conference work and still make the GLCI a little bit of money. John briefly went over the history of all the NCGL's (attendance, profit made, fees charges etc...). In the past we had \$100,000 to \$150,000 in cooperative agreements that were seed money from the Federal agencies. In today's environment, that isn't happening. Currently, we have \$5,000 pledged from the Fish & Wildlife Service. There is a scant amount that is left in the GLCI's bank account from the 3NCGL. Everything was much more expensive than planned in St. Louis. For example, we paid \$49,000 for the noon luncheon, and \$60,000 for the evening banquet. John suggested that we do not give these away as freebies anymore...we simply cannot afford it. For the 4NCGL John is looking at an overall budget of \$300,000. The contractual agreements have already been signed with the Nuggett and a signed\ agreement with SRM should be waiting for John Peterson when he returns home. John was able to get the Nuggett to give us some concessions which most hotels will not do. Usually, hotels expect you to meet at least 80% of your room block. In this case they agreed to lower the percentage to 70%. The room rate is also reasonable at \$96 per night.

John asked the committee if we should give away as many freebies, citing the budget concerns. The committee discussed this and the consensus was to try to keep the noon luncheon as part of the regular registration fee. John said he will rework the budget to include the noon luncheon, but that the evening banquet would be a ticketed affair. Charles Pritchard presented to the committee his idea for Dave Stamey, Cowboy poet and musician/entertainer, and the banquet entertainment. The committee liked the idea. John said that he is still planning on including a CD copy of the proceedings as part of the registration fee.

John then discussed the proposed attendee registration fee. Right now he is budgeting a fee of \$260 (early bird) and \$315 (late registrations). At the trade show reception we would have some munchies (cheese, crackers and perhaps veggies), but that there would not be a free drink ticket included. We would have a cash bar. John Peterson reviewed all the registration fees for past conferences and the proposed rates for the 4NCGL (see below).

**NCGL Conference Registration Fee History**

<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>2000 Las Vegas</u></b>	<b><u>2003 Nashville</u></b>	<b><u>2006 St. Louis</u></b>	<b><u>2009 Reno</u></b>
Attendance	862	1200	935	(750?)
Early bird/regular	\$220/260	\$220/260	\$230/270	\$260/315
Commercial ex. Eb/reg	\$475/515	\$550/650	\$570/670	\$620/670
Gov./non-prof. ex. Eb/reg	\$335/375	\$350/400	\$370/420	\$410/450
Spouse/student	n/a	\$95/110	\$100/110	\$115/125
One-day	n/a	\$95	\$110	\$115

After much discussion, Aggie Helle made a motion to adopt the fee schedule as presented. Howard Straub seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion passed: The GLCI Steering Committee approved the proposed registration and trade show fee schedule for the 4NCGL.

Another area that was very expensive for the 3NCGL was the audio visual equipment. In St Louis we rented almost all our equipment and that cost a great deal of money. We did this differently from Nashville where we had borrowed a lot of our equipment from NRCS and subsequently had several laptops stolen. For Reno, John has budgeted \$43,000 for AV rental. Tacy has offered the use of some of her equipment which John is considering and that will help cut the budget even further.

John has a preliminary design for the 4NCGL conference pin/logo, and he already has suggestions for changes. John will submit the logo design to Anita Brown, State Public Affairs Specialist from California, to see if she can improve on the design, and then incorporate that into our marketing materials. The cost for the conference pins should be around \$1.50 each.

John and Kim are also looking into speakers gifts. In the past each speaker was given a NCGL mug as a gift. The plus side of these gifts was that it was a little memento from the conference and they were relatively inexpensive. The downside was that they broke easily. They are looking into some alternatives for this conference. Any suggestions are welcome.

The Committee discussed their desire to keep registration fees low and meals included as much as possible. Pat Pfeil, Chair of the Sponsorship committee, challenged the committee to help her with sponsorship, so that we can keep fees low and include more meals for the attendees. She suggested that we get more sponsors to sponsor coffee breaks, continental breakfasts or even the noon luncheon. She challenged the committee to make personal contacts and if you know anyone on any corporate board to contact them and get us their name. Another way we can help attendees is to get producer grants that will provide travel funding.

Howard Straub then presented the results of the Program committee's meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> (for more details please see the 4NCGL program committee meetings minutes). Chuck Pritchard discussed the evening banquet ideas. He is suggesting using Dave Stamey, a cowboy poet and singer/songwriter, and possibly opening up the event to the Reno public after a certain point. This way we might be able to make some money on the event. Howard said that the call for papers has been approved and will go out in earnest. Howard stressed the need for names and contact information for potential invited speakers. We are capping the invited list to 40...we simply cannot afford any more at this point. Monti will send out letters to the state GLCI chairs, State range or grasslands specialists and the state conservationists asking for recommendations. Another suggestion was to inform each state GLCI coordinator when a producer from their state has been accepted as an invited speaker.

Bob Lee then presented the committee the results from the Trade Show Committee meeting on Thursday. Bob said one of the first items completed was the changing of the name to better reflect what the committee is all about. The committee will work up a brochure using the fee schedule the Steering Committee has approved. It will need to be worked up rather rapidly since trade shows and conventions we need to publicize at are just around the corner. Bob said that we should strive to get a potential exhibitor's name from each state. He urged the committee to contact their state GLCI chair and urge them to provide a name of a potential exhibitor.

Keith Bartholomay reported on the Marketing Committee meeting from Thursday. They will be working on the brochures and logo in the near future. Anita Brown will be reworking the 4NCGL pin and provide assistance with developing all the marketing materials.

Pat Pfeil from the Sponsorship committee gave a brief report. She said that she needs to know if State GLCI coalitions are donating some funds so she can leverage these dollars by going to companies and ask them to match the funds. She is also strongly suggesting that state GLCI Coalitions use SARA grants which will help producers attend the conference. Tacy Currey is providing an example of a successful SARA grant to Pat so that the States will have something to model. Pat said these need to be done as soon as possible by the states....no longer than 4 or 6 months maximum.

John Peterson went over the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Margaret Soulen Hinson, who was unable to attend. This committee will be mostly responsible for finding moderators and facilitators for the convention.

Tacy Currey went over the Social Committee. She is suggesting that we could hold a Slot Tournament, which is easy to do and is a lot of fun to watch. Another suggestion was to hold a virtual tour of a property near Reno. December is not usually a good time for tours in Reno – it could be nice or it could be very bad weather. Doing a virtual tour with Google Earth and a slide show is a possibility.

Rooter reported on the Budget Committee. He said that we have about \$1000 left in the account and we will need that for filing the 2008 income tax return – there won't be any tax to pay, but we will need it for the CPA.

### ***Strategic Plan – Rod Baumberger***

Rod reported on the state of the GLCI's strategic plan. A committee was formed to look into updating the plan and progress has been made. Currently four items are part of the strategic plan.

- 1) Technical Assistance
- 2) Technology and tools – ecological sites
- 3) Research and Education – key conservation practices
- 4) Support of State GLCI coalitions

Currently, we are missing key NRI data. Once we have this data we can reformulate where we are and set new goals. We need to have the Strategic Plan updated prior to our February meeting in Washington, D.C. so we can have it to take to the Hill. It was noted that Congress still needs to hear about the need for Technical Assistance – this is one thing that the Agencies and Congress has not heard enough of in the past. It was also mentioned that many people in D.C. do not know who GLCI is anymore. Pat made a motion to obtain the NRI data and be ready to present the new Strategic Plan at the February meeting. Rod seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

### ***State Conservationists Reports***

Allen Green, Roger Hansen and Craig Derickson all thanked the committee for their support of NRCS.

### ***Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Report – Bob Bolton***

Bob Bolton, Senior Rangeland Management Specialist, commented on 4 topics.

- 1) The BLM put out a grazing rule proposal in 2006 and it is currently in litigation. They have sent in an intent to appeal. The rules intent was to improve administrative efficiency on grazing lands, but it has been challenged.
- 2) They are working with NRCS and the Forest Service on Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD's) and in the process of compiling manuals and handbooks. The idea is to formulate one consistent method of describing ecological sites across the three agencies.
- 3) They are also working on an integrated vegetation management handbook to provide consistent direction. This is due out in a couple of months.
- 4) The BLM needs volunteers to review a marketing piece that promotes the benefits of grazing on public lands. Bob is asking the Steering Committee if they would be willing to serve in a peer review capacity. These materials would provide more education to the general public.

### ***Agriculture Research Service (ARS) Report – Ev Byington***

Ev Byington, National Program Leader for Rangeland & Pasture Research, said that the GLCI is perceived as a special group by ARS, and urged the Steering Committee to keep the GLCI's name at the forefront of all the federal agencies and those in congress. Ev then discussed the ARS's budget. He said that there haven't been any budget increases or cuts in the last two years, but that budget for projects has actually been reduced because of 3% pay increases for the federal employees over the last two years. Their budget has been slowly eroding away due to inflation and pay increases for employees. Ev said that unfortunately at this time, the ARS doesn't have any money to give for the 4NCGL.

Ev did have a good idea regarding the 4NCGL. He said that it might be beneficial to hold a grant writing workshop at the conference to help participants learn how to apply for federal grants.

The Committee then went into a closed Executive Session

### ***Executive Session***

Bob Drake called for nominees for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Bob Lee nominated Bob Drake as Chair and Rooter Brite as Secretary/Treasurer. Rod Baumberger seconded the nominations and nominated Howard Straub as Vice-Chair. Duane Hertzler moved to close the nominations. Tim Munns seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. Officers elected were Bob Drake, Chair; Howard Straub, Vice-Chair; and Rooter Brite as Secretary Treasurer.

The committee then discussed some of the vacancies on the Steering Committee. Steve Kouplan has moved to the Oklahoma Legislature and will need to be replaced on the committee. Bob Drake will speak with AFBF president Bob Stallman and see about a replacement. Aggie said that Margaret Soulen Hinson is now Secretary of ASI and will most likely want to be replaced. She will speak with her and ASI. Howard Straub said that he knows of some Dairymen that would be a good fit for the GLCI. He will recommend one to the Committee. Rod will approach SWCS and see if they can recommend an alternate to serve.

Lunch Break

### ***CSREES Report – Jim Dobrowolski***

Jim reported that CSREES's name is being changed by the Farm Bill to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). They will now be headed by a political appointee on a 6 year term. All programs are transferring to the new name, but the administration will change. The administrator, a political appointee, will report to the Secretary of Agriculture, and NIFA will still be under the Under Secretary for the Research, Education and Economics, who will be the Chief Scientist of USDA. The new Farm Bill authorized over \$700 million in grants for the FY 09. Sixty percent of this will be in funded research (30% of that will be interdisciplinary). Forty percent will be for integrated research. Jim said that stakeholders can provide input on the CSREES website to give some direction to the agency. It can be found at: [http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/reporting/stakeholder/new\\_09\\_programs.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/reporting/stakeholder/new_09_programs.html)

### ***Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable – Kristi Maczko***

Kristi has been working on a meeting that will take place in September that will focus on climate change issues and how these affect social and ecological issues. They will be holding an SRR workshop at the SRM meeting in February 2009.

### ***Partnership Reports – Steering Committee Members***

Gerald Jaeger and Eunice Biel reported for the National Farmers Union (NFU). They said that over 200 farmers will be meeting in D.C. this week for the "NFU Fly In." They will be working on Farm Bill information implementation, and the final rules. NFU has been also focusing on carbon sequestration and row crop to pasture conversion. They are placing more emphasis on energy crops.

John Spain reported on the American Forage and Grasslands Council. He said that their next meeting will be held in Michigan. Howard Straub is in charge of this meeting.

AFGC will also be holding a leadership seminar at the Blake Hotel, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Aggie Helle reported for the American Sheep Industry (ASI). She had 6 major points:

- 1) ASI has developed Targeted Grazing handbooks that have sold over 700 copies.
- 2) They have also developed Targeted Grazing Brochures for grazing professionals and the general public.
- 3) On the ASI website- [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org) – they have an online grazing tutorial now in place.
- 4) ASI secured a NRCS grant for Invasive Species and with the funding has put on 2 workshops, 2 grazing projects and has a 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop scheduled for September 2008.
- 5) They drafted a white paper for inclusion of targeted grazing into the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill.
- 6) They developed future research needs outline.

Howard Straub reported on the Dairy Industry. Howard said that the Dairy Industry has held a Dairy Sustainability Summit that was sponsored by Wal-Mart. At the summit they discuss how to reduce the Dairy Industry's carbon footprint. This is an ongoing effort, and they are meeting again in the fall. Dave Forgey said that the industry must look to change the federal orders program that sets milk prices. In today's environment the currently policy doesn't apply because of the price of shipping. They need a federal order that sets one price of milk for all dairies, not different prices for different regions. Dave also mentioned that this is an opportune time to be promoting grazing for dairies....cattle on forages live longer than those feed strictly grains.

Rooter Brite gave a brief National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) report. He said they worked hard on the Farm Bill and on EQIP.

Bob Lee reported on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Bob said that NCBA has been heavily involved in COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) and AFO's/CAFO's.

Keith Bartholomay and Pat Pfeil reported on the Society for Range Management (SRM). Their next meeting will be in Albuquerque, NM, February 8<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>, 2009. They have a new executive Vice President, Ken Johnson, who is the former President of AFGC. John Tanaka has been the interim VP for a while now. Pat reported that a water conference will be held in Orlando. She will be attending. Interesting thing is that now some environmental groups are pushing to keep the ranchers on the land simply to keep development out. The conference will be focusing on the marketing of water rights.

Tim Munns and Rod Baumberger gave a Soil and Water Conservation report (SWCS). Craig Cox, the executive director of SWCS has now left and the position is open currently. They are holding a grazing workshop October 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Hezekiah Gibson reported for United Farmers USA. He said they have been focusing on Silvopasture. Currently there are a lot of pine forests in CRP but now it is coming up on the time for thinning and putting cattle on the land.

### ***GLCI Budget Report – Tom Sommer***

Tom said that currently they are updating the rules of the Farm Bill and should have them ready within 90 days (this was mandated). October 1<sup>st</sup> begins the new fiscal year and currently we do not have an approved budget. He thinks it will be February or March 2009 before we have a FY 09 budget. Currently the senate has GLCI listed at \$9.9 million, but there is no mention of GLCI in the House. They will operate on continuing resolutions in the meantime.

The GLCI Specialists passed out their reports to the Steering Committee members.

### ***Other Business – Bob Drake***

Bob said that our Spring GLCI Steering Committee meeting will take place this year at the Omni Shoreham in D.C., February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Howard asked for a Program Committee meeting on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6 pm. The Marketing and Sponsorship Committees will immediately follow the Program Committee. Monti will see about getting a room for these meetings.

The Fall GLCI Steering Committee meeting in 2009 will take place in Reno, Nevada at the Nuggett Hotel.

The committee then discussed holding a joint SRM/AFGC/GLCI meeting in 2013. Bob said that he did not recommend it because trying to coordinate three organizations would be difficult at best. In addition, the agendas of each organization have the potential to conflict. Pat made a motion to not hold a joint meeting with SRM and AFGC. Howard seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Bob discussed the Fall 2010 meeting and said that we haven't held a meeting in Louisiana. It would be held September 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Tim Munns made a motion to hold the 2010 fall meeting in Louisiana. John Spain seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion passed.

It was noted by Bob Lee that Montana would like to hold the 2011 fall meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Action Items:

- 1) Monti will send out letters to the state GLCI chairs, State range or grasslands specialists and the state conservationists asking for recommendations for 4NCGL potential invited speakers. At the same time ask them to list at least one potential company to exhibit and or sponsor the 4NCGL.
- 2) Each Steering Committee member should contact their State GLCI Chair and ask for a recommendation for potential sponsor or exhibitor for the 4NCGL.
- 3) Inform each state GLCI coordinator when a producer from their state has been accepted as an invited speaker. (probably Kim Stine- keeper of the list).
- 4) Monti will get SARA grant information from Pat and Tacy to get out to State GLCI Coalitions.
- 5) Each GLCI Steering Committee member should contact their Senator and Congressman and set up a meeting for the February Steering Committee meeting. They should be prepared to urge them to provide more for Technical Assistance. In addition, the Federal Agencies need to hear about the need for Technical Assistance.
- 6) Volunteers from the Steering Committee are needed to serve as peer reviewers for the BLM's marketing project that will promote the benefits of grazing on public lands. Please contact Bob Bolton for more information.
- 7) Stakeholder input for CSREES: Deadline – September 10<sup>th</sup> for some, others are later. Visit the following website for more details:  
[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/reporting/stakeholder/new\\_09\\_programs.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/reporting/stakeholder/new_09_programs.html)
- 8) Monti needs to call the Omni Shoreham to get a meeting room for the Program Committee and Sponsorship/Marketing Committee for Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6 pm.
- 9) Monti needs to check on Fall meeting room block in Reno, Nevada for Sept. 2009