



Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
January 18, 2017
NRCS Conference Room, North Platte, NE

Jeff Nichols called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM at the NRCS conference room in North Platte, NE. Those present were Karla Jenkins, Jeff Nichols, Kristin Dickinson, Sara Winslow, Shelly Kelly, and Nadine Bishop. Lance Schutte, Laura Rubeck, Anthony Perlinski, Mitch Stephenson and Angie Petersen participated via phone.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed from the October, 2016 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes with amendments for name corrections was made by Anthony Perlinski, seconded by Lance Schutte. The minutes were approved with amendments.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of January 18th, 2017 were as follows: \$5814.74 for the SRM account, \$13307.20 for the Range Judging account, \$6901.26 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2601.77 for the HSYF fund, and \$6372.30 for the NE State Range Judging CD. 2015 NE State and Federal Taxes have been filed. These are always due on Jan. 20th. The biennial report to the Secretary of State is due every other year and was due this year and has been filed. The Annual meeting held this year in Gothenberg gave us a net income of \$992.23. Thank you to the anonymous donor who helps to sponsor out HSYF scholarship winners with a donation of \$1250.00. This will help cover student travel costs to the upcoming National Meeting. Approximately \$1825.00 in the NE SRM account is in memorial to Jim Nichols and has been set aside for Range Camp. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Anthony Perlinski, seconded by Lance Schutte. The treasurer's report was approved.

President's Report: The President's Report was presented by Jeff Nichols who thanked all committee officers for their involvement in SRM. Appreciation for the newsletter was noted. Jeff noted he had sent out bylaws for council members to review to fully understand the position roles for participation in the committee.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting Committee report was presented by Anthony Perlinski, who discussed plans to host the annual section meeting next October in Chadron. Anthony asked the council if the Chadron State Range Club could host the section meeting so the ballroom could be utilized at no cost. The council approved the idea. Nadine would like to tie the section meeting information out soon to tie into local awareness and NRCS Range Forum. Tony will get information out soon. Jeff will send Tony a checklist to host the annual meeting. Student costs to the section meeting were discussed. Historically the \$25 student registration fee covered lunch, the banquet, and meeting registration. Anthony is estimating 100 students in attendance. Shelly

encouraged Anthony to apply for a pie grant to help offset costs. No meeting dates have yet been determined.

Nominations/Awards: Information was presented by Karla Jenkins on behalf of the Nominations Committee. Karla described the Rangeman's Award as an award for ranchers who have shown outstanding management practices, and the Range Management Service Award recognizes professionals in the field. Last year Bob Broweleit received the Range Management Service Award, and Scott Stout received the Rangeman's Award. Karla suggested thinking about who to nominate. Nominations may be submitted to Karla, the deadline is Aug 31, 2017.

History: The Historical Report was presented by Jeff who submitted the update of running history to Doreen to add to the website. All news for the Gothenburg meeting is current.

Information and Education: Nadine doesn't have anything to report. She would like to update the SRM section display before the Grazing Conference. Will be accepting any good photos of rangelands, from activities or meetings to share on display. Please email photos to her work email. She will set up the display.

Producer Affairs: Sheila Luoma, will speak on generational transitions, grazing coalition in July for summer tour in Bruning, Ne.

Range Camp/HSYF: The report for Range Camp/HSYF was presented by Shelly Kelly and Sara Winslow. Sarah updated the range camp brochure, which will be on the website. Shelly has applied for grants through the Sandhills Task Force to receive grants that will cover up to the total amount of Range Camp, no additional expenses. Range camp applications will be accepted online this year. Based on the budget, with \$5,000 from Sandhills Task Force, would ramp up from \$500-\$800 based on the average number of 40 students. The rest of the money would be used to cover additional costs of extension publications. Current cost per camper is \$350. Shelly also discussed the HSYF budget providing two annual scholarships to campers attending the International SRM meeting. The budget provides one scholarship of \$250 for St. George and a second for \$200. Registration fees have gone up for the meeting. Lance Schutte and Jess Milby will be chaperoning the HSYF students attending the International meeting in St. George, UT. The main question to the board proposed by Shelly was if scholarships should still be provided at the historic level if the current deficit is \$900, or if one scholarship should be offered instead. Jeff suggested two scholarships would be nice so campers could attend with another student known. Discussions of utilizing a CD that would open in Sept. to cover costs were made. Angie Petersen noted the anonymous donor has set aside money to be used for the immediate future. There was also discussion regarding the cost of the meeting for students. This needs to be brought up the Advisory Council at the upcoming National meeting. HSYF costs continue to rise and as well as costs for college students that attend. These youth are necessary to continue as an organization and we need to discuss options to reduce costs to make it easier for them to attend.

Range Judging: The report for Range Judging was presented by Kristin who noted the contest dates are set for Area 1 in Sheridan County, Area 2 northern Lincoln County, Area 3 in Hays County, Area 4 in Valley County, Area 5 in Boyd County, Area 6 in Pawnee County, and the final in Keith County Sept 26 and 27.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop presented the committee report. February and March are the times for the Envirothon contest. The annual topic for this year's Envirothon will be Ag and

Conservation Serviceship. Last year, Erika Hill organized a training session at the Central Platte NRD, geared towards teachers assisting with Envirothon; 21 teachers attended the training. Nadine showed them how to use the tools for estimating ground cover, ecological sites, and answered general questions.

Membership: Lance Schutte reported for the membership committee. He has sent out two waves of reminder emails for members needing to update their status. He noted it would be nice to update email addresses when updating membership, and asked if there could be a way to associate members' names with email addresses. He would like to see a calendar year membership and is going to speak to Chris LaPine and Allen Press to discuss the membership processes.

Newsletter: The Newsletter Committee was reported by Laura Rubeck, who mentioned she would like typed summaries of the committee's reports emailed by March 1 with anticipation of the Spring Newsletter out by April 1. Laura also commented she would like anyone attending the International Meeting in St. George, Utah, to take pictures and perhaps provide a brief write-up covering the involvement of the Nebraska section for the newsletter, again, due by March 1.

Vacant committee chairs and openings were discussed by Jeff Nichols. The vacancy most needing filled are fundraising committee. Jeff suggested Walt Schacht would be looking for someone to help him with the Investment Committee as well as Bob Broweleit on Nominations Committee.

New Business:

Jeff Nichols presented a draft resolution regarding outreach and communication of board of directors with sections to provide transportation reimbursement up to \$500 on an annual basis to cover expenses linked to travel costs endured for speakers. This resolution was prompted by speaker Roy Roach who is requesting reimbursement for travel expenses. The resolution would go into our bylaws and get presented at the national level. Karla made a motion to move forward with submitting this resolution. Tony seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Karla Jenkins motioned to adjourn the meeting, Anthony seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Notes taken by Laura Rubeck,
Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer