



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
January 21, 2011
NRCS Office, North Platte, NE**

Michael called the meeting to order at 10:10 am CST . Those present in the conference room were Michael Croxen, Curtis Talbot, Shelly Taylor, and Doug Whisenhunt. Leslie Stewart-Phelps attended the meeting by telephone.

Minutes: The previously distributed minutes from October 12 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Leslie reported the balances in the two checking accounts as of January 17 (\$10,021.73 for the SRM account and \$4829.66 for the range judging account) and the three CDs (\$6989.16 for the section CD, \$2546.31 for the HSYF fund, and \$6268.79 for the range judging CD). For the period from 9/1/10 to 1/17/11, income was \$2214.68, and expenses were \$3210.15. The 2010 annual meeting had expenses of \$938.50 and income of \$1870.00 for a profit of \$931.50. A down payment of \$1000 has been paid to the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City to reserve it for the 2011 annual meeting. Neither the NRCS nor the USFS has paid for the registrations for their employees to attend the 2010 annual meeting. Michael will check with the USFS, and Curtis will follow up with the NRCS if necessary. The treasurer's report was approved. Leslie says she will be giving up the secretary-treasurer post within the next few years. It would be beneficial to have overlap with the replacement person, so she is asking the board to start thinking of candidates.

Committee Reports

2011 Annual Meeting: Curtis reported that the 2011 meeting will be at the Lied Lodge at the Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City on October 3, 4, and 5, which is Monday through Wednesday. The tour will be at the Homestead National Monument near Beatrice. The theme will be Understanding Past Management – Implications for Today. Curtis has a number of possible speakers and will start contacting them soon. Doug suggested including the Southeast Nebraska Grazing Association. Shelly suggested advertising with the Nebraska Cattlemen. We also discussed notifying the conservation districts in southeast Nebraska and SRM members from Missouri and Kansas.

Nominations: No report.

Awards: Doug reported that he will put an article in the next newsletter to seek nominations. He will research the deadlines for both the state and national awards. The Kelly Ranch won our state Rangeland Award last October. Marcy Hunter put together a poster, which will be displayed at the national

conference in Billings. Unfortunately, no one from the Kelly Ranch is able to attend. Shelly reminded us of the Redd Fund. It is available from the national office to pay 75% of the registration fees for a producer who won a state award to attend the national conference. This producer must not currently be an SRM member. The state section pays 25% and must send a mentor to attend the conference with them. The national office also pays for a one-year SRM membership and a one-year subscription to Rangelands. Shelly agreed to be a permanent member of the awards committee.

Range Camp: Shelly reported that Range Camp will be held June 13-17 this year. This is one week later than normal in an attempt to pull in more students. Several of the customary speakers will not or may not be available this year, and Shelly is looking for possible replacements.

HSYF: Shelly reported that Kyra Baldwin from Mitchell and Jeanna Jenkins from Scottsbluff will be going to the annual conference in Billings. Jeanna's mother is attending as well as Kyra's father. Their presentations are on Tuesday. Shelly will be spending most of the week with the 31 students attending from all sections.

Range Judging: No report

Envirothon: No report

Scholarship: No report

Membership: No report

Producer Affiliations: Doug will ask Ron Boltz from the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition if he is interested in chairing this committee.

Historian: Jeff Nichols said to keep making history happen.

Investments: John Guretzky will be managing this committee while Walt Schacht is on sabbatical.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop sent a report saying that she has many ideas for various programs but she has not had a chance to visit with committee chairs to come up with a concrete list of what to include. She will contact some of the chairs before the next council meeting. She also has ideas for promotion at public events to identify that NE SRM is sponsoring the event. She will provide an estimate on cost at the next meeting. She offered her assistance to committee chairs to develop news releases or publicizing events.

Student Activities: No report.

Newsletter: Shelly reported the deadline for the next newsletter is February 18. It will be issued by the end of February. She is looking for someone to take over responsibility for the newsletter. (Anyone interested?) We still do not have any answer concerning advertising costs. Shelly will call John Gross to see what he has received as the latest advertising information. Leslie will check her notes for advertising costs.

Old Business

None

New Business

We discussed attendance at the Advisory Council meeting in Billings. Michael will attend Sunday. Kristin Miller says she can also attend then if necessary. Curtis can attend on Monday afternoon.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 am CST.

Respectively submitted,

Leslie Stewart-Phelps
Secretary-Treasurer