



Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting October 12, 2021 Virtual Meeting

Jack Arterburn called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM CST. Meeting is being held virtually via Zoom.

Minutes were sent prior to the meeting via email for review. Motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting was made by Ben Beckman and seconded by Brad Schick. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and four CDs as of October 13th, 2021 were as follows: \$9612.54 for the SRM account, \$6842.97 for the Range Judging account, \$7206.70 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2875.15 for the William Wester HSYF fund, \$6654.33 for the NE State Range Judging CD, and the \$9343.30 for the other Range Judging CD. A few key notes regarding insurance and main costs and incomes were also noted and discussed.

Insurance was paid for the year at a cost of \$1416.00 split between both Range Judging and the Section Account. Decrease in NE State Range Judging Account due to supplies ordered, primarily Range Judging cards, but no income deposited yet from Range contests this year. CDs come due in 2022. Obviously it is not a good time for interest rates. Normally we just put the money back into CDs, but if we want to do anything different please let me know and we can discuss our options. The treasurer's report will be presented at tomorrow's business meeting for approval.

Investments were discussed regarding possibilities for how to better manage the CDs and investments and possibly generating more income from these long term CDs.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee:

Thank you to the Hyatt Hotel in Lincoln who has understood our struggles and worked with us having to cancel the in-person meeting and change to a virtual meeting. We will have a slightly abbreviated schedule tomorrow. We are looking forward to the presenters, Dave Aiken, Cheryl Dunn, Kyle Schumacher, and John Guretzky. Thank you to everyone for helping to get things going with the changes in the meeting. Thank you to Emma for getting information and news releases out.

Awards: We will be presenting one award this year, the Outstanding Young Professional Award.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop submitted a committee report.

In 2021, the regional competitions were on-line. Test writers incorporated photos and Jeopardy-type questions into the regional tests. More than 75 teams competed in the regional contests and 14 teams qualified to participate in the state contest. The 2021 State Envirothon, was held on April 28th at Lake Wanahoo. Ord High School placed first, with Norris Team coming in second, and Arthur County placed third. The Nebraska Association of Resources District (NARD) awarded cash prizes to the top three teams in the amount of \$1500, \$1000, and \$500. The top teams in each test category were: Aquatics: Norris Team 2; Forestry: Pender; Policy Arthur County, Norris Team 1, and St. Paul; Range: Ord; Soils: Ord and St. Paul; Wildlife: Norris Team 2; Oral Presentation: Concordia

The National Envirothon competition was hosted virtually by Nebraska NARD. The New York team from Esopus, New York won this competition. The next National competition will be July 24 – 30, 2022 at Miami University in Oxford Ohio. The special topic for 2022 will be “Waste to Resources”. The dates and location of the Nebraska regional and state competition will be decided later this fall.

Fundraising: Vacant position.

Historian: No report.

Information and Education: No report.

Investments: Lance Schutte is taking over this committee from Walt Schacht.

Membership: No report

Nominations: No report.

Producer Affairs: Sheila Luoma submitted a report. Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and Nebraska extension hosted a joint grazing tour in June. The tour focused on cedar tree control, prescribed burning, and rotational Grazing. Over two hundred people were in attendance, we toured the Jessen Ranch and Kalkowski Family Ranch in northeast NE. Plans are to have the traveling road show across Nebraska November 8 -11. More details will be coming out on speaker and locations. NGLC continues to focus on Generational Transition and the control of Eastern Red Cedar with Prescribed Fire. The drought has been a big concern, with areas having to wean early and pull out of pastures early.

Public Affairs: Vacant position.

Range Judging: Kristi King provided a report. It was the 66th year of range judging in Nebraska. This year, 1078 participated through Area Contests, and at the State Contest that was held in Cherry County there were 296 participants. The top senior individual and overall grand champion was Lucas Olson from West Holt, and the top junior individual was Cody Burson from Burwell. The top senior team and overall champion was from West Holt, and had members Lucas Olson, Sadie Jarecke, Issac Pistulka, and EmiLee Walnofer. The top junior team was from St. Paul and had members Sam Wells, Abby Hirschman, Gracie Ackles, and Sidney Gawrych. Scholarships will once again be offered to the top 4 teams from the state contest. This scholarship is to be used for travel and registration for either the Old West Regional Contest or National Contest. The top 4 teams in 2021 were: West Holt seniors, Ord seniors, Burwell

seniors and St. Paul seniors. This year was North Dakota's turn to host Old West, however they did not have a contest.

The formal invitations to host a contest in 2022 will be sent out by the end of the calendar year. The proposals for 2023 will also be sent out to potential local committee members. We will hope to have contest dates firmed up by March so schools can get this on their activity calendars.

We continue to award medals to the champion individuals and champion teams for all the contests. The larger medal is for state champions and the smaller pin is for area champions. NARD again provided plaques for all of the division winners at state.

We have picked up a couple of new State Committee members. We welcomed Bill Hiatt (Central Platte NRD), TL Meyer (UNL Extension in Thedford), and Kelsey Kirchmann (NRCS in Thedford).

It continues to be a great time for educating youth in Nebraska about the rangeland resource! Thank you to all that have assisted in one way or another with a contest or contests or helping schools to prepare for contests.

Ben mentioned that the participant numbers at the state contest were down slightly this year since schools were limited to only bringing 8 participants.

Range Research: No report.

Range Tour: No report.

Range Camp/HSYF: No report. HSYF did not occur in 2021, but is expected to happen in 2022.

Student Affairs: No report.

Scholarship: No report.

Old Business:

Changes in by-laws revisions will be presented at tomorrow's meeting for approval and finalization.

New Business:

Lost resources, Mary Schrader, former NRCS/USDA Rangeland Management Specialist, and Assistant State Conservationist for the NRCS in the State of Wyoming passed away in 2021. Mary Reece will be putting together something to add to the "Lost Resources" presentation at the National Meeting, Mary Schrader was also very active in the Wyoming Section SRM.

HSYF has been a challenge due to lack of in-person meetings. There was discussion regarding challenges due to lack of in-person meetings, and how it is affecting our membership and youth.

Motion to adjourn made by Brad Schick, and seconded by Ben Beckman.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen