



Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
October 7, 2014
Lincoln Highway Diner, North Platte, NE

Bob Broweleit called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm CT at the Lincoln Highway Diner, in North Platte, NE. Those present were Karla Jenkins, Bob Broweleit, Laura Snell, Laura Rubeck, Jeff Nichols, Shelly Kelly, Daryl Cisney, Kelly Corman, and Angie Petersen.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes from January was made by Jeff Nichols, seconded by Karla Jenkins. The minutes from January were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of October 8th, 2014 were as follows: \$6709.92 for the SRM account, \$7483.65 for the Range Judging account, \$6847.87 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2579.74 for the HSYF fund, and \$6323.00 for the NE State Range Judging CD. All three CDs reached maturity since the last meeting. All were carried over. We received another \$1250.00 anonymous donation to be used for High School Youth Forum. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jeff Nichols, seconded by Karla Jenkins. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Nominations: Two excellent candidates agreed to run for the council position this year. Candidates this year were Kelly Corman and Tony Perlinski. The newly elected council member will be Tony Perlinski. Electronic balloting was used again this year. It was a very close election.

Awards: There will be two awards presented this year. The Rangeman's Award will be given to Broken Box Range – Russ Sundstrom Family. The Range Service Award will be presented to Shelly Kelly.

2014 Annual Meeting: Bob Broweleit reported that everything was ready to go for the meeting the next day. Three students will be presenting for the HSYF. It will begin tomorrow at 8:00 at the Holiday Inn. We have several good speakers lined up. The banquet and awards will be held following the meeting and presentations. Thank you to Bob for preparing and planning the Annual Meeting!

Range Camp: Shelly Kelly reported that Range Camp was held June 9-13th, at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp at Halsey. This was the 51st year for Range Camp. 58 students participated from across the state. One-third of those were returning campers. Outreach was extensive with letters or emails throughout Nebraska to high schools, NRCS and NRD offices, UNL extension offices, and newspapers. There is also information up on the Nebraska Section SRM website. There is also a Facebook page maintained to promote Range Camp as well. If you have any further ideas for outreach please let Shelly know. Students are divided into "Ranch Crews" which are sponsored by Nebraska ranches. This year students were divided into 10 crews. Range Camp takes a huge amount

of sponsors both financially and as volunteers. Thank you to all the individuals who help both financially and also volunteer their time to make Range Camp possible. The overall top camper was Chelsea Nollette who has attended range camp for several years. Chase Samuelson was the top first year camper. Range Camp is scheduled for June 10-14th, 2015.

This year Range Camp costs exceeded income by \$2245.76. Some of the expense was incurred due to a lack of grant funding this year for Extension Publications. The NGLC has submitted another Nebraska Environmental Trust grant this fall, which has helped to cover \$3800.00 of expenses in the past. The proposed Range Camp portion has been increased to \$5000.00 to help cover rising costs. There was discussion regarding possible future funding and sponsorship. The cost of camp is going up and the cost per student is also going up. There may need to be an increase in registration fee to possibly \$300 or \$325. If there are any further ideas for fundraising ideas please discuss them with Shelly. Shelly is also looking for a co-director. We are also always in need of Crew Bosses who are able to spend a week at camp with the students.

HSYF: The Nebraska Section has traditionally annually sponsored delegates to the High School Youth Forum to attend the National SRM Meeting. This year two students will be attending the meeting in Sacramento, California. Blair Hartman from Champion represented Nebraska at last year's meeting in Orlando. Three Range Camp participants will be presenting at the Nebraska Section meeting for a chance to attend the National SRM meeting in Sacramento. Trent Elsen from Miller, Kelsey Phillips from Mullen, and Cheyenne Doremus from Polk are competing for the opportunity.

Range Judging: Daryl Cisney, Range Judging Committee Chair presented a report. This year was a great year with 1275 total participants. The number of participants has steadily increased over the last 5 years. Thank you to all the Agencies that partner with the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management and the Nebraska State Range Judging Committee. All of them help to ensure that all the contests are well organized, run smoothly, and provide a great opportunity for the students participating. Thank you also to the Ag Ed instructors and FFA programs across the state that work with their schools and encourage their students to participate. The 2015 Area and State Range Judging Contest host sites were set last year and planning is already taking place. The area contests are scheduled to be held the second and third week of September, while the State Contest will be scheduled for the last week in September in Scotts Bluff County. Please set aside these dates and help with these contests if possible. The 2016 hosts were set this year to be sure we are not overlapping and overburdening the same people multiple years in a row. The Committee is scheduled to meet again in January to express concerns and help with planning. This meeting also helps to expand the membership on the State Range Judging Committee to other agencies such as the NRD, which has been very helpful. These agencies continue to help host the contests and have provided great input and are very investing and involved to facilitate planning. Daryl is stepping down as Committee Chair. Kristin Miller has agreed to take over with the help of 3 co-vice chairs: Bethany Johnston, Daryl Cisney and Larry Schultz of the Lower Loup NRD. Thank you to Daryl for all of his years of service and to these individuals for agreeing to take over the position. Thank you to all who help support the Range Judging Contests and continue to encourage participation it is very much appreciated.

Envirothon: Sara Winslow has expressed interest in taking over for Austin Horn.

Scholarship: Laura Snell led Scholarship report. Jess Milby is currently the Committee Chair. It was discussed that the scholarship committee had received only 1 application this year, from Chadron State College. Normally two \$1000.00 scholarships are given out at the Nebraska Section

Annual Meeting, however due to only one application being submitted only one scholarship will be awarded. Thanks to an anonymous donor who helps to provide one of these scholarships. It was discussed as to possible reasons for lack of applicants. One area discussed was the wording on the scholarship application that leads applicants to believe that they must have a major in Range Science. This may need to be changed to those with an emphasis in Range so that other applicants with majors in areas such as livestock or wildlife would apply.

Membership: Jon Soper and Angie Petersen were serving as temporary committee chairs. We currently have 90 members. We are currently looking for a more permanent committee chair. After discussion Kelly Corman agreed and was appointed to the position.

Producer Affiliations: Scott Cotton was our previous representative for this committee. He has since moved and the spot is currently vacant. Possible candidates for this position were discussed. One individual that was discussed was Ron Bolze currently of the NGLC.

Historian: Jeff Nichols reported. He continues to gather information and reports and continues to build the annual history report.

Investments: No report.

Information and Education: No report.

Student Activities: No report. Students from UNL will report tomorrow at the meeting. Due to the fact that it is currently midterm week at Chadron no students from Chadron are expected at the meeting tomorrow, however Tony Perlinski is expected to report for Chadron State College.

Newsletter: Sheila Luoma has agreed to take over the newsletter. Laura Rubeck has also agreed to help. Sheila is hoping to get one out in November following the Nebraska Section annual meeting.

New Business:

Cindy Tusler the incoming president has resigned. This leaves us with a only 5 council members. Bob Broweleit took over planning for the annual meeting due to this late resignation. Due to this fact it was discussed how to possibly fill this vacant position. Bob Broweleit and Jon Soper were asked to possibly retain their positions for one more year. Thank you to Bob and Jon for your continued service!

We continued discussion of the possibility of Nebraska hosting a National SRM Meeting. The 2016, 2017, and 2018 locations have already been decided, so it would most likely be in 2019 or later. There was discussion of possible locations to host in Nebraska, such as Lincoln or Omaha. There has also been discussion of hosting the meeting in conjunction with another state such as Wyoming and hosting in a city such as Cheyenne. It could also be hosted by several states such as NE, ND, SD, and Montana and host in a city such as Rapid City. Concerns and areas of discussion include necessary lodging, facilities, and travel concerns. We need to start paying attention and taking note of possible ideas that we may observe at the upcoming National meeting that may help us plan a future meeting.

Due to the shortened time frame of planning this year's Annual Meeting due to the resignation of the upcoming president, no representative from the SRM National Board of Directors is expected to

attend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer