

Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
October 8, 2013
Elks Lodge, Ainsworth, NE

Jon Soper called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm CT at the Elks Lodge, in Ainsworth, NE. Those present were Jon Soper, Karla Jenkins, Bob Broweleit, Kristin Miller, Curtis Talbot, Shelly Taylor, Cindy Tusler, Daryl Cisney, and Angie Petersen.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed and a few changes were made. Motion to approve the minutes from January was made by Bob Broweleit, seconded by Daryl Cisney. The minutes from January were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of October 7th, 2013 were as follows: \$10,168.00 for the SRM account, \$4912.05 for the Range Judging account, \$6829.89 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2573.69 for the HSYF fund, and \$6306.40 for the NE State Range Judging CD. 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 Kristin Miller, seconded by Daryl Cisney. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

2013 Annual Meeting: Bob Broweleit reported that everything was ready to go for the meeting the next day. Two students will be presenting for the HSYF. It will begin tomorrow at 8:00 in the Ainsworth Conference Center. We have several good speakers lined up. The banquet and awards will be held at the Ainsworth Elks Lodge following the meeting. Those attending the tour on Thursday will meet at the Roadway Inn and depart from there. There were some individuals that have registered that will no longer be attending due to the government furlough taking place, but many chose to attend on their own time. Thank you to Bob for preparing and planning the Annual Meeting.

Nominations: Two excellent candidates agreed to run for the council position this year. Candidates this year were Jeff Nichols and Stu McFarland. The newly elected council member will be announced tomorrow. Electronic balloting was used again this year. Paper ballots were sent to members who do not have an e-mail address.

Awards: There will be two awards presented this year. The Rangeland Management Award will be presented to Otter Creek Ranch. The Range Service Award will be presented to John Gross. A special Certificate of Appreciation will also be given to Larry Schultz who was imperative in assisting with both the Area 4 Range Judging Contest and the State Range Judging Contest.

Range Camp: Shelly Taylor reported that Range Camp was held June 11-15th this year with 59 students. 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. The financial and overall support of sponsoring ranches continues to be essential to the camp's success. Thank you to all of the sponsoring ranches for supporting Range Camp. One third of the students were returning campers. This year's winning ranch crew was the Reverse S S Crew –

Adkinson Inc., with team leader Jeff Nichols. The Overall Top Camper was Taylor Hornickel from Ord. The Top First Year Camper was Jared Crosley from Wilsonville. Twelve adults spent the entire week at the camp with 14 other professionals supporting Range Camp by leading tours and providing presentations on range-related information. Wayne Rodocker Ranch was the site of the Ranch Tour; a special thank you goes out to them. Also thank you to Leah Carson's crew for putting together the Range Judging Contest. All students were encouraged to compete for the HSYF. Range Camp continues as one of the Nebraska Section's most important activities and its success has been and continues to be dependent upon the involvement of Section members, Nebraska ranches, and other professionals and organizations that support the activity. Thank you to everyone who helps make Range Camp possible. Thank you to the Sandhills Task Force and the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition who continue to sponsor Range Camp. Thank you to all of our sponsors who continue to support Range Camp and help keep costs down for individual campers.

The 2013 Range Camp is scheduled for June 10-14. Due the high number of students this year it was discussed as to how many students we may have to limit the Camp to next year and how those limitations would be placed. Having to put a limit on the number of students is a great problem to have as it shows the younger generation being interested in range management. Next year the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition grant will run out unless they choose to renew it. We need to continue to look for additional sponsorship to keep registration costs down.

Next year is also the 50th Anniversary and we would like to have a special celebration to commemorate this anniversary. There was a brief discussion about possibilities on what could be done in regards to this celebration. Possible ideas will be further discussed in January. Shelly also agreed to get some information in Rangelands concerning the 50th Anniversary of Range Camp. There could also be a poster presentation or possible an HSYF presentation regarding the 50th Anniversary or history of Range Camp.

HSYF: The Nebraska Section has traditionally annually sponsored delegates to the High School Youth Forum at the winter parent Society meetings. Kassidy Linabery from Valentine, Laura Gorecki from Farwell, and Tevyn Baldwin from Mitchell represented Nebraska at the meeting in Spokane, Washington in January 2012. All three did well with Lara receiving 4th place and Kassidy receiving 5th place. This year two range campers will participate in the Section Meeting tomorrow, Cody McBride from Burwell and Cheyenne Doremus from Polk, for the opportunity to represent Nebraska the Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City. We may only sponsor one student to the meeting this year in Oklahoma City, OK.

Range Judging: Daryl Cisney, Range Judging Committee Chair presented a report. There will be a Certificate of Appreciate given to Larry Schultz this year for his exceptional amount of work he did with both the Area 4 contest and State Contest this year. Next year is 60 years of Range Judging Contests. The idea of possibly giving out special certificates or awards to recognize this was discussed. Plaques were awarded at the State contests. They were sponsored by the NARD. It was discussed that next year we should sponsor these plaques. A motion was made by Jon Soper to sponsor the plaques for next year's State contest award winners, a total of 5 plaques, seconded by Karly Jenkins. Motion passed. Daryl announced that next year will be his last as Committee Chair. Next year at the contests we would like to announce the 60th year anniversary year. Nadine Bishop also has a SRM display that we currently use at various conferences. It was discussed that possibly we could get one made with some of the history of Range Judging to display at the contests next year. We could also possibly get a press release with the NRDs. The committee will decide and discuss further what they would like to do, but the council is in favor of these possible ideas for recognizing the 60 year anniversary of Range Judging. We would also like to recognize the NRDs that provide so much assistance with helping to set-up and run the contests. There are a number of agencies that assist with Range Judging Contests and we thank them for all of their help. The

combined area contest participation was reported at 1197 participants. The State Contest was held in Genoa and had a total of 450 participants. Participation would not be possible without the support of the Ag Ed instructors and FFA programs across the state, we thank them for their participation and support! We have many other partners who help in hosting our contests including the Game and Parks Commission, NRDs, NRCS, Forest Service, University of Nebraska Extension, and the landowners, who we want to recognize and thank.

The 2014 Area and State Range Judging Contests are already in the planning stages. The 6 Areas contests will be held the second and third week of September, while the State Contest is scheduled for the last week in September. Please set aside these dates if possible if you can help with the contests next year. Thank you to all who help support the Range Judging Contests and continue to encourage participation it is very much appreciated.

Envirothon: Austin Horn has continued to help with this program, however he will be absent from the meeting.

Scholarship: It was discussed that the scholarship committee had received 8-12 applications. Kristin has been in contact with Casey Lancaster regarding scholarships. Two \$1000.00 scholarships that will be given out tomorrow at the Nebraska Section Annual Meeting. Thanks to an anonymous donor who helps to provide one of these scholarships.

Membership: Kristin reported that we currently have 102 members. It tends to fluctuate between 95 and 105. We have lost a few members that were multiple Section members. It is only \$5 for each additional Section membership. Kristin continues to maintain a list of current and expired members. Mike Croxen has been helping to contact expired members to encourage them to renew their membership. There are still a few problems regarding the transition to Allen Press, who now maintains SRM memberships, but there have been a lot less and when a concern or problem is brought forth it has been handled quickly. There was a brief discussion concerning new ways to alert members to expired membership such as through a text message. The possibility of automatic renewal of memberships for those who chose that option was also discussed. Thank you to Kristin and Mike for their efforts. She is also serving on the membership committee at the national level working to handle any issues that come up and deciding if there are any changes that need to be made regarding membership.

Producer Affiliations: Scott Cotton reported. He has been working with and is affiliated with several other groups such as NGLC, Nebraska Cattlemen, and Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska (ICON). He discussed the summer tour held on June 19th, 2012 sponsored by SRM and NGLC. Approximately 230 people attended and he has received many positive comments regarding the tour. It is a great way to get landowners engaged and discussion was held as to if we would again be involved in organizing a summer tour next year. It requires a great amount of planning, coordination, and availability of tour sites. Discussion was held about ideas that Scott could take back to the NGLC meeting as possible ideas for another tour. Discussion included topics such as better transportation for so many people to decrease the number of vehicles traveling into each site, and the possibilities of future tour focus topics such as drought and grazing management in drought conditions and recovery, and grazing management after fire. Everyone express support for doing the tour again, possibly in close timing with the Range Camp 50th Anniversary celebration. Timing for the tour was discussed and late June seems to provide the most opportunity to avoid other commitments such as harvest and local fairs. The possibility of locations was also discussed as well as other collaborators or sponsors that may want to be involved. If you have any ideas for next year please bring them forward soon to Scott Cotton.

Historian: Jeff Nichols submitted a report. The Nebraska Section SRM 60 Year History 1952-2012 publication has been updated. Finishing out the year at the business meeting in Ogallala the publication is ready to be loaded to the section's website. The Section website will be the sole source of this publication going forward unless there is a demand for printed hard copies by the membership. He will file a written report for the meeting and continue to collect and file the committee reports. He also continues to submit articles for the newsletter titled, "Do You Know What Happened in the Nebraska Section..." He welcomes any ideas or suggestions for improving this section of the newsletter, and if anyone is interested in working with the Historical affairs of the Section to please contact him.

Investments: No report. A report will be available tomorrow at the meeting.

Information and Education: No report. A report will be available tomorrow at the meeting.

Student Activities: No report. Students from both Chadron and UNL will report tomorrow at the meeting.

Newsletter: Kristin Miller reported that she has completed and gotten out one newsletter so far. There will be another one in November after the Nebraska Section meeting. There will continue to be just 2 newsletters per year with other information that does not fit the newsletter schedule to be sent out by e-mail. She currently mails out 12 copies, but would like to e-mail these if possible in the future. She continues to encourage students and members to submit articles or updates about their projects to be included in the newsletter. Allen Press has offered to provide the service of sending out mass e-mails to the membership, but they would continue to come from Kristin and responses would be sent to Kristin. She has not used this service yet, but plans to in the future. Three businesses pay advertising fees and are included in the newsletter, but should also be included on the website. Thank you to Kristin for continuing the newsletter publication!

Report from the SRM National Board of Directors:

Keith Klement from the SRM Board of Directors was present to report.

- Keith has served on the Board of Directors for 3 years and will step down in 4 months. Curtis Talbot will be moving onto the Advisory Council.
- Allen Press continues to control the membership activities and there have been fewer problems regarding memberships and renewals. If there is a problem, they have been quickly addressed and resolved. They are also developing plans to gain memberships to help sponsor the website and other operations.
- The Director of Finance is looking to implement some more finance changes so that accounts can be reconciled faster. They are also looking for a new accountant as the current one is stepping down.
- Due to a drop in membership there has been reduced income. The Finance and Endowment Committees are working to get new investment and financial policies in plan and develop a better long term financial plan. In the past the Annual Meeting is SRMs largest source of income. This is no longer enough to cover all of the expenses and there is a need to look for new ways to generate income and cut expenses. The Financial Task Force is a new ad-hoc committee to deal with this need. Spokane did make a profit and not a loss for SRM in 2012.
- SRM is transitioning to a virtual office, as the previous office building where SRM was based out of in the past is up for sale. There have been a few offers made on the building, but all of have been unacceptable so far.

- Regarding the Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, there has been an effort to coordinate between several entities to increase possible training sessions during the meeting so that employees could be sent to the meeting and qualify it as training.
- Rangeland Ecology & Management (REM) is becoming a prime journal and both BioOne and JSTOR archive both REM and Rangelands, and are available on-line. Not every member receives the Rangeland publication. SRM is under contract to print a certain number of publications, with only half being used.
- The website continues to improve. There was some discussion as to why at times members have encountered the site not being recognized as a trusted site. There was also discussion about Rangeland News becoming available in an electronic version that could be printed off as a .pdf document. Rangelands.org has had an increase the number of hits, with over half being new visitors. Rangelands News has had fewer hits on-line.
- The deadline to vote is Friday Oct 11, 2012 for new Board members. We need nominations to serve on the National Board as there are currently no candidates.
- There has been an effort to revise the SRM Strategic Plan at the Oklahoma City Annual Meeting. Currently it is more of a mission statement rather than a strategic plan as it does not cite any benchmark goals or ways to quantify or judge progress. There needs to be hard, strong, quantifiable goals set. This would also allow a cost efficiency analysis to be done.
- The Endowment Fund has had a new financial policy approved and the Finance Committee is currently reviewing it.
- Things are going well regarding planning the Annual 2012 Meeting in Oklahoma City. The registration is still open. The hotel is not full yet despite some members being told that it was.

New Business:

Cindy Tusler is currently enlisted in the Army Reserve and will likely be deployed to Afghanistan during 2013 to serve as a member of the National Guard's Ag Development Team #4. She will serve as a Rangeland Management Specialist, with the primary mission of training the Afghani extension educators. Due to her deployment Bob Broweleit and Cindy will switch positions on the council and planning efforts on the 2013 Nebraska Section meeting. Bob Broweleit will plan for the 2013 meeting and Cindy will plan the 2014 meeting. Thank you to Cindy for your service and we look forward to your safe return and hearing about your experiences.

Chuck Butterfield discussed the Nebraska Range Short Course. This course has been organized by Chuck Butterfield and Walt Schacht and is a joint project between the Chadron State College, UNL, and Nebraska Section SRM. There was not great attendance this year and they just broke-even. Some of the focus or support for the program has been lost and we need to increase support from the Nebraska Section SRM. Ideas for increasing participation and possibly changing timing of the course were discussed. The idea of also making it a summer training session was also discussed. In 2012 it was at the same time as the NGLC/SRM summer tour. We need ideas for getting greater attendance, particularly by producers. The course can also be taken for college credit. They may change the program slightly to focus on drought and fire recovery next year.

The NRCS Human Resources personnel would like to visit students or host a program on how to get jobs with the Federal government. They are available in Lincoln to meet with UNL students in-person, but may be able to correspond with Chadron via other routes.

The 2017 SRM Annual Meeting will be in Minneapolis, MN. They may partner with the North Central SRM Section in co-hosting the meeting. There is a lot of work and planning that goes along

with organizing these meetings and few people that have experience planning these meetings for so many people. There has been discussion on the need to develop a template and timeline to help plan these meetings, and maybe even one individual that is assigned the task of helping to coordinate and plan these meetings from year to year.

Jon Soper discussed the possibility of developing a NE Section SRM Facebook page. The parent society and Range Camp both have a Facebook page. Soper would like to develop one to reach out to the younger generations who use Facebook to correspond and get information. It is a big task to keep it updated.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer