



## Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting February 20, 2024

Laura Rubeck called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm via Teams video conference. Present members include Cheryl Dunn, Kyle Schumacher, Jess Milby, Bob Broweleit, Shelly Kelly, Laura Rubeck, Angie Petersen, Wyatt Kirwan, Mitch Stephenson, Mary Reece, and Jeff Nichols.

Minutes were sent prior to the meeting via email for review. Motion to approve the minutes from the October council meeting was made by Kyle Schumacher and seconded by Cheryl Dunn. Motion approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

**a. Treasurer's Report:** The balances of the two checking accounts and four CDs as of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were as follows: \$6621.09 for the SRM account, \$14459.37 for the Range Judging account, \$7331.36 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$3049.72 for the William Wester HSYF fund, \$6797.94 for the NE State Range Judging CD, and the \$9533.59 for the other Range Judging CD.

Insurance will come due in late May. Previous years the cost has been approximately \$1430.00 split between both Range Judging and the Section Accounts. The change in the Range Judging Account is from income from the Range Judging Contests, which had a total income of \$5,634.00. There was a small shipping cost for awards, and a small income from a payment for school ordered Range Judging Cards. The checking account in reality is currently much higher, but I did not include that money in the report above. We have transferred money from several investment accounts to the checking account (\$17,448.47) as investments are being transferred and consolidated. Kyle Schumacher is working with the investment accounts. That money will be transferred to investment accounts as planned so it will not stay in the checking account. We had an income from the annual meeting of \$1440.01. There may be one more cost that will be discussed at the meeting. There is also a possibility of a grant to supplement income from the meeting. Federal and State Taxes have been filed, the Biennial Report is not due to the Nebraska Secretary of the State this year. We have had expenses for HSYF, some were covered by scholarships. Thank you to our anonymous donor who also helps cover HSYF expenses. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Kyle Schumacher and seconded by Cheryl Dunn. Motion approved.

### **b. Annual Meeting Committee:**

Kyle reported regarding the upcoming annual meeting. It is tentatively planned for Oct. 16-18<sup>th</sup> in Norfolk. UNL is on fall break the weekend after these dates and Chadron State College is on break the weekend before. He is working on a half-day student workshop on the 16<sup>th</sup>, possibly fire-training and an intro to prescribed fire workshop. There may also be a NRCS training in conjunction with the

meeting. He will work with Jeff Nichols to possibly coordinate. New college students able to attend last year was great to expand our attendance. He will keep this in mind moving forward to continue to expand.

**c. Awards:** Vacant position. No report.

**d. Fundraising:** Vacant position. No report

**e. Historian:** Jeff Nichols reported. He submitted an article to Emma for the newsletter.

**f. Information and Education:** Wyatt Kirwan is interested in more social media exposure for SRM, possibly creating and managing a facebook page for NE SRM.

**g. Investments:** Kyle Schumacher reported. They have been able to close a few banking accounts and will be transferring them to Northwestern. They will maintain 3 independent investment accounts. Two CDs will come due this year, so they will get moved when they expire.

**h. Membership:** No report.

**i. Nominations:** Bob Broweleit reported. If anyone has any suggestions on people to contact for nominations, please pass them on. He is always looking for good nominations and people to contact.

**j. Producer Affairs:** Sheila Luoma was not able to attend the meeting. She will pass on information regarding upcoming events.

- June 12: NGLC Grazing tour at Anselmo. Tour on George and Barb Cooksley Ranch, and the McGinn Ranch
- June 18 – 21: in Burwell Grazing School for young adults
- June 25 – 27: Spring Lake Ranch Gordan NGLC and Ne Extension - Summer grazing school

**k. Public Affairs:** Vacant position

**l. Range Judging:** Kristi King reported. There is not much to update currently. She shared a document regarding Range Judging Contest Locations. Area 1 will be in Sioux County (9/11/24), Area 2 will be in Arthur County (9/10/24), Area 3 will be in Webster County (9/18/24), Area 4 will be in Garfield County (9/19/24), Area 5 will be in Holt County, and Area 6 will be in Butler County with dates not finalized. State will be held in Chase County (9/24 – 9/25).

**m. Range Research:** Mitch Stephenson reported. The Range Shortcourse is currently scheduled for June 25-27. They are currently working with NGLG to collaborate. Tony Perlinski and Dave Wedin have been working to provide programming. If any others would like to contribute please discuss this with Mitch. The program involves in-person meetings for a few days and then subsequent webinars. It will be held in Gordon, NE, and they will be getting out more information and advertisements.

**n. Range Tour:** There used to be a summer grazing tour, but it has not been done for many years due to numerous conflicts. There is a tour in conjunction with the annual fall Nebraska SRM business meeting.

**o. Range Camp/HSYF:** Shelly Kelly reported. They are currently working with Chadron State College to plan Range Camp for this summer. They have secured lodging and are still in the process of planning. It has been slow working through their processes as it is a new location. The goal has been to have rotating locations between Curtis and Chadron. FFAs could coordinate to transport students.

**p. Scholarship:** Jess Milby reported, no updates regarding scholarships.

**q. Student Affairs:** Mary Reece reported. Nebraska students had a lot of success at the National Meeting. Five students were able to attend the meeting. The President, Gracie Ackles, and returning paper winner, Joseph Barenberg attended. The remaining 3 presenters all placed in the top 10. Thank you to the WWF for sponsoring the 3<sup>rd</sup> student as well as our anonymous donor who helps sponsor attendance. UNL did well competing in the Rangeland Cup and CSC placed 1<sup>st</sup> in extemporaneous speaking.

**r. IYRP Committee** – Bob Browleit provided an update via PowerPoint. The next IYRP meeting is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> with the focus on developing Action Items for the Committee (the previous meeting included IYRP development history, goal and mission statement development). “Get uncomfortable and stop preaching to the choir,” is a main point. The current target audience are urban populations of all ages, to educate, engage, and involve. Target areas to resonate within our groups include: ‘Conservation’ and ‘Wildlife;’ we have also developed a shared Google Docs folder to centrally house information we develop and are working

**s. Envirothon:** Wyatt Kirwan provided a report. Regional Envirothon competitions have been completed. The state competition is scheduled for April 24 at Ponca State Park. Megan Grines (NRD) is in charge of coordinating activities. Wyatt mentioned to us that he will most likely be asking for volunteers to assist with Envirothon. Assistance could be used during the day prior, ‘Prep-Day,’ and then the day of contest to administer and score the test.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Excellence in Range Management Signs:**

A formal motion was made for Jeff and Jerry to get estimates for signs during the business meeting at Nebraska State Meeting in Central city. The estimates are completed (*see attachment*). Due to the cost, let us make sure the account can absorb the expenditure, although it was approved at the last meeting.

1. The president explained that this section was in the ‘Old Business’ category as it had been voted on during state meeting that we were interested in purchasing more signs and for Jeff and Jerry to go get bids. Jeff provided some background on the signs, that the Rangeland Award winner (producer or entity) gets this sign. Cheryl Dunn suggested we pivot to the SRM parent company to get producers to apply to some national awards competitions. There was a brief discourse wondering how we got the title and if we should include the word ‘Nebraska;’ although, it was

decided that would make the font too small and it would be best to keep the sign as is.

2. When discussing sign options, Jeff indicated that the Cut Vinyl signs have the greatest longevity over some of the digital print signs.
3. A motion was made to purchase, Kyle Schumacher motioned to purchase, Cheryl seconded, the president is going to email Jerry Volesky to purchase.

### **New Business:**

#### **a. Advisory Council - National Meeting 2027**

Discuss and potentially pass a formal resolution to SRM Advisory Council requesting SRM 2027 to be hosted in Nebraska. Texas had also expressed interest for hosting in 2027, but neither state had taken action or had an approved request from the their Sections.

1. Kyle provided background on the interest for the section to make a formal request in the form of a letter to be approved by our advisory council to submit to the parent society's membership council, mid-March (March 14 deadline to apply) to see if the Nebraska and Texas section can host the 2027 International SRM meeting in Omaha, Neb.
2. Other locations in South Dakota were discussed; however, Kyle said that there were not enough infrastructure resources to hold the meeting (airport wasn't big enough, accommodations required are too low, etc).
3. Ben and Kyle are working together on early stages of planning for this. Kyle said the section for guaranteed 20K to host the section meeting if 1200 people register and if the registration number would increase, so would the amount of money received. The date we are proposing is the first week in February 2027. Kyle indicated SRM works through a third party to book big conferences, our section would be in charge of developing a theme, tours, and planning sessions.
4. A motion was made to approve the writing of a letter to sent to advisory council to request to have the 2027 International meeting in Omaha, Neb. Cheryl Dunn motioned, Kyle seconded. Kyle and Ben will work on drafting a letter requesting for Nebraska and Texas to host the meeting and then send it to our advisory council for approval to send to the parent society.

#### **b. 4-H Building Central City Extension Building Rental Donation**

Discussion to donate \$200 from section funds for building rental during state section meeting in October

1. The president indicated that sine we did not have to pay a rental fee, that we make a donation for the use of electricity, facilities, etc. to the Extension Building in Merrick County in the form of \$200. Normally, individuals using the building would need to pay \$500, however that amount was waived as we had UNL Extension individuals present. A motion was made, Kyle motioned and Cheryl seconded.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, Cheryl motioned and Kyle seconded.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen and Laura Rubeck