



**Nebraska Section SRM Annual Business Meeting
October 23, 2019
US Meat and Animal Research Center,
Clay Center, NE**

Mitch Stephenson called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the US Meat and Animal Research Center in Clay Center, NE.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting in October 2018 meeting was made by Walt Schacht and seconded by Alex Orozco. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of October 23rd, 2019 were as follows: \$7388.85 for the SRM account, \$5537.86 for the Range Judging account, \$7112.26 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2704.69 for the HSYF fund, \$6567.12 for the NE State Range Judging CD, and the \$9106.53 for the new Range Judging CD. The Range Judging Committee decided to transfer \$9000.00 to an 18 month CD, which is now reflected in the reported accounts.

The Nebraska Section CD and the Range Judging CD do not mature until July 2020. The HSYF fund CD matures in November 2022 and we were able to get a slightly higher interest rate of 3%. The Range Judging CD matures in August 2020 and has a rate of 2.33%

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Alex O. and seconded by Jerry Volesky. Motion approved.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee:

Lance Schutte – Thank you to everyone for attending the meeting. It is exciting to show you around and share information among all of these professionals. Thank you Lance for planning the meeting!

Awards: A report was offered by Anthony Perlinski.

Thank you to everyone who submits nominations. It is not an easy task to decide among many deserving individuals. Please continue to submit those individuals in the future. He is also working to make submissions easier in the future by coming up with a more formatted submission process.

We will be presenting 3 awards this year, the Rangeman's Award, Range Management Service Award, and Outstanding Young Professional Award. Discussion regarding having an application or form for these awards to make it easier to nominate. Two awards will be given to members in Denver this year, so if you can attend it would be appreciated.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop presented the committee report. The 2019 State Competition was held at Pibel Lake in April. St. Paul High School won the State competition and represented Nebraska in the International competition held in North Carolina. The 2020 meeting will be in Lincoln. Please contact Nadine if you are interested in volunteering.

Fundraising: Vacant position. Please think of new ideas for fundraising. Discussion was held concerning fundraising. We have investments that were originally from income from hosting past meetings. The structure of hosting future meeting has changed drastically from the previous times we hosted in 1999. It is a tough job because our pool of people willing to take open positions is small and most are already serving in some capacity. There was discussion and questions about what the Sections' responsibility would be in regards to hosting a National meeting.

Historian: Jeff presented a report. The Nebraska Section SRM History has been updated and continues to be updated online.

Jeff will continue to submit articles to the Newsletter Editor as well as keep the website updated with historical information. He will also continue to gather information and gain reports from the student section for publication on the website. If there is anyone that has an interest in working with the Historical aspects of the Section, please let him know.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop presented a report. She continues to promote SRM by passing on information to various news sources, but she is also looking for new ways to promote SRM and the Nebraska Section. If you have any ideas on ways to increase publicity or exposure, please pass them on to her.

Investments: Walt Schacht presented a report. The savings account and 3 CDs still have interest rates around 2.5-3%. The interest from these accounts fund the two \$1000.00 scholarships. Due to this low interest rate it is hard to fund these scholarships at this level. The photo competition is also trying to supplement these funds as well as well as a small portion of income from the crazy auction. An anonymous donor is currently providing \$1000.00 to fund these scholarships as well. At the current interest rates and income, two \$750.00 scholarships is more sustainable. Due to Walt stepping down as the committee chair Lance Schutte has agreed to take over.

Membership: Lance Schutte reported for the membership committee. Most lapsed members are students. We need to continue to work on retaining student members to become apprentice members. Any ideas to maintain these memberships would be welcome. We currently have 104 members, so we are maintaining memberships.

Overall the transition to a calendar renewal date has been successful to help us increase and maintain our membership numbers and will minimize problems with payments from the parent society. The National committee is trying to determine certain demographics to focus time and energy on for both retention and recruitment. Some believe that SRM needs to find their niche market and deliver a product to its members. There is also a concern that SRM is a scientific focused society, but others want to serve agency employees, producers and the public with an updated information delivery system. The National membership committee meeting is scheduled for Feb 16th in Denver.

Nominations: Bob Broweleit reported for the nominations committee. We had one nomination for the open council position, Ben Beckman. He is unfortunately unable to attend the meeting this year. Motion to close nominations was made by Daryl Cisney and seconded by Tony

Perlinski. Ben Beckman is elected to the open council position. Thank you for agreeing to serve in this position.

Producer Affairs: Sheila Luoma submitted a report. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming Grazing Lands Tour next year and possibly partnering with them to host a joint tour. The National Grazing Lands Coalition Summer Tour is scheduled for June 14-16th. It is held to increase visibility and it is expected to fill up quickly

Public Affairs: Vacant

Range Judging: Kristin Dickinson, Range Judging Committee Co-Chair will be sending a report. Their committee has gained a few new members. They transitioned to using medals instead of rosettes as awards this year. This year was the second largest in participation. Thank you to everyone who participates and uses their time to support hosting these contests. The outreach to students is tremendous.

Range Research: Vacant

Range Tour: Vacant

Range Camp/HSYF: This year was the 56th year of Range Camp. It was held in Curtis at NCTA. The location had great plant diversity and a new plant community. There were 50 students in attendance. This year attendance was up 16 students we had in 2018. Next year's camp is tentatively scheduled for June 8-12, 2020 in Curtis again. There is still discussion regarding how to rotate the camp location in the future and what locations can accommodate the campers. Thank you to all the sponsors who support Range Camp and individuals who volunteer their time to support Range Camp.

Regarding HSYF Sara and Shelly do not have time to take on HSYF. Last year Lisa McMillan took care of our student representative. This year we currently don't have any student representation. We will see if a student can present and be available for this year if possible. Nebraska is well known and has great representation in the past and we want to continue to support students to participate.

Student Affairs: Student Affairs at the National level has seen a lot of changes and discussion was presented regarding some of these changes. There are a lot of contest changes, but also a lack of leadership and interest. At the graduate student level they are looking to create a special symposium. However, there are not enough judges. We want to keep students involved and the Range ID competitive and at the forefront.

Students from both UNL and CSC Range clubs presented their current leadership and activities.

Scholarship: Two \$750.00 scholarships will be awarded at the banquet this evening.

Old Business:

Thank you to everyone who is involved in all of the various SRM activities such as Range Judging, Range Camps, etc. Thank you to everyone for helping and representing us in various ways to support all of our programs and activities.

Thank you to Mitch for all of his work this year as President!

New Business:

Jack Arterburn is the upcoming council member who will be planning the NE Section Annual meeting in 2020.

Nadine, Jeff Nichols, and Mary Reece created a presentation regarding members of the advisory council and their various duties and responsibilities. This was presented last night at the council meeting and will be made available online for everyone.

There needs to be a few changes in our by-laws. Some changes involve membership and dues regarding when they come due. Committees need to go through and look at the by-laws to see if changes need to be made and present all of them at the next Business Meeting.

Discussion regarding holding a joint Annual Section Meeting in the future was discussed. Mitch reached out to discuss the idea of a potential joint conference with the NE Game and Parks. Our missions align in some areas so there may be a possibility of a joint meeting in the future. We can share some great information and make new connections. We would need to have clear and concise plans before we solidified into this kind of joint venture.

There was a brief discussion regarding the attendance of a member of the National Board of Directors.

Daryl Cisney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alex O. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen