



Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting March 7, 2023

Ben Beckman called the meeting to order at 10:07 CST via Zoom. Present members include Cheryl Dunn, Kyle Schumacher, Brad Schick, Ben Beckman and Emma Barnett.

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 Brad Schick. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and four CDs as of March 7th, 2023 were as follows: \$7692.16 for the SRM account, \$13080.00 for the Range Judging account, \$7228.67 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2993.35 for the William Wester HSYF fund, \$6671.96 for the NE State Range Judging CD, and the \$9356.59 for the other Range Judging CD.

Several changes have taken place with the CDs. The Range Judging Committee requested information regarding new advertised interest rates on CDs. Our CDs are business CDs, so they are different than personal CDs, which were advertised at a higher rate. We were still able to increase the interest rates on the CDs. The increased income from the increased interest rate made sense to close the CDs and reopen them at the higher rate as the penalty for early withdrawal was minimal. The exact breakdown of each account from opening to current status was sent to Ben and Kristi. They can also forward this information on to anyone who needs it. The Range Judging CD that was previously set to mature August 5, 2023, was an 18 month CD, and had a previous rate of 0.08%. The CD has to be closed and reopened to receive the new rate. The new rate is 1.84%, a 24 month CD, and has a new maturity date of 2/15/25. The other NE State Range Judging CD which was formerly set to mature July 23, 2024, was a 24 month CD, and had a previous interest rate of 0.20%. It now has an interest rate of 1.84%, a 24 month CD, with a maturity date of 2/15/25.

The William Wester HSYF Fund CD matured Nov. 14, 2022. It was a special 47 month CD rate. It was not available at that same rate, so it's interest rate did drop down to 1.84%, 24 month CD, set to mature Nov. 15, 2024. While assessing the Range Judging CDs, I also gathered information and sent it out to the council regarding closing and reopening the other NE Section CD at the higher current rate. It will also have a new interest rate of 1.84%, 24 month CD, and set to mature March 6, 2025.

Federal and State Taxes have been filed, as well as the Biennial Report that is due to the Nebraska Secretary of the State this year.

The SRM Section Account had income from the annual meeting, including \$2000.00 from the PIE Grant. HSYF expenses did cause a drop in the overall account balance recently. I expect some expenses to still come from Lisa McMillan and possibly Mary Reece as they were transporting students to the meeting. Last year the expenses for sending the previous year's winner were reimbursed, so that may be reimbursed again this year.

The change in the range judging account is due to income from range judging contests.

Insurance will come due in the May. Last year the cost of \$1425.00 was split between both Range Judging and the Section Account.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

There was a brief discussion regarding the changes made to CDs. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Brad Schick and seconded by Kyle Schumacher. Motion approved.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee:

There was a brief discussion regarding possible plans for next year's meeting. Clay Center is tentatively the current plan.

Awards: Brad Schick will keep this location in mind regarding awards.

Envirothon: No report.

Fundraising: Vacant position. No report

Historian: No report.

Information and Education: No report.

Investments: Kyle Schumacher has been looking into improving our investments, and looking into options for moving from CDs to investment accounts. Some funds are designated as scholarship only and may need to be expanded if necessary and possible in the future.

Membership: No report.

Nominations: No report.

Producer Affairs: No report.

Public Affairs: Vacant position.

Range Judging: There was discussion regarding using scantron to score Range Judging Contests. Coordination of requesting assistance in grading would be helpful including sooner communication and sharing future dates and locations of contests. Also including new groups or organizations that would be willing to help would be beneficial and also possibly attract new members to our organization.

Range Research: No report.

Range Tour: No report.

Range Camp/HSYF: No report.

Student Affairs: No report.

Scholarship: No report.

Newsletter: Thank you to Emma for the work put into publishing the Newsletter and clarifying the email list.

Old Business:

Jim O'Rourke presented that the United Nations General Assembly in New York unanimously declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). Jim presented the background information regarding the work put forth by many entities and organizations to support this designation at the meeting in October.

At the National Meeting there was information presented regarding surveys conducted of public understanding of rangelands and identified six limitations or shortcomings and how to fix these issues. There was discussion regarding prioritization of these limitations or issues, and their application to the broader public understanding, this included changing the wording and broadening the scope of some of the information.

We are hoping to hear future plans now that these issues have been identified and hopefully move forward in a more meaningful way. Discussion regarding setting up an ad hoc committee to help support this work and public understanding of rangelands was conducted. This included discussing a possible monthly calendar of events that pertained to our area as well as discussing what outcomes we would like to see in 2027 and how to identify outcomes or goals that would guide our plans to achieve these outcomes. Ideas could include policy, urban outreach, youth programs, etc. There was also discussion regarding Engage the Range program, educational trunks, possible summer tour with GLC, and building up ideas moving into 2027.

New Business:

With new hires moving into NRCS, UNL, Game and Parks, etc. we have the potential to grow our membership and involve new people within our organization. Can we focus on getting some of these individuals involved in committees and recruited to join and be involved in our organization. Getting new people involved in our organization and in range is a challenge overall. Coming up with new ways to get students and individuals involved in our organization is going to be necessary. The possibility of offering students a discounted rate to join our state organization and new ways to reach out, joint opportunities with other organizations, and getting students back involved were also discussed.

Our interaction with the Parent Society has been less involved the last few years. Ben is working to rebuild this connection and relationship with the parent society.

Parent society has taken on most of the responsibility of hosting a National Meeting. Nebraska last hosted the National Meeting in 1999. There was discussion regarding hosting a National Meeting possibly in the future, possibly in Omaha. The income could benefit our Section and could be a great opportunity. We will further discuss this in the June meeting when more members could be present to discuss.

Motion to adjourn made by Brad Schick, and seconded by Cheryl Dunn.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen