



Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
June 13, 2011
4-H Camp, Halsey, NE

Michael called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm CST. Those present were Chuck Butterfield, Michael Croxen, John Guretsky, Kristin Miller, Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Curtis Talbot, Shelly Taylor, Cindy Tusler, Doug Whisenhunt.

Minutes: The previously distributed minutes from January 21 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Leslie reported the balances in the two checking accounts as of June 13 (\$13,944.62 for the SRM account and \$4831.69 for the range judging account) and the three CDs (\$6991.81 for the section CD, \$2547.76 for the HSYF fund, and \$6271.24 for the range judging CD). For the period from 1/21/11 to 6/13/11, income was \$8548.48, and expenses were \$4625.29. We received \$450 in advertising fees. The down payment of \$1000, which we paid to the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City to reserve it for the 2011 annual meeting, will be refunded. The USFS has not paid for the registrations for their employees to attend the 2010 annual meeting (\$200). The treasurer's report was approved with a minor change.

Committee Reports

Envirothon: Chuck reported that the state contest this year will be in Gering. He is looking for someone to take over the Envirothon from him.

Student Activities: Chuck reported that activities were reduced at CSC this year but he is expecting more involvement next school year.

2011 Annual Meeting: Curtis reported that the 2011 meeting has been moved from Nebraska City to Sidney to avoid conflicts with the state range judging. The dates are slightly different as well – October 5 and 6, but the theme (Understanding Past Management – Implications for Today) and speakers will be the same. It will be held at the same Holiday Inn as the meeting in 2009. Registration costs will be the same. We discussed the food for meals and asking for sponsors for the breaks and the tour. Kristin will check several possibilities. Kristin will also pursue getting an auctioneer. We discussed having the college clubs assume responsibility for the auctioneer since the auction is a fundraiser for them.

Nominations: No report.

Awards: Doug reported that we have national nominations for fellow and young range professional. We have some ideas for the section Rangeman award, the Rangeland Service award, and the Special Service award. Nominations are due August 1.

Range Camp: Shelly reported that there are 39 students this year. Camp was moved to the second full week in June, and the committee is assessing if this works better. Concern was expressed about conflict with the Range Short Course. The NGLC grant (\$3800) allows us to cost-share registration for students so that no student pays more than \$40. The goal is to increase registrations to 50. This year, we used \$2000 of the \$3800, and we discussed how to use the funds next year. Shelly will clarify with the NRDs that if they have more interested students than their allotted number, they can still send all the students. We discussed several ideas: advertise Range Camp more widely, target school mentors to bring their students, and give polo shirts to students instead of t-shirts.

Newsletter: Advertisers have not been charged for their ads for about 5 years, but when asked to pay this year, 3 of them agreed at \$150 each. Advertisers have asked what the benefit is for them. We are asking ourselves what to use the funds for. Ideas discussed were: give advertisers free booths at the annual meeting, give free registration for sponsorship for the annual meeting, pay the dues for winners of the range management award. This last idea was approved and will be implemented. To expand the reach of the newsletter, we discussed giving free subscriptions to producers. We also discussed including basic range science articles, research papers, and youth forum papers in the newsletter.

HSYF: Mary reported that this year in Spokane, the society has hired security guards to prevent some of the problems encountered in Billings. In the future, however, the society will require sending parents along with students as we did in Louisville.

Range Judging: No report

Scholarship: No report

Membership: Kristin reported that our section has had many expirations, half of which are students. The problem is that their email addresses have changed. We have had very patchy reminders to those whose membership has expired. The parent society is sending one paper notification and one email to remind members to renew their membership. We discussed the idea of spending advertising dollars for new memberships.

Producer Affiliations: Mary will ask Marcy Hunter if she wants to stay on this committee. Doug will ask Ron Boltz also. However, we would ask that Ron become a member of the section first.

Historian: Jeff Nichols said to keep making history happen.

Investments: No report.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop sent a report saying that she is getting word out about the annual meeting. She is also working on a banner to say that Range Judging is sponsored by SRM.

Old Business

None

New Business

We discussed replacements for Leslie as secretary-treasurer. She will contact several possible candidates. One thought is to separate the secretary and treasurer positions so that the positions might be more attractive.

The Nebraska Grazing Land Conference is in August in Kearney. We are a silver sponsor again and have one free attendance to offer. Cindy will ask Tom Voss if he is interested. Leslie will ask Jerry to take the display.

Shelly asked to have someone take over the newsletter, and Kristin agreed. She will also be responsible for membership. (Thanks, Kristin!!!) Shelly will retain responsibility for advertising. Mary will thank Jamie Hornickel for her past efforts.

Pat Reece's position was filled with a mixed grass prairie specialist at the Panhandle Research Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm CST.

Respectively submitted,

Leslie Stewart-Phelps
Secretary-Treasurer