



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
June 14th, 2024
1:00 p.m., CST via TEAMS, Virtual Meeting**

Laura Rubeck called the meeting to order via Teams video conference.

Minutes were sent prior to the meeting via email for review. Motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting were made and approved.

Committee Reports:

a. Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and four CDs as of June 14th, 2024 were as follows: \$4410.42 for the SRM account, \$13339.37 for the Range Judging account, \$7400.25 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$3063.78 for the William Wester HSYF fund, \$6829.28 for the NE State Range Judging CD, and the \$9577.55 for the other Range Judging CD.

We have transferred money from several investment accounts to the checking account as investments are being transferred and consolidated. Kyle Schumacher is working with the investment accounts. Most of that money has been transferred to investment accounts but wanted to note that activity in the checking account for documentation purposes. The \$750 college scholarship was paid to Sheridan Wilson. This came from the investment money/scholarship from our anonymous donor. Thank you to our anonymous donor for continuing to fund this scholarship. Insurance for the year was paid. The total was \$1240.00 this year. Please note, this is slightly less than previous years (\$1430.00). Our insurance company was consulted regarding this change. We did not have a change or decrease in coverage; they did have a rate change. This is split between Nebraska SRM and NE Range Judging.

We did receive reimbursement for the expenses submitted for the returning HSYF participants, \$2490.20. Reimbursements will be paid to Mary Reece and Lisa McMillan at a total cost of \$2411.00 for airline tickets. Thank you to our anonymous donor who also helps cover HSYF expenses. Thank you to WWF who helped sponsor a student to attend HSYF, and Bob Broweleit for facilitating that scholarship opportunity. Signs were purchased for a total of \$1112.54 for ranches that receive the Range Management award. 2023 dues were received, \$395.00. Very little change to the Range Judging Account; insurance and a travel scholarship to the Burwell FFA (\$500.00) for attending National Range Judging were paid. If you have any questions, please let me know. The treasurer's report was approved.

b. Investments:

Kyle Schumacher provided an update on investments. Investment accounts are being updated and consolidated to seek a better return.

c. Annual SRM Nebraska Meeting – Kyle Schumacher gave an update on the annual Nebraska meeting planning. The facility is reserved, they are also serving the food. Room blocks are open. Thank you to Jeff Nichols for assistance with that. He is currently working on the program for the meeting. Wed. afternoon Pheasants Forever has tentatively agreed to do a student development workshop, doing a prescribed fire training. Advisory Council will be Wed. evening, with the annual meeting following on Thursday with the HSYF presenters and banquet in the evening.

d. Awards: Vacant position. No report.

e. Envirothon: Wyatt Kirwan gave a report. The 32nd Annual Envirothon was held at Ponca State Park. Concordia Luther out of Omaha won the contest. It was difficult to find an area for the range test. Thank you for all the volunteers who helped, and all the NRC entities who helped.

f. Fundraising: Vacant position. No report

g. Historian: Jeff Nichols, no updates.

h. Information and Education: Laura Rubeck would still like to update our board/poster display. She will continue to look into options and information to update this display.

i. 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.

j. Membership: No report.

k. Newsletter: No report. Emma is accepting articles for the newsletter so if you would to share anything with her please email her.

l. Nominations: Bob Broweleit reported. There has been one nominee willing to be put on the ballot so far.

m. Producer Affairs: No report.

n. Public Affairs: Vacant position

o. Range Judging: There has still been discussion regarding using Scantron. An anonymous poll came back that Nebraska Range Judging will continue with the current scoring methods and not using Scantrons. Encourage volunteers to help with Range Judging scoring to help with scoring those contests.

p. Range Research: No report.

q. Range Camp/HSYF: Tevyn Baldwin provided a report. Range camp was very successful this year. They had 34 students come. It was held at Chadron State College. The Range Complex was a great facility but a fair distance away from the dorms. Chadron worked out really well and had great

access to native rangelands for use. They will be meeting up with the Crew Bosses to debrief and decide if they will rotate back to Curtis or stay in Chadron for another year. They will be giving \$2000.00 to SRM for the HSYF as planned.

r. Scholarship: No report

s. Student Activities: Mary Reece reported. Costs will be higher for the upcoming National Meeting. We will need to keep in mind these costs moving forward. We also have a student that was elected President that we have a commitment to take back to the meeting. Currently there are three students that may present at the annual NE meeting in Norfolk.

t. IYRP Committee: Bob Broweleit reported. The committee has been meeting to determine their goal, their committee's goal has been to educate and engage people of Nebraska concerning the value of rangelands as an economic and natural resource base of Nebraska and the world, ultimately creating an informed population involved in policy decision making. The theme became "get uncomfortable and quit preaching to the choir, and wanting to reach an urban audience". With that in mind they developed a primary outreach strategy to host video contests that generate content to be shared on social media to reach a greater audience. Have a general video contest in 2025 and start getting a following so that in 2026 there can be four quarterly contest that revolves around the 12 identified themes that the international committee has set. Contest participants can choose between three themes each quarter. They are figuring out how to make these contests happen. They are trying to find a marketing agency to figure out how to make these contests happen and develop a budget. They are also seeking funding sponsors for the contest winners and developing this project further.

Old Business:

Excellence in Range Management Signs - have been purchased.

National Meeting 2027

Kyle and Ben had been working to drafting a resolution to the Advisory Council to host the National Meeting in 2027 to be hosted in Omaha. It was submitted in March.

New Business:

Chuck Butterfield was there to discuss ways to honor Jim O'Rourke. His memorial service is coming up on June 22nd. How can the Section contribute to memorialize his legacy? Jim had a great passion for international work, can there be a Jim O'Rourke outreach award or stipend to attend the international meeting?

The Nebraska Grazing Conference is scheduled for Aug 6-7. We typically host a booth at the Silver Sponsorship Level. Do we wish to continue this? They have not sent out much information yet regarding this conference. Once they do and we have more information we can consider our sponsorship.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectively submitted, Angie Petersen