



Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting June 21, 2023

Ben Beckman called the meeting to order at 10:05 CST via Zoom. Present members include Ben Beckman, Lance Schutte, Cheryl Dunn, Kyle Schumacher, Jess Milby, Bob Broweleit, Shelly Kelly, Jack Arterburn, Laura Rubeck, Angie Petersen, Emma Barnett, Kristi King, Sheila Luoma, and Jeff Nichols.

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

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and four CDs as of June 21st, 2023 were as follows: \$5908.97 for the SRM account, \$11,450.00 for the Range Judging account, \$7263.11 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$3007.00 for the William Wester HSYF fund, \$6702.72 for the NE State Range Judging CD, and the \$9400.05 for the other Range Judging CD.

Insurance was due in the May. The cost of \$1430.00 was split between both Range Judging and the Section Account. HSYF costs have been paid. We were reimbursed costs for the HSYF president that attended the National Meeting, but overall this did cause a drop in our account. We may need to keep this cost in mind when deciding how many students to send to HSYF this fall. Range Camp Income has also been deposited and the costs have been paid. The change in the range judging account is due to the cost of insurance and two travel scholarships that were awarded to Ord and Burwell that took their Range Judging Teams to the National Contest in Oklahoma. Range Judging Cards and Awards are normally ordered in the next few months before the upcoming contests in the fall. If you have any questions, please let me know.

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

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee:

Laura reported regarding the upcoming annual meeting. It is currently planned for Oct. 19 with the tour on Oct. 20th in Central City, NE. The Merritt County 4-H building seems the most cost-effective for a meeting location. It can facilitate up to 300 people and has kitchen to facilitate food/caterers. She is still working on lining up some presenters. The evening speaker has been arranged.

Awards: Jack Arterburn reported. We are seeking nominations for the upcoming annual meeting. We normally seek a producer in the area of the meeting for the Rangeman's Award. If you have any ideas or nominations for the other awards please send them in.

Envirothon: No report.

Fundraising: Vacant position. No report

Historian: He will continue to contribute to the newsletter and keep record of important events.

Information and Education: No report.

Investments: Kyle Schumacher reported. Walt has been working to get things moved over to Kyle and getting things coordinated. If we can get investments growing we can also work more toward fundraising.

Membership: Lance presented a report. There are currently 90 members in good standing with 20 lapsed. Last year at this time it was 89 in good standing with 24 lapsed. The goal would be to get our membership back up closer to 110 where we were at in 2017. As we get closer to the annual meeting please encourage students to get involved. Encourage everyone to update their emails when you update your membership as well. At the national level there is talk of moving toward or developing some form of membership based on topic of interest. This idea was first brought up in Boise and has been discussed recently. Lance will keep the council updated. We also need to encourage committee membership and participation as well.

Discussion was held regarding being a member at just the state level, which may give us a change to possibly gain membership at a more local level. This can be brought up at the next meeting to gauge their feeling toward this idea. We need a way to engage new membership but the cost is a big issue. The benefits of membership and ideas to increase membership were discussed. Please reach out to Lance if you have any ideas.

Nominations: Bob Broweleit reported. If anyone has any suggestions on people to contact for nominations, please pass them on. There was discussion regarding individuals who have been contacted for the ballot next year. Please contact Bob if you have any ideas.

Producer Affairs: Sheila Luoma reported. Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition is having their summer tour June 27th. If you want to attend please go to the website. As part of a grant NGLC will be conducting Grazing Schools. There will be one in September in Lincoln. There was one in Chadron in early June with individuals from the South Dakota Grazing Schools. Please consider supporting or attending as both of our groups can support each other.

Public Affairs: Vacant position

Range Judging: Kristi King reported. Dates and locations are set. Thank you to all those helping to plan. They are continuing to update the handbook and resources. Two teams represented Nebraska at the National Contest, Burwell had two teams and Ord took one team. Most contests are scheduled for Sept. 19 and 20th. The State Contest is scheduled for Sept. 27th in Saline County, near Beatrice NE.

Scantron is still an issue of discussion. Land judging is trying it so we will see how it goes and maybe take a slower approach. The NRDs are pushing to use it. They are trying to find new sources of volunteers to help with range judging. There is a need to increase communication to more entities that are willing to help.

Range Research: No report.

Range Tour: No report.

Range Camp/HSYF: Shelly Kelly reported. Sara Wahl stepped down. Shelly and KyLee planned camp. KyLee is the new administrative assistant for Sandhills Task Force. Forty-five students were scheduled, 40 started camp and 37 stayed through its entirety. They had their first ER visit to check for a concussion. They are still compiling results from evaluations as well as finalizing a budget. Crew Bosses were a great help. There were many speakers and many other professionals who interacted with the students throughout the week. There was also a Ranch Tour and pool party. There was also discussion regarding funding students to attend HSYF. It would be beneficial to move the SRM summer meeting back to the week of Range Camp to bring people back to interact with Range Camp. They are going to explore hosting the next range camp in Chadron. NCTA is a great facility and there may be a rotation between different locations.

Student Affairs: We had outstanding representation at HSYF. HSYF representative was elected president for the upcoming year so they will be attending. There was discussion regarding representation at the National Meeting and discussion regarding budget goals.

Scholarship: No report.

Newsletter: Emma Barnett presented a report. There was discussion regarding the format of the newsletter. This included having updates from the parent society on a more regular basis. Discussion regarding what people prefer for the newsletter was discussed such as a shorter newsletter or just a newflash. We will have a quick discussion or survey at the annual meeting and gauge people's interest or opinions regarding the newsletter. We need to follow the current by-laws and from a historical standpoint it is important to keep a record in our newsletter of important information. The newsletter is a great mechanism to keep a record of the membership and events. She is always looking for new content if anyone who would like to contribute.

Old Business:

2026 is the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

New Business:

Brad Schick has taken a new position so he is resigning his position as Past-President so Jack will be filling that role.

There was discussion regarding sponsorship of the 2023 Nebraska Grazing Conference. We have sponsored it in the past at the Silver, \$330.00 level which includes a booth and one conference registration. Laura is planning to attend and is willing to set up the booth.

Motion to adjourn made by Kyle Schumacher, and seconded by Laura Rubeck at 12:00.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen