



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
July 20, 2017
NRCS Conference Room, North Platte, NE**

Jeff Nichols called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM at the NRCS conference room in North Platte, NE. Those present were Jess Milby, Jeff Nichols, Shelly Kelly, and Nadine Bishop, Anthony Perlinski, and Angie Petersen. Lance Schutte and Laura Rubeck, participated via phone.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed from the January meeting. Motion to approve the minutes with amendments for name correction was made by Lance Schutte, seconded by Laura Rubeck. The minutes were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of August 20th, 2017 were as follows: \$13228.38 for the SRM account, \$11537.79 for the Range Judging account, \$6938.69 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2612.32 for the HSYF fund, and \$6406.86 for the NE State Range Judging CD. The William Wester HSYF Fund CD matures in September. We will continue to roll over that CD to continue growing funds. Money has been deposited from Range Camp, but we have not gotten our range camp bill, which is why the current balance appears so high.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting: Anthony Perlinski discussed plans to host the annual section meeting in October in Chadron. Chadron State Range Club will serve as hosts of the meeting in October so that facilities can be used at no cost. The dates of the meeting are currently set at Oct 17-19th. The council meeting would be Tuesday evening Oct. 17th. He is hoping for around 100 students to be able to attend from Chadron and also hopes the dates work well for UNL students to attend. He is planning to have some demonstrations rather than just speakers this year for the meeting, and has been working on the location of the field tours. He plans to have a brochure or information ready by the grazing conference in August. Online registration should be available again this year for the meeting and he will work with Angie to make that available. Costs for registration should be fairly consistent with the previous years. There is currently a block of rooms reserved at the Best Western. There are also several other newer hotels available in town. The banquet will be held at the Winery adjacent to the Best Western. He will also work with Nadine to get advertising out for the meeting.

Nominations/Awards: Jeff Nichols discussed both the Rangeman's Award and the Range Management Service Award. Kristin Dickinson may have a rancher who she may nominate for the Rangeman's Award. The list of past winners for both awards is available on the website. We would like to see someone nominated for the Range Management Service Award, please be

thinking about who to nominate and have them submitted to Karla Jenkins. The deadline is Aug 31, 2017.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop presented the committee report. The state envirothon was held in the Wildcat Hills. Teams are made up of five members, and twelve teams competed this year. Concordia High School was this years winning team. They will be going to Nationals in Maryland in August. Thank you to Myra Richardson and others who helped planning and proofing the exam and also helping the day of the contest. Nadine is going to try to go through the educational materials for the range portion of the contest. She has worked to update a lot of it in the past, but would like to see it arranged to make the amount of information more manageable and student friendly. Usually the information for the next years contest becomes available in December.

Fundraising: No report, currently no committee chairperson. Previous fundraising activities were discussed. Jeff Nichols discussed the fundraising and grant writing he had done and may be possible for future meetings, as it is our primary fundraising event. Other fundraising ideas were also discussed.

History: Jeff Nichols presented The Historical Report. Everything is updated on the website, so there is no new information to report.

Information and Education: Nadine doesn't have anything to report. If there is any new information for the SRM section display for the Grazing Conference please let her know.

Investments: No report

Membership: Lance Schutte reported for the membership committee. As we have now moved to once a year membership enrollment it has changed the need for sending out reminder emails, but he will continue to do so to keep in contact with members and keeping people enrolled. There are currently 70 members, and 10 members who have Nebraska listed as an additional section membership. We are slowly losing members and he would like to see everyone encourage new members. We also need to work on encouraging student members to become apprentice or full members as they transition out of school and into their careers, as we lose a lot of members during this transition.

Producer Affairs: No report.

Nominations: No report. Bob Broweleit is looking for names of individuals who would be willing to serve on the council. It can be tough to find new people and it is important to both encourage new membership and find new people to serve in these positions. Please let him know any individuals who may be willing to serve or he can contact and encourage.

Range Judging: No report. Locations and dates have been set. The State Contest will be in Keith County on Sept. 26th and 27th. If you are available to help with any of the area or state contest any help is welcomed and encourage. Please do so if possible.

Range Camp/HSYF: Shelly Kelly presented the Range Camp report. The 2017 Nebraska Range Camp was held June 5-9th at the Halsey State 4-H Camp. 30 students attended this year. Attendance was down from previous years and she encouraged members to help recruit students

to bring those numbers back up and take a more active role in recruitment. Sara and Shelly increased outreach again this year. There are members that do an excellent job in helping with recruitment and she would like to encourage others to join their efforts. There were also great speakers, Crew Bosses, and tour guides this year.

They drastically increased funds received from ranch sponsors this year. They received \$3110 from ranch sponsors this year. This was encouraged by creating a new sponsorship form that encourages ranches to sponsor at different levels and mailing out sponsorship request forms to many more ranches. They would like to Nebraska SRM members to help us seek ranch sponsorship by either sending the form directly to ranches or by sending contact information to Shelly or Sara. Shelly also wrote several grants and requested more funds for Range Camp. Not all of these funds were needed this year, and the Sandhills Task Force grants are multi-year grants, so they will be using them and have access to them in subsequent years.

The 2018 Range Camp is tentatively scheduled for June 11-15. There has been some recent turnover in the staff at the 4-H Camp, so we are hopeful that the date committed to us stays the same.

Sara and Shelly are looking for someone to help with HSYF. Neither will be attending the National meeting and we need help getting students to the meeting. They would like to see a commitment from another SRM member or two to chaperone students to the 2018 meeting. They would also like to see someone take over HSYF students. This includes encouraging students to prepare their presentations for the Section meeting, working with them at the meeting, and taking care of their travel preparations to the National meeting. Once the students are at the National Meeting the students are primarily chaperoned at their student programs, so they do not need to chaperone them much once they get them to the meeting other than getting them to the Section dinner.

Scholarships: They will get the deadline set for the next year soon and get out application information.

Student Affairs: No report.

Newsletter: Please have committee reports submitted by August 15th to Laura so they can be included in the newsletter.

Old Business:

We have reconciled with National SRM regarding membership dues for the past 4 years. There still seems to be some discrepancies regarding membership. With the switch over to beginning of the year membership there still seems to be some issues. Lance is working with Allen Press to make sure all members are showing up on the membership list.

We will once again be sponsoring the Nebraska Grazing Conference at the \$330 dollar level. Nadine will be bringing and setting up the display. It is much more helpful to be at the table during breaks to help promote SRM. If you are attending the conference and can possibly be at the display during some of the breaks it would be greatly appreciated.

Jeff has submitted the final report for the PIE grant which he wrote to help cover costs of the annual meeting.

New Business:

Laura Rubeck discussed the Photo Contest at the NE Section meeting. They would really like to encourage increased participation this year. We could have the proceeds go back to the Section as a general fundraiser for the Section.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer