



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
October 8, 2014
Holiday Inn Express, North Platte, NE**

Bob Broweleit called the meeting to order at 8:25 pm CT at the Holiday Inn Express, in North Platte, NE.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 2013 Annual Business meeting was made by Walt Schacht, seconded by Anthony Perlinski. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of October 8th, 2014 were as follows: \$6709.92 for the SRM account, \$7483.65 for the Range Judging account, \$6847.87 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2579.74 for the HSYF fund, and \$6323.00 for the NE State Range Judging CD. All three CDs reached maturity since the last meeting. All were carried over.

We received another \$1250.00 anonymous donation to be used for High School Youth Forum. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jerry Volesky, seconded by Walt Schacht. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Nominations: Each year members are elected to become a new council member. Each year the previously elected members move up to become vice president and president after two years on the council. This allows new council members to become familiar with being on the board before they are asked to plan the annual meeting. Bob may be contacting you to become a member of the council or serve as a committee chair.

Two excellent candidates agreed to run for the council position this year. Candidates this year were Kelly Corman and Tony Perlinski. The newly elected council member will be Tony Perlinski. Electronic balloting was used again this year. It was a very close election. Daryl moved to accept Anthony Perlinski as the new council member, Jeff Nichols seconded the motion. Motion accepted.

This year the transfer of presidency was expected to transfer to Cindy Tusler. Cindy has moved out of state and has resigned as incoming president. This leaves a vacant spot on the council. It was discussed that the current past president, and president would remain in their positions for one more year. Karla Jenkins would move up to the incoming president position as planned and will plan next year's annual meeting. Mary Reece moved to approve the council's recommendation that Bob will remain as president and Jon will remain as past president for one more year. Shelly seconded the motion. Motion approved. Thank you to both Bob and John for agreeing to continue serving in these positions.

Awards: There will be two awards presented this year. Jon Soper was unable to attend this year as committee chair, so awards will be presented this evening by Bob Broweleit.

Range Camp: Shelly Kelly reported that Range Camp was held June 9-13th, at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp at Halsey. This was the 51st year for Range Camp. 58 students participated from across the state. One-third of those were returning campers. Outreach was extensive with letters or emails throughout Nebraska to high schools, NRCS and NRD offices, UNL extension offices, and newspapers. There is also information up on the Nebraska Section SRM website. There is also a Facebook page maintained to promote Range Camp as well. If you have any further ideas for outreach please let Shelly know. Students are divided into "Ranch Crews" which are sponsored by Nebraska ranches. This year students were divided into 10 crews. Range Camp takes a huge amount of sponsors both financially and as volunteers. Thank you to all the individuals who help both financially and also volunteer their time to make Range Camp possible. The overall top camper was Chelsea Nollette who has attended range camp for several years. Chase Samuelson was the top first year camper. Range Camp is scheduled for June 10-14th, 2015.

This year Range Camp costs exceeded income by \$2245.76. Some of the expense was incurred due to a lack of grant funding this year for Extension Publications. The NGLC has submitted another Nebraska Environmental Trust grant this fall, which has helped to cover \$3800.00 of expenses in the past. The proposed Range Camp portion has been increased to \$5000.00 to help cover rising costs. There was discussion regarding possible future funding and sponsorship. The cost of camp is going up and the cost per student is also going up. Previous registration rates were \$275.00. There may need to be an increase in registration fee to possibly \$300 or \$325. If there are any further ideas for fundraising ideas please discuss them with Shelly. Shelly is also looking for a co-director. We are also always in need of Crew Bosses who are able to spend a week at camp with the students.

HSYF: The Nebraska Section has traditionally annually sponsored delegates to the High School Youth Forum to attend the National SRM Meeting. This year two students will be attending the meeting in Sacramento, California. Blair Hartman from Champion represented Nebraska at last year's meeting in Orlando. Three Range Camp participants will be presenting at the Nebraska Section meeting for a chance to attend the National SRM meeting in Sacramento. Trent Elsen from Miller, Kelsey Phillips from Mullen, and Cheyenne Doremus from Polk are competing for the opportunity. Thank you to the anonymous donor who continues to make it possible to cover the cost so students may attend.

Range Judging: Daryl Cisney, Range Judging Committee Chair presented a report. This year was a great year with 1275 total participants at 6 area contests. The number of participants has steadily increased over the last 5 years, and this was a record setting year for participation. Thank you to all the Agencies that partner with the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management and the Nebraska State Range Judging Committee. All of them help to ensure that all the contests are well organized, run smoothly, and provide a great opportunity for the students participating. Thank you also to the Ag Ed instructors and FFA programs across the state that work with their schools and encourage their students to participate. There were several new schools participating this year.

The 2015 Area and State Range Judging Contest host sites were set last year and planning is already taking place. The area contests are scheduled to be held the second and third week of September, while the State Contest will be scheduled for the last week in September in Scotts Bluff County. Please set aside these dates and help with these contests if possible. The 2016

hosts were set this year to be sure we are not overlapping and overburdening the same people multiple years in a row. The Committee is scheduled to meet again in January to express concerns and help with planning. This meeting also helps to expand the membership on the State Range Judging Committee to other agencies such as the NRD, which has been very helpful. These agencies continue to help host the contests and have provided great input and are very investing and involved to facilitate planning.

Daryl is stepping down as Committee Chair. Kristin Miller has agreed to take over with the help of 3 co-vice chairs: Bethany Johnston, Daryl Cisney and Larry Schultz of the Lower Loup NRD. Thank you to Daryl for all of his years of service and to these individuals for agreeing to take over the position. Thank you to all who help support the Range Judging Contests and continue to encourage participation it is very much appreciated. There will be a planning meeting again in January and also a meeting before the State Contest. The January meeting is scheduled for Jan 21st 11:00 CT, at the Central Platte NRD in Grand Island.

Envirothon: Sara Winslow has expressed interest in taking over for Austin Horn.

Scholarship: Laura Snell presented the scholarship report. Jess Milby is currently the Committee Chair. It was discussed that the scholarship committee had received only 1 application this year, from Chadron State College. Normally two \$1000.00 scholarships are given out at the Nebraska Section Annual Meeting, however due to only one application being submitted only one scholarship will be awarded. Thanks to an anonymous donor who helps to provide one of these scholarships.

It was discussed as to possible reasons for lack of applicants. One area discussed was the wording on the scholarship application that leads applicants to believe that they must have a major in Range Science. This may need to be changed to those with an emphasis in Range so that other applicants with majors in areas such as livestock or wildlife would apply.

Membership: Kelly Corman has agreed and was appointed to this position.

Producer Affiliations: Scott Cotton was our previous representative for this committee. He has since moved and the spot is currently vacant.

Historian: Jeff Nichols reported. He continues to gather information and reports and continues to build the annual history report. Please have student chapters gather officers and information for Jeff to keep track of this information. He also continues to contribute to the newsletters, giving historical facts and perspectives. Dorrene Butterfield is our webmaster. If you want any information added to the website please contact her.

Investments: Walter Schacht reported on our investments. We currently have 3 CDs for a total of \$37514.24. We use interest from these accounts to fund one of the scholarships. An anonymous donor provides for our second scholarship. So far we have simply rolled these accounts over. If anyone would like to take over as chair or provide advice on increasing our investments please feel free to contact Walt. We may need to make changes in the future to increase our income from these investments.

Information and Education: No report.

Student Activities:

Range Short Course was held in June at Chadron State College. It went very well, with approximately 25-30 participants. They would like to see numbers increase in the future.

Vicki Simonson reported for UNL. Students attended the National Meeting last year in Florida. They placed 6th on the ERMI. There were also 3 undergraduate student presentations. This year students have been able to participate in several events. Students visited Spring Creek Prairie to look at management. Jeanna Jenkins is social chair. Kyra Baldwin is president. Jake Drozda is vice-president.

Anthony Perlinski reported for Chadron State College. Four students attending the National Meeting in Florida last year. Currently they only have 10 members and are struggling with participation. They currently plan to have 8-10 students attend the meeting in Sacramento. Sara Porter is president. Nate Jeck is vice president. Conner Reese is secretary/treasurer.

Newsletter: Sheila Luoma has agreed to take over the newsletter. Laura Rubeck has also agreed to help. Sheila is hoping to get one out in November following the Nebraska Section annual meeting. If you have any articles or information you would like to share please email Sheila.

New Business:

We continued discussion of the possibility of Nebraska hosting a National SRM Meeting. The 2016, 2017, and 2018 locations have already been decided, so it would most likely be in 2019 or later. There was discussion of possible locations to host in Nebraska, such as Lincoln or Omaha. There has also been discussion of hosting the meeting in conjunction with another state such as Wyoming and hosting in a city such as Cheyenne. It could also be hosted by several states such as NE, ND, SD, and Montana and host in a city such as Rapid City. Concerns and areas of discussion include necessary lodging, facilities, and travel concerns. We need to start paying attention and taking note of possible ideas that we may observe at the upcoming National meeting that may help us plan a future meeting. The 2016 meeting is in Corpus Cristi, Texas. The 2017 meeting is in St. George, Utah. The 2018 meeting is in Reno, Nevada.

Karla Jenkins is the incoming president and will plan the 2015 Nebraska Section Annual Meeting.

Curtis Talbot will be receiving an honorary award from FFA for his service. It will be presented at a later time.

Laura Snell moved to adjourn the meeting, Casey Lancaster seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer