



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
January 19, 2012
NRCS Office, Ogallala, NE**

Curtis called the meeting to order at 11:00 am MST at the Ogallala NRCS office. Those present in the conference room were Curtis Talbot, Shelly Taylor, Jon Soper, Kristin Miller, Bob Broweleit, Daryl Cisney, Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Nadine Bishop, Angie Petersen and Michael Croxen. Cindy Tusler attended the meeting by telephone.

Minutes: The previously distributed minutes from October 4th were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Leslie reported the balances in the two checking accounts as of January 19 (\$11,877.05 for the SRM account and \$6217.50 for the range judging account) and the three CDs (\$6796.92 for the section CD, \$2555.47 for the HSYF fund, and \$6275.96 for the range judging CD). Since the last council meeting in October, the Section had \$3819.45 in income and \$3706.36 in expenses. The 2011 Nebraska Section Annual Meeting had expenses of \$1527.00 and income of \$2715.00 for a profit of \$1188.00. We received Thank You letters from the Ord FFA for range judging. Kristin will put them in the next newsletter. The Ag Club in Chadron owes the Section for the 2011 sale of calendars and the Section needs to pay for the 2012 calendars. Angie will contact Chuck Butterfield to reconcile this with the Ag Club. Angie Petersen will be taking over for Leslie Stewart-Phelps as Secretary/Treasurer. The checking accounts are being moved from First National Bank of Chadron to First National Bank of North Platte where the CDs are also located. Thank you Leslie for all of your hard work and dedication for many years as Secretary/Treasurer! The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports

2012 Annual Meeting: Jon reported that the 2012 NE Sec. Annual Meeting will be in Ogallala on Oct. 9, 10, and 11th at the Quality Inn. Daryl Cisney has volunteered to act as the local representative and has begun tentative planning with the hotel. These dates were chosen to avoid the Old West Regional Range Judging Contest. It was also discussed that this would also hopefully avoid the county Extension Educator annual meetings. They are still looking at possible meeting spaces and meal options for the meetings. The overall theme for the meeting is still under development. Jon discussed a possible theme for the meetings may be discussing how recreation concerns can influence and impact range management decisions at local and regional scales. What are the costs and benefits of incorporating recreation as part of a working ranch and how does this affect the community? There are several groups throughout Nebraska that focus on ecotourism and other aspects of additional income for ranchers including many different hunting operations, ecotourism activities, and leasing hunting rights. Water management issues

could also be a topic of discussion. Possible tour ideas were also discussed; possibly feature an operation that has worked to integrate recreation into a traditional ranch. The Quality Inn in Ogallala has a block of rooms reserved for our annual meeting.

Nominations: No report.

Awards: Michael Croxen reported that he will put an article in the next two newsletters to seek nominations. All awards are detailed in the NE SRM bylaws. The Johnson Family from Sidney, NE won our state Rangenman's Award in October 2011. He will try to help get them to attend next years' annual meeting in Oklahoma City, OK. This may help them get a poster presentation prepared and the distance for them to travel to the meeting will be less.

Range Camp: Shelly reported that Range Camp will be held June 11-13 this year. There will be an increase in media coverage and planning after the National SRM meeting. She is starting to look for camp crew bosses and speakers.

HSYF: Shelly reported that 3 students will be attending the national meeting this year: Laura Gorecki, Kassidy Linabery, and Tevyn Baldwin. The section was able to fund two individuals with the third being funded by NEGLCI. Next year we may see changes to the HSYF. It may possibly become just a day event, but we will have to look into the changes as they come. We wish the students best of luck and have fun.

Range Judging: Daryl wanted to thank everyone for a successful year and for all their support. We have a lot of hope for a great new year. He will start making initial contact with letters to the various counties by the end of February. The 2012 six area county contest locations are available in the newsletter. Contests will be around the 2nd and 3rd weeks of September, State Range Judging will be the 25th and 25th of September, and the Old West Regional Contest will be the 5th and 6th of October. The council has approved the creation of banners to be displayed at Range Judging Contests, but he has not presented them the State Range Judging Committee yet as he would like an example to present to them before approval. Nadine will help work on these so that both the NE SRM is recognized as well as our partners that help support the contests. The Old West Regional Contest will be in the Scottsbluff area. It is normally scheduled on a Friday and Saturday. It is a small contest and it was discussed that we may schedule a later start time on Saturday to possibly draw in more people that may travel to the contest.

Envirothon: No report

Scholarship: It was briefly discussed that we need to start seeking applications for the scholarship sooner and increase the number of applicants.

Membership: Kristin reported that as of Jan. 1, there were currently 100 members. Six of the 37 expired members had renewed, and there were 7 newly expired members. Eight secondary memberships had dropped Nebraska as their secondary membership. We discussed talking to the expired members.

Producer Affiliations: The goals of the producer affiliation were discussed. There is no update on the possible new producer member that Chuck Butterfield is contacting.

Historian: Jeff Nichols said to keep making history happen.

Investments: No report.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop reported that if we have any information for news releases or any other sort of publication, please let her know as she will help you get it out to the media contacts. Two individuals are helping her work on news releases and updating SRM presentations. She maintains a list of newspapers and their contact information. She will be working on Range Camp news releases.

Student Activities: No report.

Newsletter: Kristin reported that the next newsletters will be in March and May. We currently have three advertisers in the newsletters. She updated the council on the regular articles/features found in each article and what will be coming up in future articles. Articles, updates, etc. for the March 2012 newsletter are due by Feb. 17. Kristin has done a great job taking over the newsletters and they are looking great.

Old Business

We have not talked to Chuck about the possible new member and producer affiliation representative, Tom Hoff. We need to follow up with this contact and possibly look into contacting Beau Mathewson, the 2011 recipient of the Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award as a possible producer affiliation representative and member.

New Business

We discussed attendance at the Advisory Council meeting in Spokane. Curtis will try to attend as much as possible. Jon, Kristin, Shelly, and Leslie also offered to attend some of the meeting. Curtis will be giving up being on the Finance Committee.

The Nebraska Section dinner at the meeting in Spokane will be at, "The Onion" restaurant. We currently have a 35 seat banquet room reserved, but more space is available if needed. It will be on January 31, at 6 pm. Please join us if you are available at that time.

Shelly brought the auction item that we will be sending to Spokane. It is a wood burning of The Trail Boss. Tom Bartlett is Chairman of the SRM Endowment Fund Development Committee. He is the contact person to get all silent auction items to before set-up. Cindy Tusler volunteered to take this item to Spokane so that it does not have to be shipped or taken on a plane.

The sale of NE SRM clothing items made \$250 to help fund sending NE producers to the SRM International Meetings. She has collected most of the money and will get the rest by next week. She also ordered extra SRM hats to sell at the booth in Spokane. We will continue with clothing sales.

It was proposed and discussed that the Section would like to award a Section Membership along with a printed version of Rangelands to the Rangeman's Award winner. Kristin Miller motioned to award a Section Membership and a printed version of Rangelands to the NE SRM Rangeman's Award recipient, Leslie Stewart-Phelps seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Leslie Stewart-Phelps has several printed copies of old SRM by-laws. She will give one copy to the historian, and one to the national SRM. If anyone else would like a copy please let Angie Petersen know as Leslie has passed them on to her as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Please contact her by June 1st, 2012 or she will be getting rid of the rest. As there has been many changes to the handbook, the old copies are not the same as what is available on-line and there is no record of the changes being made. It was discussed that any further changes need to be recorded. Leslie moved that any further changes in the handbook should be properly recorded so that there is a proper record of when the changes were made. Shelly seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Angie will look through the old copies of the handbook to compare changes that have been made from the currently available copy on the website and bring them to the next meeting.

We also have three copies of the 2003 NE SRM 50 year history book. Kristin will offer them to anyone who would like a copy in the next newsletter.

Shelly brought new some new NE SRM Website Design Ideas. We discussed the possible arrangement of the website and main tabs that will be available on the front page of the website to link viewers to the main areas of interest. Please send pictures to Shelly that you think may be good for display on the website. We discussed adding a tab for the NE Section Annual meeting. She will continue to work on this with Doreen Butterfield.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer