



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
June 11, 2012
4-H Camp, Halsey, NE**

Curtis called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm CST at the 4-H Camp in Halsey, NE. Those present were Curtis Talbot, Shelly Taylor, Jon Soper, Kristin Miller, Bob Broweleit, Cindy Tusler, Chuck Butterfield, Scott Cotton, Angie Petersen, Michael Croxen, Daryl Cisney, and Laura Snell.

Minutes: The previously distributed minutes from January 19th were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Angie reported the balances in the two checking accounts as of June 11th (\$19746.01 for the SRM account and \$5339.30 for the range judging account) and the three CDs (\$6795.63 for the section CD, \$2551.65 for the HSYF fund, and \$6274.77 for the range judging CD). Since the last council meeting in January, the Section had \$16025.48 in income and \$8156.86 in expenses. Much of the income was from Range Camp, but many of the bills and reimbursement checks have not gone out yet, so next month our income will be very low and expenses very high. All of the CDs are set to mature in July. The current rate is 0.15% for all 3 CDs. We can raise our interest rate depending on the current rates when the CDs mature, as they change daily. 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 been very helpful in assisting in arrangement in Ogallala. The council dinner will be the night before. The theme will emphasize the use of rangelands for recreation, and management for their use for more than just grazing. Many individuals from UNL have been traveling and studying the use of range for both grazing and ecotourism. There are many individuals who use the range for ecotourism and there are many possibilities for speakers on this subject. Jon and Daryl will continue to work on possible speakers and topics.

Nominations: No report.

Awards: Micheal Croxen reported. All awards are detailed in the NE SRM bylaws. Any nominations are due 60 days prior to the Annual meeting, which would be the beginning of August. He will put an announcement in the newsletter following the NGLC Summer Grazing Tour.

Range Camp: Shelly reported that there were 61 students registered this year. This is a great increase from the 38 students last year, which has been great to increase participation. Thanks to various scholarship sources that have made it possible for all the students to attend. The NGLC grant allows us to cost-share registration for students so that no student pays more than \$40.00 to attend camp. This year there are 13 full time helpers. She needed a large crew of helpers to manage so many students. Thank you to all those who have helped and to all the speakers that have participated. They had 17 speakers coming to talk to the students about various related topics. Participation was so great this year that it was discussed as to how many students Shelly and the camp could handle for a maximum participation number in the future. Last year there were 8 crews of 4 students with 1 adult leader. This year there were 9 crews of 6-7 students. She would need more full time help if participation increased much more than its current level. The NGLC grant funding will run out for next year. Hopefully we can seek some other sources of funding such as NRDs, schools, 4-H and FFA programs to continue to make the registration costs feasible for all students who wish to attend.

This is the 49th year of Range Camp. Next year, being the 50 anniversary, Shelly discussed the possibility of a special celebration. It may include inviting past members, helpers, etc. More will be discussed and information will be passed on that in the future.

Thank you to Shelly and everyone who has helped plan and make this range camp such a success!

HSYF: Shelly reported that they will recruit students to participate in the HYSF from the Range Camp participants. Please continue to recruit students to participate in HYSF, any student is welcome to participate. Speakers compete by giving a 6-8 minute presentation that is related to rangelands in some way. Speakers give their presentations at the Nebraska Section Annual Meeting in October to decide who will get to go give their presentation at the International Meeting in February in Oklahoma City. Last year's participants had a great time in Spokane, Washington. The students did a great job; Laura Gorecki received 4th place and Cassidy Linabery received 5th place.

Planning for next year was discussed. Curtis discussed how the New Mexico SRM Section sponsored a Desert Data Jam Competition. Students were given data sets from experimental range data and were asked to interpret the data and develop a presentation based on the data. Winners developed a presentation that was displayed at a future meeting. It was a way to give students a place to start or for those students who wanted to participate in a range program that may not otherwise have a range background.

Range Judging: Daryl Cisney reported that not all areas are set up yet to host the area competitions. Contest locations and dates are listed on the website. Resources and budgets are very limited and tight everywhere. It has been harder to find individuals willing to justify the cost and time to host the contests. Many are threatening to drop support of the contests including many of the schools. Ways to increase interest were discussed. We encourage you to invite other resource professionals to participate or come and watch the contests to see if we can get new involvement to keep participation in the range judging contest strong. We also encourage individuals to mentor Ag programs in the schools that may need help and to increase student interest.

Envirothon: Chuck Butterfield reported that he was unable to attend this year's Envirothon competition. He has been trying to train other individuals to help. West Holt won the competition overall and won the range portion of the competition. Chase County placed 2nd, and Ord placed 3rd in the range portion. If you know of any teachers who would like to participate please encourage them to join. This

year the national competition is in Pennsylvania. Montana is hosting the national competition in 2014-2015 and the main focus will be range.

Scholarship: No report.

Membership: Kristin reported that we currently have 99 members. There are many that need to renew. If we know any of the members that have let their membership lapse please encourage them to renew. The possibility of forming a new membership committee was discussed to see what tools and methods can be used to increase membership. We lose a lot of student memberships after they graduate from college their contact information changes and it is hard to get a hold of them. The possibility of signs for current members to display in their place of work or ranch to encourage new membership was also discussed.

Producer Affiliations: Scott Cotton reported and we welcome him to represent the Producer Affiliations committee and appreciate his willingness to serve. He is also a member of the NGLC as well as a producer. We welcome his representation and feedback from these groups. It was discussed how to increase producer participation in Nebraska SRM and how to work with other associations to work together to identify producers willing to increase participation. The possibility of hosting our Nebraska Annual Meeting in conjunction with other associations or producer groups was also discussed, as well as focusing on similar goals.

Historian: Jeff Nichols said to keep making history happen.

Investments: No report.

Information and Education: No report.

Student Activities: Chuck reported that there are lots of opportunities for students for internships and range related jobs. Students are scattered throughout many states. There are fewer students, but the ones we do have are good students and many are great leaders.

The UNL Range Club has large and extra-large shirts available for sale right now, the cost is \$30.00.

Newsletter: Kristin reported that she is currently trying to do 4 newsletters per year, timed after larger events. She has only been putting out 3 per year so far. She encourages all college students to submit papers and those involved with the University range program to send her information on what they are currently doing regarding range research projects. She also encourages producers to send her information to put out in the newsletter. There was a motion to approve the new NE SRM logo. It was unanimously approved.

Old Business

None

New Business

The 2012 Nebraska Grazing Conference is set for Aug 14th and 15th in Kearney. We have helped sponsor this event in the past, and have done so again this year. One registration comes with the sponsorship. It was discussed who could use this registration, and if we could possibly find a producer to fill the spot

The Nebraska Range Short Course, a joint course offered through Chadron State College and UNL currently has fewer participants signed up for the year. It was discussed how the Section could help encourage more participation in this event. The event may have to become a rotational event, every two years opposite the forestry or new wildlife short course.

The topic of website ideas was briefly discussed. Dorrene BrownButterfield has asked for some new ideas to fill some of the spaces on the website that are still listed as “Under Construction.”

At the meeting in January it was discussed that Angie Petersen has several printed copies of old SRM by-laws. No one has asked for a copy so she will be disposing of most of them. The old copies are not the same as what is available on-line. Angie went through both the old copies and the on-line version and made notes of all of the differences. There is currently no record of these changes being made, so they will need to be brought up at the Annual Section meeting in October.

The SRM headquarters building in Denver is currently up for sale.

Curtis reported some of the activities taking place with the SRM Advisory Council. In 2002 the Advisor council reviewed the SRM Strategic Plan. The Advisory Council currently believes our current Strategic Plan needs to be overhauled. It was also discussed that Rangelands is not meeting its objective and needs be reviewed by the Rangelands Steering Committee and Task Force.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer