

**Nebraska Section SRM Meeting
October 5, 2011
Holiday Inn, Sidney, NE**

Michael Croxen called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM MT at the Holiday Inn in Sidney, NE.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from the 2010 NE Section Annual Meeting was made by Kristen Miller, seconded by Shelly Taylor. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Dave Cook, seconded by Daryl Cisney. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

2011 Annual Meeting: The president elect, Nick Simonson has resigned. Daryl Cisney made an offer to have the 2010 NE Section annual meeting in Ogallala. He has checked on some possible meeting places and rates should be reasonable. Jeff Nichols moved to have the 2012 NE Section annual meeting in Ogallala. Justin Lemmer seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Nominations: Dave Cook reported that we had two excellent candidates that agreed to run for the council position this year. Candidates this year were Bob Broweleit and Jon Soper. Electronic balloting was used again this year and worked well. Eight paper ballots were also sent out. Thirty-nine votes were received.

Range Camp: Shelly reported that Range Camp was held June 13-17th this year with 39 students. Outreach was extensive with letters or emails throughout Nebraska to high schools, NRCS and NRD offices, UNL extension offices, and newspapers. A new Facebook page has been created to promote Range Camp as well. The financial and overall support of sponsoring ranches continues to be essential to the camp's success. One third of the students were returning campers. This year's winning ranch crew was the Kelly Ranch Crew or the Steerhead Crew, with team leader Justin Lemmer. Nine adults spent the entire week at the camp with 13 other professionals supporting Range Camp by leading tours and providing presentations on range-related information. Reed Hamilton Ranch was the site of the Ranch Tour. All students were encouraged to compete for the HSYF. Five students will be presenting later today. Two students were taken last year to the National SRM meeting in Billings. There are enough funds to take 2 students to Spokane from the 2011 Range Camp budget and the NEGLCI has offered to pay the way for a 3rd student. Range Camp continues as one of the Nebraska Section's most important activities and its success has been and continues to be dependent upon the involvement of Section members, Nebraska ranches, and other professionals and organizations that support the activity. June 11-15, 2012 are the dates for next year's Range Camp.

HSYF: As reported by Shelly, five students will be presenting later today. In 2013 we will likely need to have funding to send a parent with their child to the National SRM Meeting.

Range Judging: Daryl Cisney, Range Judging Committee chair presented the report. Area range judging contests were held across Nebraska. The combined area contest participation was reported at

1124 participants, only slightly down from last year. The State Range Judging Contest was held in Sidney. It was the 4th largest in history with 360 contestants, thanks to Kristin for her great efforts in hosting this event. We have many other partners who help in hosting our contests including the NRDs, NRCS, University of Nebraska Extension, and the landowners, who we want to recognize and thank.

Envirothon: Chuck Butterfield reported that 70 students competed in the state contest near Gering. The site was not very diverse. Superior won the overall contest. Ord won the Range portion. The International competition was in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. The team placed 15th out of 50. Next year the state contest will be held at either Platte River State Park or Mahoney State Park. The first Saturday in May is usually the date for the contest. Chuck will have more limited participation in the future. He has been involved since 1994. Range scores are some of the lowest scores in the competition as it is a hands-on station and is designed to be completed as a team. They are working on redoing the regional kits, and for more information you can go to the NARD website.

Scholarship: Casey reported that the scholarship committee received 6 applications for the two \$1000.00 scholarships. Thanks to an anonymous donor who helps to provide one of these scholarships. One winner is from Chadron State College, Samantha Evans, and the other winner is from UNL, Caleb Miles. He again encourages everyone to encourage students to participate and get more students to apply for this scholarship.

Membership: Kristin has sent letters to everyone that was previously a member, letting them know they are no longer currently a member and to please consider rejoining. The transition to Allen Press has caused a loss of some members, and an effort to gain members lost in this transition is being made. Kristin has the membership numbers if you don't know your membership number. If someone is having problems getting logged onto the website, or is having other issues with the transition please let her know and she will correct it or forward it to Allen Press. Also please make sure your personal information is up-to-date on the website.

Producer Affiliations: No report

Historian: Jeff Nichols submitted a report. He will file a written report for the meeting and continues to collect and file the committee reports. The last update to the history book was done in 2009, they are currently \$7.00 for those wishing to buy one. He hopes to put the history on the new website design. He also continues to submit articles for the newsletter.

Investments: Michael Croxen reported that investments have not changed.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop submitted a report. She continues to develop and e-mail listing of the local and regional papers and publications covering Nebraska for use in sending out press releases. However this can be a challenge as many of these contacts are constantly changing. Two press releases about the Annual Meeting were sent out to all of the publications and information was sent to local radio stations for announcement on their community calendars. She reminds all members that if they have any local tours, workshops, or other range activities that she would be glad to help publicize the event. She will also be working with Daryl to design new signs to be displayed at the area Range Judging Contests. Funding was approved for the signs from the NE Section funds and the Range Judging Committee funds.

Student Activities:

President of the UNL Range Club, Chelsea Fullerton presented UNL's student activities. Officers are: President – Chelsea Fullerton, VP – Joe Schumacher, Treasurer – Thomas Volkmer, Secretary – Jeanna Jenkins, Social Chair – JD Ochsner. Several UNL students attended both the NE SRM Annual Meeting and the National SRM Meeting in Billings. Lars Anderson received 1st place with his graduate poster presentation. Ben Beckman also received 7th place in the URME. At their annual banquet Ben Beckman received the trailboss award. The group had several gatherings. They were also able to update the plaques in Keim Hall.

President of the Chadron Ag Club, Cassidy Emerson presented Chadron State College student activities. Officers are: President – Cassidy Emerson, VP of Range Management – Samantha Evans, VP of Animal Science – Margo Larsen, VP of Ag Business/ Ag Education – Stacey Wright, Secretary/Treasurer – Cortney Werner, CAB Representative – Tom Emerson, Alternative CAB Rep – Quinton Royle, and Speaker Consultant – Eric Trumbull.

Some activities included hosting a Street Dance for the Week of Welcome to attract incoming freshmen. They were able to raffle off to Wii's and an iPod Nano. For Homecoming they decorated a bedsheet and buildings on campus. They also had a float in the Homecoming parade. They hosted many fundraisers such as the hog wrestling for AG Olympics. They also hosted a tailgate BBQ with applied sciences. For a Go Green project at Fort Robinson they helped with Light up the Fort, helping to decorate Fort Robinson State Park. At the National SRM Meeting in Billings they had an URME team and a Plat ID team. They placed 3rd in Rangeland Cup and a member, Jeneta Qualm received 3th place in the student conclave.

Newsletter: Kristin Miller reported that she has completed and gotten out one newsletter so far. She would like to have a goal of having things included in the newsletter other than committee reports, such as student projects featured. Other things such as range tours with pictures could also be included. We appreciate Shelly for doing this task as interim between Jamie and Kristin. Shelly is taking care of advertising. If you know of any new advertisers that would like to advertise through SRM please let Shelly know. We will likely also now be placing their advertisements on the SRM website.

Report from the SRM National Board of Directors:

Keith Klement from the SRM Board of Directors was present to report.

He had helped with the State Range Judging Contest the previous day and it was good to see the youth excited about rangelands. He is currently an Instructor of Natural Resources and Ranch Land Management, and the Director of Ag at Sheridan College, in Sheridan WY. He is one of nine board members, being one of the six Directors. Each board member tries to make it to two or three state section meetings each fall.

- As of last Monday membership was 3005, up 505 from when Allen Press took over the membership activities and some members were lost and it had dropped to 2500. We are trying to get back up to 3200 by December, which is where the membership level was at previously. Some sections have had a few members on their councils to personally call members who have dropped to see if they can get them to renew.
- The budget was balanced this year. This is the first time in 7 years we did not have to use money from the interest on the endowment to cover expenses. We are allowed to use of to 75% of the interest made out of the endowment.

- The new Director of Finance is Richard Grosvenor. He has 10 years of experience as a CPA. We are now using QuickBooks to do the accounting. We used to have 4 or 5 sets of books before. QuickBooks allow us to function much more like a business and more professionally.
- The computer server has been problematic for the last 5 or 6 months and needed updating. They were able to file for non-profit status for the software needed for the updates to the server. It therefore only cost around \$300.00 instead of the thousands of dollars it would regularly have cost. There are changes being made to the website and he would appreciate any comments to take back to the Board of Directors for consideration. Rangeland news also has a new style. Many of the old links did not work and they are in the process of going through all the old links and updating or removing them. They have contracted out the work needed to be done on the website for half the cost of a full time person.
- SRM investment portfolio is being examined. The Finance and Endowment Committees will be involved in interviewing and selecting an investment firm to manage these investments. Curtis Talbot is the Finance Committee Chair.
- Chuck Butterfield is the Chair of the 2013 Nominations Committee. The number of people interested in running for the Board of Directors has been very low. If you know anyone who would be a good candidate for this position or is interested in serving on the Board of Directors please contact Chuck. Voting is still open for a couple of weeks. Please come to the National meeting to see who will be winning awards from the Nebraska Section!
- The SRM building in Denver is in need of repairs and no longer up to code. SRM is looking at the possibility of a new building or other options for housing the current staff, as there are only 3 people working in the office. There is currently a Task Force looking at options.
- Rangeland News publication has been losing money. Comments have indicated that many people find the articles to be too technical and not producer friendly. They are trying to update and revamp this publication to make it more attractive for members. We are obligated to Allen Press to print 1000 copies. We need to look at the Rangelands publication and provide feedback as to what they can do to make improvements and send comments to the Board of Directors.
- The next national meetings:
2012 – Spokane, WA
2013 – Oklahoma City, OK
2014 – Orlando, FL
2015 – Sacramento, CA
2016 – Corpus Christi, TX

Nominations and Elections:

Bob and John thank you both for running for the council position. It was a close vote with only 4 votes difference. Bob Broweleit is the new council member.

President's Message

Michael Croxen presented. The Committees do so much of the work for the President and to a great job getting everything done. Our core group is not very large; we encourage new young people to join! It has been a great year and Curtis will do a wonderful job as President.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Curtis Talbot presented. Usually we normally only elect one member of the council each year. That person then serves two years as a council member and is then normally nominated and becomes president elect. This works well to allow that individual to observe the duties and responsibilities and then take over that position. Nick Simonson has stepped down from the council position, leaving an open president elect position. Curtis Talbot opens nominations for president elect position. Chuck Butterfield nominated Jon Soper. Jeff Nichols seconded. Jon Soper is elected as the new president elect.

Website Upgrade Ideas: Shelly brought up the need to redesign the NE SRM Website. She showed several examples of other websites that were much more user friendly and visually appealing than our current design. Shelly has visited with Dorrene BrownButterfield about the possibility of expanding the website. The cost of this would be approximately \$500 to \$1000, depending upon what changes we decide to make to the site. Dorrene has been great with her service to NE SRM regarding her work with our website in the past. It will cost money, but a better website is definitely needed. As the website has also moved from the UNL server to Dorrene's server we will also now be allowed to post advertisements on the website. If you need information about the members of the NE section it will still be on the National website, as making updates to that would be quite pricey for the NE Section website. Allen Press keeps the members list updated twice a month. If you have any ideas please send an email to Shelly.

Update NE SRM Constitution, By-laws and Handbook: No changes were made to the by-laws at the Council meeting. If you have any suggestions for changes please contact a council member.

Student Activities: Austin Horn presented a new idea for student activities. As a former student of the Chadron State College he participated in the Rangeland Cup at the National SRM Annual Meeting. He proposed that a committee could be set up to help the two colleges, Chadron State College and UNL, practice for these competitions at the NE Section meetings, by hosting a competition between the two colleges. Job opportunities could also be presented or discussed. This would give students a good reason to attend the Section meeting and help them meet professionals in their field of interest. Austin volunteered to Chair this Committee. If other members are willing to help him please contact him.

2011 Annual Meeting: Jon Soper announced that the 2012 NE Section Meeting will be held in Ogallala

New President: Curtis Talbot encouraged everyone to be involved in SRM and to look for current and future activities. He thanks Michael for the past year as President and to Doug Whisenhunt as Past-President. The 2011 did have a change of venue than originally planned and a big thanks goes to Kristin and her staff, Jan and Courtney for all of their help. Also a thanks goes to Pawnee Buttes Seed and the South Platte NRD.

Other Business: Leslie Stewart-Phelps is stepping down as Secretary/Treasurer. Angie Petersen will be serving as the new Secretary/Treasurer. The official change will not take place until the January council meeting.

Kristen and Mary have developed an idea to raise funds for the Red Fund to get producers to the Annual Meeting. The idea is to sell clothing with the NE SRM logo. The hope is to have this set up soon so that purchases can be made before the Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen and Nadine Bishop, filling in for Leslie Stewart-Phelps