



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
October 9, 2013
Ainsworth, NE**

Jon Soper called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM at the Ainsworth Community Center in Ainsworth, NE

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed and a few changes corrections were made. Motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Walt Schacht, seconded by Ben Beckman. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of October 7th, 2013 were as follows: \$10,168.00 for the SRM account, \$4912.05 for the Range Judging account, \$6829.89 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2573.69 for the HSYF fund, and \$6306.40 for the NE State Range Judging CD. 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 Daryl Cisney, seconded by Walt Schacht. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Nominations: Two excellent candidates agreed to run for the council position this year. Candidates this year were Jeff Nichols and Stu McFarland. Jeff Nichols is the newly elected council member. Electronic balloting was used again this year. Paper ballots were sent to members who do not have an e-mail address.

Awards: Curtis Talbot reported that winners for both the Rangeland Management Award and the Range Service Award will be presented this evening at the banquet. A special Certificate of Appreciation will also be presented. Thank you to all of those who help contribute to our section and for nominating individuals that deserve recognition. Chuck Butterfield is also being recognized at the meeting in Orlando. If you have a chance, be sure to be present and offer support if possible when this award is presented.

Range Camp: Shelly Taylor reported that Range Camp was held June 10-14th this year with 50 students. While the days were very hot, everything went well. 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. A big thank you to everyone for recruiting, please continue to do so. Eleven adult volunteers spent the entire week at the camp with 10 other professionals supporting Range Camp by leading tours and providing presentations on range-related information. The financial and overall support of sponsoring ranches continues to be essential to the camp's success. Atkins Ranch was the site of the Ranch Tour; a special thank you

goes out to them. 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. Thank you to everyone who helps make Range Camp possible. Thank you to the Sandhills Task Force and the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition who continue to sponsor Range Camp. Thank you to all of our sponsors who continue to support Range Camp and help keep costs down for individual campers. Thank you to everyone who helps make Range Camp possible. All students were encouraged to compete for the HSYF. The 2014 Range Camp is scheduled for June 9-13th.

HSYF: The Nebraska Section has traditionally annually sponsored delegates to the High School Youth Forum at the winter parent Society meetings. We have two presentations today, Cheyenne Doremus from Polk and Blair Hartman from Imperial. One will be chosen to attend the meeting in Orlando, Florida in February. We have sponsored our student to attend the meeting, however many students from other states attending the National Annual Meeting have to pay their own way. Travel to Florida has been at an increased cost and many sections are unable to pay for their student's to attend. The overall cost to host all of the students is high for the host section as well. Nebraska has a large group of both high school and college students that participate in our activities, which is very important for keeping our Section membership strong in the future. Costs may also be high for next year as the next National Annual Meeting is in Sacramento, CA.

Range Judging: Daryl Cisney, Range Judging Committee Chair presented a report. There will be a Certificate of Appreciate given to Larry Schultz this year for his exceptional amount of work he did with both the Area 4 contest and State Contest this year. Next year is 60 years of Range Judging Contests. Plaques were awarded at the State contests. They were sponsored by the NARD. Daryl announced that next year will be his last as Committee Chair. Next year at the contests we would like to announce the 60th year anniversary year. Nadine Bishop also has a SRM display that we currently use at various conferences. It was discussed that possibly we could get one made with some of the history of Range Judging to display at the contests next year. We could also possibly get a press release with the NRDs. The committee will decide and discuss further what they would like to do, but the council is in favor of these possible ideas for recognizing the 60 year anniversary of Range Judging. We would also like to recognize the NRDs that provide so much assistance with helping to set-up and run the contests. There are a number of agencies that assist with Range Judging Contests and we thank them for all of their help. The combined area contest participation was reported at 1197 participants. The State Contest was held in Genoa and had a total of 450 participants. Participation would not be possible without the support of the Ag Ed instructors and FFA programs across the state, we thank them for their participation and support! We have many other partners who help in hosting our contests including the Game and Parks Commission, NRDs, NRCS, Forest Service, University of Nebraska Extension, and the landowners, who we want to recognize and thank.

The 2014 Area and State Range Judging Contests are already in the planning stages. The 6 Areas contests will be held the second and third week of September, while the State Contest is scheduled for the last week in September. Thank you to all who help support the Range Judging Contests and continue to encourage participation it is very much appreciated.

Envirothon: No report. Chuck Butterfield was honored for his service as a one-time \$1000.00 sponsorship was given to support the range portion of Envirothon in his honor.

Scholarship: It was discussed that the scholarship committee had received 8-12 applications. Two \$1000.00 scholarships that will be given out tonight at the banquet. Due to the government

shutdown and late notice due to this, the winners may not be present this evening to receive their awards. Thanks to an anonymous donor who helps to provide one of these scholarships.

Membership: Kristin reported that we currently have 100 members, with approximately 20-30 that have expired in the last year that we try to contact and encourage them to reenroll. At the National level the Lifetime Membership is currently suspended. If anyone has any ideas for recruitment or retention please discuss them with Kristin. Thank you to Kristin for serving for both the Nebraska Section and at the national level.

Producer Affiliations: No report. If you have anything to report please bring it forward.

Historian: Jeff Nichols reported. Jeff currently maintains all files and information relevant to the Nebraska Section. This information is now available on the website. It is located in the About Us, History Tab. If you have any information to add please forward this on to Jeff.

Investments: Walt Schacht reported. Not many changes have taken place. Current total in investments is \$45,092.04. CD total \$37,514.24. A small amount of income is made every year in interest. Expenditures include the scholarships awarded every year as well as small travel grants for students.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop assisted in creating a display for 50 years of Range Camp. We would like to possibly display it at the National SRM meeting in Orlando.

Student Activities: Kayla Tarr reported for UNL. Last year 6 undergraduates and 5 graduate students were able to attend the National meeting and participate. They placed 19th in the ERMi with 2 students placing in the top 10%. Jeanna Jenkins is currently the student reporter at the National SRM student conclave. They again plan to attend the National meeting this year and participate in the ERMi and Rangeland Cup. They have been working with the UNL Wildlife Club to help set up some speakers throughout the year. Thank you for your support of the annual Crazy Auction to help with funds.

There have been several changes at Chadron State College regarding academic positions. Tony Perlinski was hired to replace Dr. Chuck Butterfield. Georgia Younglove also resigned. Ron Bolze was hired on a one year contract.

At UNL Drack Tridwell has been hired as a new Range Ecologist.

Newsletter: Kristin Miller reported that newsletters continue to be sent out biannually. Other emails are also sent out if an issue that needs to be addressed in a timelier manner arises. She currently mails out 8-10 copies. Three businesses are advertised for in the newsletter and on the website, notices to pay their advertising fees will be sent out in January. Thank you to Kristin for continuing the newsletter publication!

Range Short Course: Walt Schacht discussed the Nebraska Range Short Course. This year it is scheduled for June 16th, 2014. It has had lower attendance numbers in the past. Please be supportive and help recruit to get numbers up.

Report from the SRM National Board of Directors:

- Misty Hays from the USFS in Douglas, WY was present to report.
- This year due to the location of the National meeting numbers may be down as travel could be a challenge.

- Planning for the 2015 meeting in Sacramento is on track.
- California Pacific Section sponsorship vs. parent society sponsorship has presented a few challenges, however each society's meeting responsibilities has now been outlined in an agreement.
- 2017 meeting still needs a host location.
- Several different task forces have been assigned at the National meeting. It has been discussed that there may need to be some restructuring.
- The Financial Taskforce in particular has been examining the budget. They have been discussing new ways to generate revenue, reduce costs, and increase efficiency.
- HSYF at the national meeting is a huge cost and covering the costs for students to attend has been tough. The meeting used to cover food, this has now been eliminated as there was not enough sponsorship to cover this cost.
- On average 900-1500 attend the national meeting. It varies based on location. Government budgets have also been presenting more of a challenge.
- Membership has been fairly stable at the national level.
- We need to find an alternative source of funding to run the parent society if attendance at the national meetings continues to drop
- Ideas such as webinars from the SRM national meeting has been brought up. Individuals would pay to view
- SRM as a professional society is necessary to support our discipline so we need to provide support for our society.
- If you are interested in being on a committee please let Misty know and they would be glad to have you.

President's Message

Jon Soper presented. It has been a great experience and honor to serve as president. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and also for the help in planning the meeting. We welcome Bob Browleit as new President of the Nebraska Section.

New Business:

Laura Snell with the Niobrara Valley Preserve where the tour will be held tomorrow discussed the tour tomorrow. Cost is \$10.00 for lunch. Tour includes burned areas, bison pasture and erosion plots.

Cindy Tusler will be planning the meeting for next year. Tentatively she would like to host it at Chadron, NE.

If you plan on attending the national meeting in Orland and would like to attend the Section dinner please email for more information

Meeting adjourned at 9:33

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer