



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
October 17, 2018
North Platte, NE**

Anthony Perlinski called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte, NE.

Minutes: Minutes from the previous annual meeting was distributed and reviewed. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of October 17th, 2018 were as follows: \$7655.36 for the SRM account, \$12395.55 for the Range Judging account, \$7033.16 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2637.64 for the HSYF fund, and \$6494.09 for the NE State Range Judging CD. The treasurers report will be presented at tomorrow's business meeting for approval. The Nebraska Section CD and the Range Judging CD do not mature until July 2020. The HSYF fund CD matures in Dec. 2018. The current interest rate is 0.80%. The possibility of investing it differently to get a higher interest rate was discussed. Angie Petersen will check into the possibility of reinvesting it to possibly get a higher interest rate on a CD.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee:

Thank you Mitch for planning the meeting!
Lance discussed the 2019 meeting possibly taking place in Clay Center.

Awards: A report was offered by Jeff Nichols. We will be presenting 3 awards this year. In addition to the Rangeman's Award and Range Management Service Award we will be presenting an Outstanding Young Professional Award. We want to recognize people for their work. We need to increase the number of award nominations. The parent society is also struggling with awards and receiving nominations. We need to be more active with award nominations and encourage members to write nominations. The discussion of possibly having a template available to help people start this process was discussed. There are deserving individuals that we want to encourage and recognize.
This award will be added to the by-laws.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop presented the committee report. The 2018 State Competition was held at Niobrara State Park in April. Concordia High School won the State competition and represented Nebraska in the International competition held in Boise, Idaho, where they placed 28th. Thank you to Myra Richardson who has been assisting with everything. The Spring 2019 contest will be held in central Nebraska, but a location has not been set. It is scheduled to be held in Lincoln, NE in 2020.

Fundraising: Vacant position. Please think of new ideas for fundraising.

Historian: Jeff presented a report. The Nebraska Section SRM 65 Year History 1952-2018 publication has been updated. The publication should be ready for the Section's website. The Section website will be the sole source of this publication going forward unless there is a demand for printed copies by the membership.

Jeff will continue to submit articles to the Newsletter Editor. He submits the article that tells what was happening in the Section five, ten and twenty years ago. If there is anyone that has an interest in working with the Historical aspects of the Section, please let him know.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop presented a report. News releases were developed to cover the major Section activities. Keeping the email addresses of smaller home-town newspapers current is difficult as publishing of many of these papers is completed by larger newspapers. The larger newspapers usually have a weekly expanded agriculture section and do include the articles in their papers. Several have special editions which cover FFA activities and have requested additional information, especially about range judging for these editions.

The Section did not participate with a booth at the Nebraska Grazing Conference this year as the solicitation for sponsorship was not received as in the past. We are working to ensure that in 2019, SRM will be represented at the grazing conference.

If your local papers are printing information about the Section activities let Nadine know. If they are not, send Nadine their current contact information so that she can ensure that the press releases are reaching the correct individual.

Investments: Walter Schacht reported on our investments. We currently have 3 CDs for a total of \$37,514.24. We also have savings accounts for a total of \$5577.30. We use interest from these accounts to fund one of the scholarships. An anonymous donor provides for our second scholarship. Our CDs do not currently make enough interest to cover the scholarship costs. We may need to discuss other ways to fund the scholarship if we wish to continue giving out both scholarships. The photo contest income also goes toward the scholarship fund.

Walt Schacht is looking for someone to take over this committee. Please let him know if you are interested.

Membership: Lance Schutte reported for the membership committee. The Nebraska Section currently has 110 current members, which is an increase since last year. There are currently 17 members who have let their membership lapse, and over half of those are students. Overall the transition to a calendar renewal date has been successful to help us increase and maintain our membership numbers and will minimize problems with payments from the parent society. There have been a few complaints that the calendar renewal date falls directly in the middle of the holiday season and becomes a bill that needs to be paid at a bad time of the year.

The main thing that we need to continue to work on is retaining student members to become apprentice or full members.

Nominations: Bob Browleit reported for the nominations committee. We had two nominations for the open council position, Bob Wesley and Brad Schick. There were a total of 37 total votes. There were a few individuals who expressed concern that they did not get the email to vote. Bob will check into how this is done and make sure this process is correct and the emails are going out. If you did not get an email please let Bob know.

Producer Affairs: Sheila Luoma – no report

Public Affairs: Vacant

Range Judging: Kristin Dickinson, Range Judging Committee Co-Chair presented a report. This year was the 64th year of range judging in Nebraska. This year there were 1256 participants through Area Contests, with 448 participants in the State Contest held in Chase County. A huge thank you goes out to the State Committee and all of the local contest committees for putting together some outstanding contests!

Scholarships will once again be offered to the top 4 teams from the State contest. This scholarship is to be used for travel and registration for either the Old West Regional Contest or National Contest. The top 4 teams in 2018 were: West Holt, Imperial, Hayes Center, and Ainsworth.

Formal invitations to host a contest in 2019 will be sent out within the next couple of weeks. The proposals for 2020 will also be sent out to potential local committee members. They hope to have contest dates set by March so schools can get it on their calendars.

Two years ago, a major update to the Range Judging Handbook was published. This update transitions from the range site concept to Ecological Site Descriptions. The transition to the new handbook has gone very well. Minor updates will continue to happen on an annual basis, with most of the changes being to the tables used in completing similarity index.

A few new State Committee members have been added. Ben Beckman was welcomed to the committee this fall, and Justin Lemmer joined last spring. Roger Lechtenberg has been a committee member for several years and has decided to retire from teaching at the end of the school year. He has submitted his resignation from the committee as well, but has given several names of instructors that would potentially be good additions to the group.

Thank you to all those who continue to assist in one way or another to help educate youth in Nebraska about our rangeland resources!

Range Research: Vacant

Range Tour: Vacant

Range Camp/HSYF:

A brief discussion was held about Range Camp and the students that are then chosen for HSYF. Attendance at Range Camp was lower this year so we need to continue to encourage students to attend to increase student participation. The budget and money used to send students to HSYF was also discussed. As the cost of sending students to HSYF is increasing we need to have funding to support those activities. If a chaperone from the Section is unavailable we must also consider the possibility of sending a parent and how this will also be funded.

At this time we do not have a student to present at HSYF. We will try to encourage a student to present and attend to represent Nebraska at the national meeting.

A huge thank you goes out to an Anonymous Donor who continues to sponsor HSYF expenses and make this trip to the Annual Meeting possible.

Scholarship: Two \$1000.00 scholarships will be awarded at the banquet. There were a total of 7 applications this year. They will be announced tonight at the banquet.

Student Activities: Evan Liable presented for UNL Range Club students. Five students attended the National meeting in Sparks, NV and competed in the ERMI and Plant ID competitions. Students also toured the James Arthur Vineyard. Students held a Native Grass Sale to raise funds, which went very well.

Vanessa Yeoman, Vice President, presented for CSC. Seven students were able to attend the National meeting. CSC Students help to host a Range Day. The crazy auction tonight will help fund students being able to attend the National Meeting. Please consider donating.

New Business:

Charley Hart from the SRM Board of Directors presented an update from the parent Society for Range Management. The parent Society membership is up 16%. To encourage membership, if you registered for the Annual Meeting as a nonmember to were charged a higher price, but became a member along with your registration.

Student activities are increasing, which is necessary to ensure the future of SRM and for students to stay involved.

The upcoming meeting is being held in Minneapolis, MN, February 10-14th. It is scheduled for Denver, CO in 2020, hosted by the Colorado and Wyoming Sections. There is no location scheduled beyond that. Normally we have locations selected 3 or 4 years out.

There has been discussion of hiring a Professional Meeting Coordinator to take care of the meeting spaces and room assignments. This would take a huge load off of the Section hosting. The program, presenters, and more scientific portion of the meeting would be decided by the host Section. If the host Section doesn't want to use a Coordinator, they of course would not be required to, but they are looking for ideas to lessen the stress and possibly make it easier to host for the Section. They are tentatively looking at Boise, ID for 2021.

If a Coordinator is hired this does mean that the host Section does not make as large of a profit. If a Coordinator is hired they would also try to keep the same one from year to year to streamline the process. There has been a discussion of a 4 to 5 year rotation of certain locations to make the process and planning easier and less costly. The locations selected need to be large enough to host, but also small enough to try to keep everything close and in the same complex.

There is now a Virtual Advisory Council. It is hard to get representatives from all the Sections at meetings, this allows people to participate remotely. A conference line is available through the parent society and is available to the Sections at no charge.

Legacy giving with SRM comes in from a variety of sources. It has been made easier for individuals to give.

By-laws need to be amended to include the new award. Jess Milby made a motion to amend the by-laws to add the Outstanding Young Professional Award. Walt Schacht seconded the motion. Motion passed. This award is also recognized by the parent society. This award would give newer membership recognition for their contributions and to encourage them to stay engaged in SRM.

Writing and voting on resolutions was also discussed. The question of how new resolutions are added to the by-laws was discussed. New resolutions are normally brought forward at the Business Meeting and voted on by the Section. A letter is then written on behalf of the Society. We need to consider taking a stance on certain issues and be more of a presence regarding certain issues in the Legislature.

Our newly elected council member is Brad Schick. Lance Schutte is president elect. Our new president is Mitch Stephenson. Thank you to Anthony Perlinski for his service this year.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen