



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting**  
**March 31, 2026, 3:30 PM CST**  
**Via Zoom**

Cheryl Dunn called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm via Zoom video conference. Present members include Cheryl Dunn, Kyle Schumacher, Jeff Nichols, Tony Perlinski, Ben Beckman, Jacob Harvey, Mitch Stephenson, Bob Broweleit, Lisa McMillan, Emma Barnett, Chuck Butterfield, and Angie Petersen.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes were sent prior to the meeting via email for review by Angie Petersen. Motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting was made and seconded. Motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

A report was sent prior to the meeting via email for review by Angie Petersen.

The balances of the checking accounts and CDs as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 were as follows: \$20,077.86 for the SRM account, \$22,643.42 for the Range Judging account, \$3226.97 for the William Wester HSYF fund, \$7141.67 for the NE State Range Judging CD, and the \$10,015.66 for the other Range Judging CD.

- Our federal and state taxes have been filed. The required 2025-2026 Nonprofit Corporation Biennial Report was due last year, so not necessary to file this year.
- Justin Guggenmos has not deposited his check for \$200.00 for attending the Annual Meeting
- Sending students to HSYF included total expenses of \$3405.00 so far, but plane tickets still need to be reimbursed. (\$1000.00 is provided by our anonymous donor, \$2000.00 from Range Camp, and \$1463.46 was reimbursed from SRM)
- Thank you to our anonymous donor who donated \$1000.00 to the scholarship fund, and \$1000.00 for HSYF.
- The jump in the SRM Section Account is attributed to the following:
  - \$5000.00 award from National Meeting
  - \$5168.05 from our annual meeting
  - \$1463.46 reimbursement from HSYF
- Two \$750.00 scholarships were paid out of the Section Account.
- All of the received checks from range judging contests have been deposited, which is reflected in the increase in the balance.
- Insurance is normally due in May. The last few years it has been around \$1240.00, split between the Section and Range Judging, so this will be an upcoming expense.
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report from March was made and seconded. Motion was approved.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

## **Committee Reports:**

**a. Newsletter** – No report

**b. Annual Meeting** –

Jacob reported regarding the annual meeting. The 2026 Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for Oct 27-29<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be Deep Roots - Lasting Lands, and will be a joint conference with Nebraska Natural Legacy, Wildlife Society and Game and Parks. There will be workshops on Tuesday and a trivia night. SRM meetings will be on Wed. with the banquet on Wed. night. They are still working on the field tour. They are planning a field skills orientation aimed tour for undergrad such as firefighting equipment and skills for use in a technician type role. UNL has a course, but they plan to also reach out to UNK and CSC and see if they would be interested as well.

Tony did discuss that it is difficult for students to get away for multiple days and it is hard to gauge possible student participation now.

**c. Awards:** We are currently seeking nominations for Awards for next year. If you have any ideas for names please pass them on. The awards are similar to the awards at the Parent Society so those same nominations can often be passed on or promoted on the next level.

Nebraska SRM did win the President's Prize at the National Meeting, which came with a \$5000.00 prize, primarily for all the work put in by the IYRP Committee. Thank you to everyone on the committee for all the work they have done! That prize money will be used to help continue the work for IYRP.

**d. Envirothon** – Vacant

**e. Fundraising:** Vacant

**f. Historian:** No report. Ben Beckman discussed taking over the position and continuing to work with Jeff to get this transition made.

**g. Information and Education:** Vacant

**h. Investments:** Kyle Schumacher provided a report. Investments are continuing to grow. The Academic Scholarship Fund and the Academic Scholarship Fund have both seen growth. The NESRM Academic Scholarship Fund current value is \$ \$25,922.46, and has seen a ROI of \$-20.05. The NESRM Youth Programs Fund has a value is \$7,173.19, and has seen an ROI of \$-17.67. Two scholarships were awarded. Those funds still need transferred back to NESRM's checking account. A CD was cashed out in November, and waiting upon receipt from Angie in order to request from NWM that the funds be transferred to the NESRM Youth Programs Fund.

**i. Membership:** No report.

**j. Nominations:** No report. Previously vacant, Ben discussed taking over this position.

**k. Producer Affairs:** No report.

**l. Public Affairs:** Vacant.

**m. Range Judging:** Dates and locations have tentatively been set for 2026. They are currently determining the contact for each contest. Wildfire locations may change some plans regarding contest locations.

**n/o. Range Research and Tour:** Mitch Stephenson reported. The GSL open house is scheduled for August 19, 2026 at 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. BBR has their open house every other year. There was a recent article in The Fence Post highlighting some of the recent work. There is no prescribed fire scheduled for this year. They are wrapping up work on the patch burn with Collaborative Adaptive Management. They are also doing work on early intensive vs deferred grazing research. There are a number of projects going. There is some work on Greenhouse Gas Emissions funded through the UNL as well as lots of work on drought management. With the recent wildfires there will be work on management and recovering following fire with GLC and Sandhills Task Force working together as well. The NE Grazing Conference is scheduled for Aug 4 and 5<sup>th</sup> in Kearney, NE. We discussed interest in regards to sponsorship and booth space. The IYRP celebration will be Aug 4<sup>th</sup>. The agenda has been prepared and is ready for finalization. They will be sending out Save The Dates in mid-April online.

**p. Range Camp:** Camp is planned from June 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to register is the end of May.

**q. Scholarship:** No report. Two \$750.00 scholarships were awarded, one to a student at UNL and one to a CSC student. A possible individual to take over the scholarship committee was discussed as it is currently vacant, with Kyle currently filling in. Updating the application process to an online process to make it easier was also discussed.

**r. Student Information:** Lisa McMillan reported. Mary Reece and Lisa McMillan accompanied three Nebraska delegates to Monterey, CA to participate in HSYF. The delegates included Justin Guggenmos from Erickson, Elizabeth Olson from Atkinson, and Eli Rogers from Dunning. Eli is the returning HSYF President. Students were able to attend a number of presentations and attend “Professionals Interaction” supper and interact with different range professionals. Both Justin and Elizabeth did an excellent job presenting, with Elizabeth receiving 8<sup>th</sup> place. Ten different state sections had sent students. The newly elected president for next year comes from Hawaii. If you would like to read about it more extensively more information is in the newsletter. Airplane tickets still need to be reimbursed to Mary and Lisa.

**s. IYRP Committee** – Bob Broweleit and Walt Schacht reported. Conservation photographer Michael Forsberg is scheduled for a presentation in Lincoln for April 25, available at <https://fpclincoln.org/michaelforsberg/>. Kiosks are on display at Morrill Hall, the capital building and other locations across Nebraska. Walt was on Pure Nebraska in February. The FFA Communication Contest that took place at the FFA State Convention was themed around grasslands. They are hoping to work in conjunction and hear these presentations at the Grazing Conference this summer. The Nebraska Legislature adopted a resolution formally recognizing 2026 as the UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, thanks to Sen. Mike Jacobson for introducing the resolution. There is a lot going on with IYRP! It has been a great committee and they have a lot planned!

## **Old Business:**

**Website:** The website needs updating. Please send updates to Dorrene. She gets a few things, but can always use more to keep the website up to date and provide good information. Cheryl will send officer updates.

## **2027 Meeting in Wichita, KS:**

Ben and Kyle are working on plans. More updates will be coming. The parent society will handle most of the planning.

## **New Business:**

a. With Wyatt stepping down and Jacob stepping in to plan the annual meeting, monetary support for the joint Nebraska conference/meeting was discussed. Monetary support for the joint conference would help ensure the event's success by covering key expenses and allowing us to provide a high-quality experience for all participants. Kyle made a motion to pledge \$2500.00 toward the conference, Ben seconded the motion, with the motion passing. Lisa will also work with Jacob on a SARE grant to help with funding.

b. A centralized repository of information will be created to organize and preserve important documents, resources, and guidance that can be easily passed on to incoming presidents. Discussion took place regarding the possible plan for this.

c. Chuck Butterfield brought up discussion regarding a donation to the Forest Service Museum in honor of Jim O'Rourke. Discussion regarding funding for a Sheep Wagon display and the history of sheep grazing was discussed. The Parent Society would also match our donation. Kyle made a motion to contribute \$500.00 to the Sheep Wagon display expense. Bob seconded, and the motion passes. We will revisit this discussion and updates at the next meeting.

d. Bob discussed joining and becoming a member of the NE Grassland Alliance.

<https://nebraskasgrasslands.org/become-a-partner/>

Kyle made a motion to join, seconded by Kyle. Motion passed. Bob will complete the necessary forms and upload our logo.

The next meeting will be in June around Range Camp.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, Kyle motioned and Jacob seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen