

**NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING
UPPER CLOVER RANCH
JUNE 13, 2009
MINUTES**

Present:

Jack Alexander
Gale Dupree
Jeremy Drew
Jessica Orr
Ira Thompson
Kevin Piper
Don Henderson
Heather Mobley
Ken Visser

Rick Orr
James Gatzke
Ryan Shane
Justin Ely
Brittney Askew
Rob Pearce
Denise Adkins
Gary McCuin
Ken Conley

Maggie Orr
Sherman Swanson
Erin Hourihan
Adrienne Lipka
Tracy Shane
Maria Ryan
Wally Butler
Barry Perryman

President Ken Conley called the meeting to order in a barn, rain fell yet again, at the Upper Clover Ranch near Midas. He will send a letter of thanks to Gregg Simonds and the ranch staff for their hospitality. He also thanked those who had come from out of state to join us, from California, Idaho and Montana and gave great thanks to the cooks: Gary, Ron, Rick, Kevin, and Barry and noted that the meat came from Wolfpack Meats.

New Business

Jack Alexander and Rick Orr gave an update from the **Board of Directors**. Jack presented the new dues structure just passed by the Board and sought feedback. They had two objectives, to stop losing money on every member and keep membership costs the same. It will be a cafeteria-style system: base membership is \$70 with “Rangeland News” online or paper included, and additional costs for “Rangelands” online or online and paper and REM online or with paper. The cost for students will remain \$25. The idea is to reduce mailing costs and printing; Allen Press has digital press now and only prints the number of copies needed rather than a minimum number as required before. Going to this system will allow the budget to balance. Maria suggested an email notification when the magazine becomes available and Ryan requested the cover and table of contents be included as well as links to the individual articles. Each article will be its own PDF. JRM is all online thru 2001; University of AZ will be getting 2001-2004 archived online as soon as they get a grant to cover costs. From 2004 on is already online but only for subscribers. Before 2001 is available to the public and as copyright periods end JRM and REM become available to the public.

SRM currently has 3270 members and for the first time in awhile this is static rather than declining. Jack thinks the bleeding has stopped. The software is now working on all fronts, Ann Tanaka has been hired part time for IT and website work. The membership position at the Denver office was eliminated and it will remain empty unless it becomes necessary to fill it. Productivity has improved at the office. Gary reminded all to make sure your contact information is current at the parent society level. Let the Denver office know if anything in purchasing doesn't work. They are trying to hold dues costs steady for five years and let subscriptions cost what they cost. With a balanced budget the BOD is putting \$10 into risk capital for each member with the idea of doing more

programs to serve the members. Ann Tanaka sends out the membership reports, tell Ken Johnson or Vicki if you want the report.

Jack also reported on an issue that the NV Section has pushed; SRM needs more presence in DC. Jess Peterson of Western Skies Strategies <http://www.westernskiesstrategies.com/index.html> has been hired to do a Capitol report, marketing, advertising and membership development. The contract is for six months for \$10,000 for him to show us we can't live without him. There is a huge demand for experts in DC with the commitment to science-based legislation. Jeff will work to show we are the ones to call. Don Kirby is working on a searchable data base for information. If someone wants a live person to call they have Ken Johnson's number and he either answers the question or refers. The BOD is very happy with Ken's work as EVP. Jack said the only bad news is the stock market has affected the Endowment Fund.

Rick reported SRM has partnered with related groups on such issues as supporting goals for budgets for fire. We want to be known as the go-to group; we cannot lobby (asking for funding or asking for or endorsing specific legislation) but can address the scientific issues in a piece of legislation such as we did in pointing out the consequences of the ROAM (Restore our American Mustangs) Act, H.R. 1018 at both the Section and National level. The wild horse symposium was approved as a CPED and the Section will be given opportunities to place all the presentations on the website as web-published formal papers. This will be the first time for this.

Rick also requested feedback on the annual meeting; how it can be made better or what can be cut out so not so many break out rooms are required which limits the facilities that can handle us. He noted that the current BOD is one willing to make changes if needed. Gary thanked the BOD for doing an excellent job of taking directions and moving forward with them. Kimberly Haile of the Young Professionals created a site for SRM on Ning, <http://www.ning.com/search/networks?q=SRM>. At the top right, you can "Sign In" and become a member. SRM is also on Facebook, both part of the effort for a more online presence.

Barry reported on the **Wild Horse and Burro** (WH&B) conference to be held in Reno this year. Barry was asked to rewrite the SRM WH&B position paper which he has done and is now organizing a CPED program as approved by the BOD. Everyone understands the current WH&B situation is not sustainable and the ROAM bill has only turned up the fire under the pot. If ROAM does die in this session, it will likely be back after the August break. He said the federal agencies need our help to back them up for the hard decisions that have to be made. Bob Abbey's nomination to head BLM and the fact that energy and wild horses are the two big issues for BLM at the moment make the timing for this excellent. It will require effort on the Section's part and anyone willing to help should contact Barry. November 3-5 is the best time to get the BLM horse people there and we want the reasonable horse advocates present. No tours are necessary. Planning will be done over the phone, no meetings in Reno until time gets close. He is estimating 300-500 people and recognizes we will have to watch if people are trying to pack the audience for one point of view. The Denver office will handle registration, liability and contract signing; the Section has to do the rest of the work and will make money off it. We need sponsorships for meal functions and such.

The idea is to present comprehensive information: to contrast the ecological realities with the consequences of completed and proposed legislation on WH&B as well as the

federal slaughter and transportation bills, estray issues on private lands, contraception and other new technologies. Then move to panel discussions and actual policy development and recommendations. Barry wants to get everyone in the room on the same knowledge level so they can then talk about strategy and policy. SRM will facilitate the policy writing, but it will not be SRM policy. We are looking for solutions.

Gary reported the **Range Club** spent \$425 on beverages and ice and have made \$172. Ken Visser made a motion, seconded by Heather that people could buy what they wanted from them and the Section would make up the difference. Passed. Barry collected money on the spot. Thanks to the Range Club for providing the Beverage Wagon; the cool and wet weather unfortunately dampened everyone's thirst.

Gary made a motion, seconded by Maggie that the Section **endorse Wally Butler's election** as 2nd VP for SRM. He noted the Section nominated him; we should now go forward with the additional endorsement and encouraged all to vote for him. Gary and Ken Conley will write a letter to the parent society and ask that it be published. The newsletter editor will send it to other Section editors and request they publish it. Carried.

Reports

Maggie thanked the writers of submitted ***The Progressive Rancher*** articles and sought suggestions for future ones. We have a good thing going here and need to keep it up. Kent and Sherm committed at last summer's meeting, Don Henderson suggested he and Rex Cleary might be able to do a wild horse one for the November deadline and Heather suggested one on water rights issues. There was much discussion on how to focus the article; it was decided it would take more than one and could include a Water Rights 101 discussion, what is BLM/USFS policy and how is it interpreted, what are strategies to develop stock waters under those policies, and/or FAQ. Ryan has a copy of a previous article that can be a beginning point. Gary volunteered himself, Ken Conley and Jake Tibbitts to take on the task.

Ken asked for a **Zone Council** report. Jeremy reported that Linebaugh recruited him to review the constitution and by-laws. Gary made a motion, seconded by Ken Visser for Jeremy to combine the documents into one, run it through the Zone Council for comments and present it at the winter meeting for approval. Motion carried.

Ken Conley said he spoke with Cub Wolfe who is willing to continue as **Awards** chair. All are encouraged to work with their Zone Council member to make recommendations. Cub is not responsible for writing up the award, what is required is in the Handbook. The deadline for a final package submitted to Cub will be November 1. Jeremy and Ryan will send out a list of awards available to give.

Chuck Petersen had suggested inviting George Taylor, Oregon State Climatologist, to speak on climate change at the **Winter Meeting**. Jeremy made a motion for this; Tracy Shane suggested ecological impacts of energy development on Nevada rangelands since the Governor is pushing Nevada as "the Saudi Arabia of green energy." Sherm suggested the situation of stovepipes in agencies where different shops, such as fuels and range don't communicate and policy needs to be written to allow them to work together. Maggie said it is sometimes personalities as well. Jeremy accepted Tracy's amendment and added it would be held in Reno at the time of the GLCI conference; Gary seconded. Motion carried, Rick Orr opposed. (Note: since George Taylor won't be speaking, you can find his excellent article on "Climate Change" on page 14 at

<http://www.progressiverancher.com/Resources/ProgRanch0509.pdf>) Ken extended the invitation to Rob Pearce for the Cal-Pac Section to attend.

Denise Adkins handed out the **Treasurer's Report**. She is getting used to the program and stated we are within budget but not making much on our investments. Tracy made a motion to accept the report, Erin seconded, motion carried.

Rick Orr informed the group on the way SRM works on **Issue Papers** to generate Position Statements on new or emerging topics. There is a very specific process to follow from the by-laws to make sure the best information is getting out under SRM's heading. The "Climate Change" paper now on the website did not follow this process; it was done too fast and there are problems with it; it could be pulled back. To prevent this, an Issue Paper must be developed formally by:

- Identify the subject by anyone in the Society, but it would carry more weight coming from a Section or committee
- BOD call for authors to do a synthesis of what is already published on the subject; what the state of the science is at the moment
- Publish in REM
- SRM Policy Committee drafts the Issue Paper

It is a two year process. Rick encouraged everyone to keep an ear to the ground on what are emerging issues so SRM is ahead of them, not chasing them and forward them to the BOD. There was concern that this process would allow analysis paralysis; Rick reiterated that this was only for new Issue Papers; existing ones are on a 3-5 year cycle for review which does not require this longer process.

(Later note: Rick apologizes for any confusion, SRM policy and position statements do not require a prior issue paper; issue papers should result in policy or position statements but it is not required.)

Ken Visser suggested that besides new issues there are the simmering, unresolved issues such as sage grouse. There is a paper on some topics that just need to be reviewed and updated. Jeff Mosley is currently pursuing if SRM needs an energy development paper. Sherm suggested "Fragmentation of Community vs. Edge Effect" including mosaics and resilience cycles. Ryan requested an article for our newsletter on the process to develop position statements and issue papers and made a motion to make topics needing issue papers a regular agenda item beginning at the winter meeting with a reminder in each newsletter prior so people will come with ideas. Seconded by Erin, motion carried.

Wally Butler announced the Tri-State Seminar will be on Bighorn Sheep / domestic sheep interactions. He will get the info to Nevada.

Don made a motion, seconded by Adrienne to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Orr
June 17, 2009