

**Society for Range Management, Nevada Section
Business Meeting
Reno, Nevada (Nugget)
December 15, 2006**

Attendees:

Jim Linebaugh	Barry Perryman	Brad Schultz
Diane Weaver	Angela Mushrush	Gary McCuin
Gail Durham	Jay Davison	Chuck Saulisberry
Les McKenzie	Dennis Phillippi	Kristen Schmidt
Bob Wilson	Erick Walker	James Gatzke
John McLain	Cheryl Probert	Ingrid Drieling
Marti Butow	Rick Orr	Maggie Orr
Garry Brown	Ken Visser	Quinton Barr
Shirley Johnson	Robin Tausch	Ben Bruce
Jack Artz	David Kelly	Patti Novak-Echenique
Heather Mobley	Jim Gifford	

The meeting was called to order by Bob Wilson at 8:25 am. Introductions were made.

Bob handed out the agenda. It was modified to add the section summer meeting.

Jim Gifford read the highlights of the minutes from the summer meeting.

Barry Perryman moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Gary McCuin. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report and Budget

Brad reported the summer meeting was good financially. The investments have done well also. Brad went over the highlights of the report and gave a copy to Jim G.

Fund Balances

General Fund:	\$7873.16
2007 Meeting:	\$7468.00
Youth Fund:	\$6,023.58
Scholarship Fund:	\$43,889.67
Endowment Fund:	\$24,969.22
HSYF Endowment	\$10,707.02

Total: \$100,930.65

The total for all accounts increased from \$77,304.45 in December 2005 to \$100,930.65 in December 2006.

John McLain moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Jay Davison. Motion passed.

Correspondence

Bob Wilson read the thank you letter from the Flemming Scholarship recipient.

Zone Councilmen

Tracy Benson – Zone V. Bob read a report from Tracy regarding some activities of zone members. Tracy is resigning from zone council because she has accepted a position at the Great Basin College in Elko and will no longer live in Zone V.

The President can select/reappoint a new person for zone council. Angela Mushrush volunteered to replace Tracy.

Membership

Chuck Saulisberry reported section membership stands at 183. Our highest membership was 248 back in 1990. Membership has been up and down over the years. The parent society has a new membership task force to try to increase membership. There will be an award given to the section with the most new members. Only Nevada and Mexico are in the running. We should be proud.

Bylaw Changes

Chuck suggested some bylaws and the constitution need to be changed and updated. This was last done in about 1986. Bylaws, etc are on the section website. McLain, Saulisberry, Linebaugh and the Zone Councilmen will work on the updates. The changes from this committee will be brought back to a future section meeting to be approved.

Elections

Barry stated we had a good voter turn-out and he announced the winners.

President – Duane Coombs

Zone II – Jessica Rudden

Zone IV – Ben Bruce

Zone VI – Ken Connley

Range Camp

Jim Gatzke reported that three students from the 2006 Range Camp are going to the annual meeting – Kiley Woosley, Christie Works and Scott Laca. Kiley will be here tomorrow to give her presentation. Forms will be available online this year – Jim and Ben are working on that. Had a planning meeting last week. Deadline for student applications is April 30. We need a range camp assistant on the west side of Nevada to help coordinate range camp – looking for volunteers. Mat Robinson is interested, but is very young (17), for a position that could be quite involved. Jim gave a brief description of range camp for people unfamiliar with it. Camp trailer will be stored at the Carson City BLM, but it is not covered. There are a couple people who might be interested in being cooks – Enrique Salas and Edie Hatch.

Wildfire Letter to Senator Dean Rhodes – Bob Wilson

The letter was sent out prior to this meeting and most of the group has read it. Bob read part of the letter.

Comments:

- Gary McCuin read a letter from Randy Sharp that was received in response to this letter and he had a couple of issues with it.
- Suggest we change the tone of the letter a little and some wording too.
- Need to state accurate facts. Facts are facts – offensive or not.
- Clarify the objectives of the letter.
- Suggest letter be changed because it is from a group, not a personal letter.
- Offer solutions as part of the letter.
- This afternoon’s symposia may help rewrite the letter.
- Letter should be sent to other representatives too, including Senator Reid and Senator Ensign.
- Could change letter to a more educational format instead of a position statement. White Paper Format.
- Any letter can be very time consuming.
- This issue will be brought up at the annual meeting. Need line items in the budgets.
- Need the best people around the West to illuminate the problem in a workshop, etc. and come up with suggested solutions.
- We all agree the wildfire issues addressed in this letter are a problem.
- Other sections have done similar things for sage grouse and other big topics, Nevada included.
- We can’t lobby, but we can advocate.

Chuck Saulisberry motioned that we should make a stand on this wildfire issue. Discussion ensued. The section already decided to address this concern at the Summer Meeting and a wildfire committee was appointed as well. Motion was not seconded.

It was decided that we would discuss this issue tomorrow after this afternoon’s wildfire symposia.

Comments on December 16, 2006 (after the wildfire symposia)

- We should provide a letter. It fits with the purpose of this society.
- Funding for monitoring is important.
- Again, it needs to propose some solutions.
- Include specific language about management practices/decisions that benefit cheatgrass such as rest from grazing.

The letter will be rewritten based on the suggestions and emailed out to the section members for comments.

Website

Ben works hard to update the site. He gets about 50 to 150 emails per day. If you want something posted on the website, then put something like “for the website” in the header. There is no standardization for the section websites.

New Business

Resolution on Rangeland Ecology Training for Members of the Judicial System

Barry explained the handout is a first draft. The problem this resolution addresses is that many times judges are making the final decisions on resource management. Judges are not always educated in resource management. The timing of the decisions is critical too. It was suggested that we work on changing the burden of proof from the agencies, to the group filing the lawsuit. It was also suggested that we work with the Judicial College at UNR on this matter.

Diane Weaver moved that we support this resolution with the understanding that Barry will word-smith it some more. Seconded by Barry Perryman. Motion passed.

Invitation to CalPac Section meeting

David Kelly, past president of the CalPac Section, invited the Nevada Section to join their winter meeting next year in Bishop, CA in November. Tour will possibly be of the Owens River restoration with LA Water and Power. There will be a banquet. David needs to know if we are interested so he can plan accommodations – room blocks, etc. They want to increase the attendance at their meetings. The Nevada Section has had combined meetings in the past and they have been successful. The Forest Service is planning a range conservationist training/meeting that could be coordinated with this meeting. Cheryl Probert volunteered to be the Nevada Section contact/coordinator for this combined meeting. It looks like November 1-3 would be the best dates for the meeting. The NVACD meeting, Nevada Cattlemen's meeting, and Thanksgiving conflict with other times in November.

Barry Perryman moved that we combine our Winter Meeting with the CalPac Fall Meeting. Seconded by Rick Orr. Motion passed.

David also invited us to their spring meeting on May 17-20.

Many of the CalPac Section members are interested in volunteering to help with the 2007 Annual Meeting.

SRM Board of Directors

Dennis Phillippi discussed some issues the Board of Directors is tackling. There is a new Membership Task Force to try to increase membership. He noted that Colorado is also eligible for the award for the most new members. A mentoring workshop is planned for the 2007 Annual Meeting. Nominations for the board and for awards are needed. A new Accreditation Handbook is coming out soon. The International Member Outreach Program has reduced fees to hopefully increase membership in other countries.

Annual Meetings and Symposia Proposal - Dennis Phillippi discussed the proposal brought forward by John Tanaka on behalf of the Board of Directors. The proposal has three parts. Part 1 is a four city rotation for the annual meeting and trade show. Reno is on the list as a potential city for this rotation. Part 2 is a reinstatement of the summer

annual tour and meeting. Dennis gave an example of the Colorado or Wyoming section meeting combining with a sage grouse training. They are expecting about 500 attendees. Part 3 would institute regional symposia and workshops. A potential benefit to this would be to attract new groups of people which would increase membership and dollars. The proposal is open. For example if we implement Parts 2 and 3, then we may not need to do Part 1.

Comments:

- We have really good meetings compared to other professional societies.
- The winter meeting would be smaller if we have summer meetings and conferences.
- A huge problem is even if other sections host a meeting in Reno, that section will still tap into the Nevada Section members for help.
- Other conferences put more responsibility on the parent society and don't rely so heavily on section members.
- Federal agencies are having difficulty sending employees to the annual meeting now due to decreased budgets and the recent ethics issue.
- If the meeting keeps growing, the reality is that some cities can't host anymore.
- We should have winter annual meetings every other year and have a summer annual meeting in between.
- If we change, the students could lose some things like URMI, on the spot hiring, networking, etc.
- The old summer meetings had the same functions. BOD would meet, the Advisory Council could meet. Sections always put on a great tour. Winter tours are hard due to snow, plant dormancy, etc. It's also a better time for HSYF.
- The colleges set up booths at the winter meetings to talk to and attract high school kids.
- One of the biggest reasons people attend these meetings is to see old friends, etc.
– the winter meetings are great for that.

SRM does have a strategic plan. Recommendations for changes need to come up through the section. Most things are being met, but some are not.

Creation of a Rangeland Management Institute is being considered. Agencies have come to SRM for this. Identify maybe 7-8 high priority issues (conflicts, ecological sites, etc) and then get a very knowledgeable cadre of instructors to teach about them. Suggest SRM develop a curriculum for K-12 grades on biology for deserts/range. The institute could be a Range Management 101 for managers too. For example a BLM manager might have a geology background. Our winter meetings provide good training, but we don't market these meetings to others.

Correspondence to SRM Advisory Board and Board of Directors

This letter by Bob Wilson was emailed to the section members prior to the meeting. Does it need changes? It was suggested the objectives be clarified and the tone of the letter be changed. Suggest we treat the letter as a report to the Advisory Council. It was decided the letter wouldn't be sent or converted into a report. We will try to get time on the Advisory Council agenda to discuss the issues addressed in the letter. The letter will be treated as notes.

Progressive Rancher Column

Maggie Orr reported that the Nevada Section has an opportunity to put an article in the Progressive Rancher. It reaches 6000 addresses. There is no cost to the section. This can be monthly or every couple months. We have the approval of the parent society. Maggie will coordinate, but not write the articles. We can possibly take an article from Rangelands with permission and if that is legal. Suggest we have a disclaimer that not all section members agree with the contents of the article. The Information and Education committee will approve the articles. Maggie will join that committee. Not sure who other members of that committee are.

Nomination Support

Rick Orr has been nominated to the SRM Board of Directors.

Fire Brochures

Bob Wilson passed out examples of wildfire brochures from other agencies/organizations. Do we want to make a wildfire brochure? It was suggested we need an issue paper on wildfires. It was also suggested that there is more value in a brochure. The public lacks wildfire information on just rangeland, it is mostly targeted to the urban interface. Suggest we have the logos on the brochure (SRM, UNR, agencies, etc). Extension has done brochures before on cheatgrass – it costs money. Where will the money come from for this brochure? The brochure should address a broad audience.

Gary McCuin moved that we work on a wildfire brochure and have a regional wildfire symposia. Seconded by Ingrid Drieling. Discussion ensued. The motion was amended to say – to create a wildfire brochure developed by the Wildfire Support Committee. Seconded by Marti Butow. Motion passed.

Logo

Gary McCuin asked if we wanted to make the 2007 logo, the official logo of the Nevada Section.

Maggie Orr moved that we accept the logo as the Nevada Section logo. Barry Perryman seconded. Motion passed.

ARS Funding

Funding for the ARS lab in Reno is shaky and the lab is at risk of being closed. This lab is incredibly important. Senator Reid is in a position of power so we should try to get the lab permanently funded now while we can. It was suggested that we draft a letter of support and send it to our congressional representatives. John McClain will draft the letter with the support of other members.

Bob Wilson adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.