

**NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
WINTER BUSINESS MEETING
WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER, BARTLEY RANCH REGIONAL PARK
RENO, NEVADA
DECEMBER 15, 2009
MINUTES**

Present:

Jack Alexander	Brittney Askew	Ann Bollinger
Bob Bolton	Julie Bolton	Gary Brackley
Michele Burrows	Michele Casbarra	Linda Coates-Markle
Ken Conley	Duane Coombs	Jeremy Drew
Erin Eastvedt	Justin Ely	Jessica Esenarro
Erica Freese	James Gardner	Don Henderson
Mike Holbert	Erin Hourihan	Leslie Hunewill
Blair Hunewill	Denise Hunewill	Jeff Hunewill
Don Kirby	Ryan Leary	Jim Linebaugh
Sam Lossing	Kent McAdoo	Gary McCuin
Kay McCuin	Christo Morris	Lesley Morris
Garrett Noles	Maggie Orr	Rick Orr
Barry Perryman	Dan Schwehelm	Brad Schultz
Erin Smith	Tamzen Stringham	Sherm Swanson
Lucas Thompson	Regina Thompson	Jake Tibbitts
Ron Torell	Paul Tueller	Ken Visser
Alex Werbeckes	Gigi Werbeckes	Jim Werbeckes
Nikki Werbeckes	Zach Werbeckes	Cub Wolfe
Tracey Jean Wolfe	Rob Roudabush	Keith Klement
Joe Guild	James Gatzke	Wally Butler
Casey Johnson	Jerry Annis	Pete Konesky

Awards

Cub Wolfe presented awards during dinner cooked by Wolfpack Meats due to time constraints. First award declared was the **Range Camp Trailboss**, Alex Werbeckes, who was present with his family. Runner-up was Austin Piper. Cub thanked Jeremy Drew for his work at getting kids out into the field. Gary McCuin stated the Section will send both campers to Denver.

The **Range Manager of the Year** went to producers and long term Section members Stan and Jan Hunewill of the Hunewill Ranch at Bridgeport, CA and Smith Valley, NV. The award was accepted by his son Jeff Hunewill who gave a history of the ranch. Please see the January 2009 newsletter for this and other award stories.

When Paul Tueller was presented with the fifth **NV Rangeland Management Sustained Achievement** award he remarked, "If you are around long enough and still walking, you get one of these." Jake Tibbitts of Eureka County was presented with the **Young Range Professional** award, sponsored by Ken Conley. Cub presented the **NV Rangeland Professional of the Year** to Rick Orr; Rick stated it has been the Section that supported him and pushed him to be what he is today. The **Great Basin** award went to Carol Evans for her riparian work in Elko County with BLM. The **President's Acknowledgement** went to Ken Conley whose term will be up after the Denver meeting.

Program

Ken Visser acknowledged the UNR Range Club for their help with the meeting and introduced Don Kirby, SRM President who simply stated he would be speaking the next day at the GLCI Conference. Ken recognized Rob Roudabush, Bob Bolton and Mike Holbert of BLM and the other SRM officers present: Jack Alexander, Rick Orr, and Keith Klement.

Jack Alexander stated he had been a NV Section member for 20 years so he knows the “vocalness” of the NV section and our willingness to participate in the SRM process. A new conference call will begin on the second Thursday of every month with Jess Peterson and Jack encourages NV to join in.

The program topic was “Renewable Energy Development in Nevada and Potential Tradeoffs for Nevada’s Ecosystems and Society” and featured three speakers: Pete Konesky, Staff Engineer for NV Department of Energy; Erin Eastvedt, Renewable Energy Program Manager for BLM Nevada; and Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager for Eureka County.

Business Meeting

The main business meeting was called to order at 8:38 PM by President Ken Conley who gave the floor to Jack Alexander. Jack posed the possibility of the 2014 International meeting being held in Reno. He said other Sections do not have the facilities to hold a meeting of our size and The Nugget is the ideal facility in the West. Kent asked what would be expected of the NV Section if another section organized the meeting; Jack replied NV would decide what they would do and what they would take. Jack encouraged the Section to consider it, he said we need to figure out how to do a meeting without stealing from employers and killing good members. The answer might be to hire professionals. We will send out an email question and compile the responses.

Treasurer’s Report

Brad Schultz stated we have \$112,755 as of last Monday and we need a new treasurer as Denise Adkins transferred to Idaho; Erica Freese has volunteered. Don Henderson made a motion, seconded by Gary McCuin to accept the report and Erica as the new treasurer. Motion carried. We need to decide who will have signatory authority on our accounts. James Gatzke made a motion, seconded by Kent McAdoo to authorize Erica Freese as treasurer, Gary McCuin as Section EVP, Jim Linebaugh as Range Camp food purchaser, and Kevin Piper as resident of Reno in case no one else is around, to have the authority. Motion carried.

Brad said we do not have a budget for the current fiscal year. In the past the treasurer has prepared it in the fall with the fiscal year beginning October 1 and the president puts in a call to the officers and committees with approval at the December/January meeting. Brad said the treasurer should not have to make the budget. The President, EVP, and appropriate committees should formulate the budget based on their respective needs and programs they want to implement the coming year. Also, Brad recommended we change our fiscal year to a calendar year so the budget is decided upon before it is being spent. Jim Linebaugh made a motion, seconded by Don Henderson to move our fiscal year to a calendar year starting January 1 and do a budget planning process to prepare a draft budget at each summer meeting. Motion carried.

Brad said that if our income is less than \$25,000 we do not have to file an IRS return. Erica will look into changing our officer record with the Secretary of State. Jim Linebaugh suggested a small group to consult with the treasurer on our investments; the executive committee will fill that role. Barry said the Section owes Brad a huge debt of gratitude for his almost 10 years of outstanding service as treasurer.

Issue Papers

Rick Orr gave a summary of Issue Paper status in the parent organization since Ryan Shane was not present. He said the Board pulled the climate change paper off the website and asked Dave Briske to suggest a cadre to relook at the subject. The Policy Committee is currently looking at every Issue Paper to recommend any updates or changes. Rick said he hoped the horse symposium will provide suggestions and thanked Jeremy Drew for his work on the wildlife paper. Gary McCuin said if anyone has any suggestions to let him know and he will take it to the Advisory Council in Denver. Barry said he updated the horse paper last spring and has heard nothing back.

Youth Activities

James Gatzke reported Range Camp was the biggest camp in 10 years and a good committee is in place. He reiterated we are sending two campers to the High School Youth Forum and stated the decision to decide the budget the new way will greatly help in deciding how many kids we will send to the HSYF and they will know soon enough to prepare presentations. He appreciated all the financial support from the Conservation Districts for Range Camp.

Zone Council Reports

There were none.

Section By-laws Review

Jeremy Drew reported, "Jeremy and James are earnestly working on them."

The Progressive Rancher Articles

Maggie Orr reported the *Progressive Rancher* article submissions are outstanding and we should be proud of what we are accomplishing. Thanks to the authors. The articles may be viewed at http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/progr_rancher.htm. We have six articles per year, 1500 words per article, if someone has a timed event that needs to be advertised, it can be worked into the schedule. The next articles will include ones from Sherm Swanson, Kent McAdoo, Alex Werbeckes and Austin Piper on Range Camp, Jake Tibbitts on energy, Duane Coombs on lessons learned and obstacles overcome on projects at Smith Creek Ranch, Liz Warner of NRCS that EQUIP funds may be used on public land and Erica Freese on her work on livestock manipulation that helps sage grouse chicks. Kevin Piper will do one later.

UNR Range Club

President Brittney Askew stated the Club has had several fund raisers, the successful raffle for the rifle donated by Nevada Bighorns, hay sales through the Main Station which have not gone well and they worked for three weeks at the National Reining Horse Show in Reno. They will send 13 students to Denver, all paid for with the money they have earned, 7-8 will take the URME and 4-5 will do the Plant ID. Erin Hourihan is the plant coach. They would appreciate financial help from the Section but it is our call if we want to do so.

Tamzen Stringham passionately stated her support for the college students and recommended the Section put its money there over supporting high school students as the college students are our future. Brad Schultz reminded all that our Section makes money at our summer and winter meetings and if we want to have money to support kids we have to have meetings that generate CEU's so people will want to come. He said this is a consistent problem and we don't charge enough for registration. Jim Linebaugh made a motion, seconded by Kent, to give the UNR Range Club \$1000. Motion carried. Maggie Orr noted the Range Club kids have really stepped up and should be congratulated since we issued them the challenge after the Salt Lake City meeting where the Section had to subsidize much of their trip that we would help them but not do it all for them. She also said Range Camp and the HSYF are vital and college students come from high school students. Barry Parryman agreed and said the Range Club has worked very hard.

Elections

Duane Coombs said he has candidates for all the open positions except Zone III, North Washoe. It has been a struggle to get people. Gary McCuin said the ongoing difficulty of recruiting candidates is frustrating when SRM is such a valuable organization. He said the old horses are tired and we need some younger blood to take hold while the older ones are around to support them. Maggie Orr suggested we consider email voting in the by-laws revision.

Ron Torell

Ron spoke on a new project being spearheaded by the Curlew Chapter of the International Dutch Oven Society. He said we need to tap into the knowledge that is in this room and in that spirit he proposes a Rangeland Trailer patterned on the Beef Quality Assurance trailer idea to spread the ideas of good range management and its benefits. He has it all planned out and the idea is to have a self-supporting structure that will display information in a clear, eye and mind grabbing format to get the message to people walking past at fairs and other presentation places. A coordination committee for the content of the posters is already in place. Information will also go out on Facebook and Twitter. He is asking for the NV Section to become a sponsor for \$2000. Ron Torell made a motion, seconded by Gary McCuin, to sponsor the idea for \$2000 if the project gets four other partners committed for \$2000 each. Motion carried. Ron hopes to have the trailer by next year.

Wild and Feral Horse and Burro meeting update

Barry Parryman chastised those that didn't attend the WHB conference and said the Section made about \$5000. Gary McCuin wrote a summary paper which is out and available, we have the summaries and synthesis from the sessions that will go on the SRM website, the digital recordings will go on the web and by next winter we hope to have a Viewpoint from the NV Section that will go forward to the national organization. The conference has given us a place to start.

Proxy

Duane Coombs said he will not be able to attend the Advisory Council meeting in Denver. He will issue a proxy for Kevin Piper to replace him.

Ken Conley thanked Maggie for taking the minutes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.