

**NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING
UNR GUND RANCH, GRASS VALLEY, NV
JULY 2, 2010
MINUTES**

Present:

Maggie Orr

Jon Wilker

Rick Orr

Jake Tibbitts

Chet Randall

Ellie Randall

Ryan Leary

Ken Visser

Sherm Swanson

Steve Foster

Heather Mobley

Ann Bollinger

Tess Randall

Ron Torell

Erica Freese

Gary McCuin

President Ken Visser called the meeting to order and began with Old Business

Ron Torell turned the “**Hope on the Range**” report over to Gary who has taken leadership for the project since Ron’s retirement. Gary handed out copies of the three page layout the group first displayed at the cowboy poetry gathering at Genoa this spring; he also had one of the pages in a newer graphically designed version for feedback. The group preferred the original version so the message was not too simplified and many topics were available to discuss with those viewing. It was suggested to use the graphics one as a bookmark to hand out. Gary said the group is planning to take the display to the NV State Fair in Reno in August at the invitation of the Farm Bureau who will pay for the space and food if the Curlews want to Dutch oven again. It was a successful combination at Genoa: food and information was very well received. Gary said we need volunteers to help staff the booth in August.

Steve Foster is working on Facebook etc pages and Gary said he wants to take it to the Billings meeting to put in the Trade Show and initiate a poster session (in 2012) just for such public information posters with the idea that a place to house such information could be created for anyone/Section to add to and use to teach. The Board of Directors said we should go through the annual meeting process, but to go for it. We will have to pay for the booth. Ron reported there will be more money coming in from Nevada Cattlemen’s and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and that in the future we can tie in with them to travel to events. Ken suggested a poster on “who is doing the managing?” where the agencies could offer “this is what we are trying to do;” he suggested Linda Coates-Markle. We started an email list in Genoa of people who requested information periodically.

The Progressive Rancher project

Maggie thanked the authors of this spring’s **articles**, Jake Tibbitts, Austin Piper, Alex Werbeckes and Steve Foster, Erica Freese, and Rex Cleary with Jeremy Drew, reiterated this is an important project, and sought suggestions for future articles. One on “Hope on the Range” by Gary and the team was suggested as well as something by Gregg Simonds.

Range Camp

Sherm reported that there were 24 kids for this **50th anniversary** Range Camp with participation from USFS, NDF, NRCS and UNCE; Ken suggested that BLM could seek staff from farther away offices in the future. Sherm reported an interesting situation as far as the Trail Boss award: the winner, **Jessica Lawson**, will be 18 before Billings and therefore ineligible to attend, **Austin Piper** was in the running but he went to Denver and can't attend again, so, the counselors elected to award the Trail Boss to Jessica Lawson and further create Top Hands of **Lewis Mendive of Elko and Celina Bailey of Eureka** who are cousins! The campers voted for Austin Piper as Big Buckaroo.

By-laws and Constitution

No one has heard anything on the progress.

Website and Board of Directors Report

Rick stated the national office can host our section website but we still need a web master. Gary made a motion, seconded by Sherm, to **rehost the website** from UNR to the SRM site with Steve Foster as the webmaster by the end of summer. Carried. Steve will talk to Ben and do a transition with him; Rick will connect Steve and Ann Tanaka of the national site.

Rick said SRM sent representatives to the **Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Committee** meeting and are preparing a response, looking at existing policy statements, and seek comments from the Sections.

UNR Range Club Report

Maggie offered the report submitted to her by Britt Askew and Sam Lossing the night before. In the past year the Club has had several fund raisers: snaffle bit futurity, rifle raffle, hay sales, Nevada grass books. They have been involved in many events: helped at the Safari Club International banquet, and received a donated shotgun to raffle, had a booth and did room logistics at the GLCI meeting in Reno last December, helped at the Nevada Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Conference, ran the SRM booth at the last Cattlemen's meeting and took 13 students to the Denver SRM meeting where they took first place for their booth and Garrett Noles took third in the speaking contest. They will be holding a raffle with the donated shotgun, doing fencing and other fundraiser projects and will attend the 2011 meeting in Billings; they are not asking for money due to the good state of their coffers now. They would like to make the Section aware that there are a lot of **new members in the Club** that need to be reached out to because they don't know many Section members; Ryan Leary attends and Ann Bollinger volunteered to as well but whatever we can do to in addition would be helpful. Erin Smith is the new president but she leaves at the end of fall semester. They want to be part of the winter meeting but don't want to put it on. They spent about \$500 on food and beverage for the summer meeting. Erica said we made about \$2100 at this meeting. Sherm made a motion, seconded by Rick, to reimburse them their costs and give them an additional \$250 for their efforts. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Erica reported we have a total of \$109,590 in all our **accounts**. The mutual fund has lost a few thousands. We don't have a budget yet and she is still working on getting paid for the WH&B Conference; Mary is talking to the EVP. It should be 60% to us and 40% to Denver.

Sherm made a motion, seconded by Jake, to send both Lewis Mendive and Celina Bailey to the High School Youth Forum in Billings. Carried. We received \$1800 from the Nevada Bighorns Unlimited for Range Camp expenses and sending youth to the HSYF.

New Business (from agenda)

1. Sherm spoke to his proposal to organize and host a **regional conference on Livestock Grazing for Fuels Management and Ecological Restoration**. He believes it needs to be hard on the difficult problem and easy on people, bringing the real issues into the light to make the solutions more apparent to the broader public and those involved and really deal with this tough issue. Discussion was wide-ranging, including that this is timely, hot season grazing issues need to be included, fuels can be a vehicle to bring the management issue, a road show might be better than a conference to bring the message, line officers need to be present so it is not a waste of time for the field people, perhaps a series of pilot projects to illustrate the points, need the agency fire/weed/fuels shops all present with ranchers to get to practical ideas, the presentation method will be key for attendance, on the ground it really is a relationship problem about trying new ideas, the conference should target how to do these things and how it will effect a bottom line, mandated ideas will not work, what are agencies doing elsewhere that can be put to use in Nevada like the targeted grazing workshop in Denver, there has to be endorsements from other than agencies, attendees to conferences often walk away with ideas to implement but their hands are often tied; perhaps a producer could come with a situation and get ideas/solutions right there in the room before they leave, there could be a workshop phase before and after the conference, January is the best time, could it be a supplemental workshop at Nevada Cattlemen's meeting, could SRM do it as a continuation of the Cattlemen's Update for UNR; it must be limited to 3 hours and never have a time-waster speaker (Ron Torell will write guidelines that use the Update style), we know the information already but just need to get it out there or are currently constrained, on public lands it always takes teamwork to make it happen and what is decided must be able to be done, where does this fit into the BLM 10 year permit renewal cycle, there must be flexibility on the ground, what about Range Management School, and line managers need to be taught what they really can and can't do within the regulations so they don't just say "no" because they don't know and that is the safest route. Ron advised that stuff he talked about at Cattlemen's Update 25 years ago is just now being implemented; the message has to be given over and over and over again. Sherm made a motion; I don't have in my notes who seconded it, to form a planning committee to do a conference in some form as an information sharing practicum to bring leaders in the agencies, the ranching profession and the state to use more grazing for fuels management and ecological restoration. Carried with three opposed. January is ok for a time, who are the key people to involve? Ann will help look, Gene Seidelitz, interview a group of ranchers, Conservation Districts, Kelly McGowan.

2. **Hot season grazing workshop:** Gary said this was covered in #1.

3. Ken said James Gatzke requested the Youth Activities Committee be empowered to decide for the Section how many students (up to 5) to send to the **High School Youth Forum**, paying "traditional" expenses. Gary made a motion, seconded by Heather, to give the counselors at Range Camp authority to send up to 2 campers. Carried.

4. Ken presented a request from Section Historian Les McKenzie about updating the **History of the Nevada Section**. Gary made a motion, seconded by Sherm, to request the Section Historian update the Section history to the current day, produce it on

electronic media, authorize money as necessary, and have it put on the website. Carried. Ken will notify Les.

5. Kevin Piper can no longer serve as **President Elect** as he moved to San Luis Obispo, CA. Ron nominated **Heather Mobley**, seconded by Rick. Ken will seek ratification by the Board of Trustees by email. Thank you to Heather for stepping up.

6. Ed Ryan reluctantly concludes he cannot serve as **Section secretary**. The question was asked, what if an agency will not cover meeting attendance. Maggie said she pays her own expenses to attend all meetings. **Ann Bollinger** will fill the secretary or get someone to cover if she cannot attend.

7. Ken asked if the Section would like to purchase 20-25 **SRM Belt Buckles** the Cal-Pac Section has available for \$9.99 each. Sherm made a motion, seconded by Rick, to purchase the buckles. Carried.

8. Ken sought a volunteer to be the point of contact for Rod Heidschmidt for the **National SRM Endowment Fund raffle**. Heather will do it and work through the Zone Council. Needed is: take orders for tickets from members, contact Rod to be sent the tickets, distribute tickets to willing members for selling, collect receipts and unsold tickets from members and account for tickets and payment received to Rod.

9. Sherm made a motion and Ron and Rick seconded to purchase **10-ply tires** for the Range Camp commissary trailer. Carried.

10. Gary said he is ready to take the **Range Camp cook trailer**, which we spent \$6000 to upgrade, to Reno to get the custom fit **cover** made. Sherm made a motion to purchase the cover, seconded by Jake. Carried.

Committee / Officer Reports

Section finances, student activities, youth affairs were already covered. Not present were membership, information and education, awards or Excellence in Range Management.

Rick said we don't have any interest to be able to spend from the **Endowment Fund** as the principal has taken a hit. Erica suggested we talk to an **investment** advisor about the best way to get accounts out of Brad Schultz's name so there can be easier transitions between treasurers. The Executive Council and Erica will decide how to handle this.

Sherm reported two students were given **scholarships** this year with university money from the Robertson Fleming Scholarship fund. They wrote what they planned to do for a profession and the committee voted.

Zone Council Reports

Ann reported for there will be a **conference** on Cheatgrass and Medusahead, organized by ARS on 9/30/10 on the UNR campus. No other reports.

Suggestions for the winter meeting included relationship building and field plant ID.

Respectfully submitted by Maggie Orr, 7/12/2010