

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
WINTER BUSINESS MEETING
THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER
ELKO, NEVADA
JANUARY 14, 2011
MINUTES

Present:

Casey Addy	Jamie Jasmine	Maggie Orr
Jack Alexander	Trina Johnson	Rick Orr
Quinton Barr	Sam Koster	Nick Padilla
Ann Bollinger	Kory Kulinsky	Barry Perryman
Rex Cleary	Ryan Leary	Chuck Peterson
Ken Conley	Jim Linebaugh	Courtney Priess-Ghiglieri
Jeremy Drew	Kent McAdoo	Ryan Shane
Gale Dupree	Kyler McCarrel	Tracy Shane
Jessica Esenarro	Gary McCuin	Agee Smith
Steve Foster	Kay McCuin	Gary Sundseth
Jon Griggs	John McLain	Sherm Swanson
Don Henderson	Kody Menghini	Robin Tausch
Larry Hyslop	Gerry Miller	Brian Taylor
Chris Jasmine	Heather Mobley	Ken Visser

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

President-Elect Heather Mobley introduced the host location, the new California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, operated by the BLM. The center is currently closed to the general public so they can focus on finishing the exhibits. The Trail Center is open for special events and groups however; and the grand opening is scheduled for May 2012.

Introductions

Led by Ken Visser

Approval of Minutes

Gary McCuin made a motion, seconded by Jeremy Drew for approval of the minutes as written. Motion carried. The minutes will be available on the new webpage.

Treasurers Report

Erica Freese was not present, and Gary McCuin asked to postpone the Treasurers Report until the summer meeting. Ryan Leary presented Erica's questions regarding the finances and budget:

- What is the General Fund Income - Dues Rebate, and what is the history? Rick Orr explained the membership renewal process by the parent society (one email and two written notices). Members simply aren't renewing, a result of either online technology or apathy. Jim Linebaugh added the parent society has been having issues with the new website, software, etc. Rick continued that some of the work is now contracted to an outside agency, and in the future the system may be able to track CEUs. Tracy Shane made a motion to continue the membership discussion later in the agenda.
- In the General Fund Income - Hope on the Range Trailer line item, what is the purpose for the \$500 budget? Gary isn't sure about the \$500, but believes more donations have been received. (At a later date, Treasurer Erica Freese commented that she had put \$500 as a budget line item for a continuing yearly expense.)
- In the Endowment Fund Expenses – Publication Costs, what is the purpose for the \$2,000 budget? Rick Orr explained this expense as the Wildfire Forum publication. It was budgeted, but Rick isn't sure if the reimbursement has been paid out. Brad Shultz, who wasn't present, may be able to answer this question.
- What is the General Fund Expense - Hope on the Range Trailer line item? Gary explained it's a pass-through account and as above, he believes more donations have been received, probably around \$12,000. (At a later date, Treasurer Erica Freese commented - In 2010 (none in 2009), she received donations in the amount of \$5,980 towards the HOR trailer. That included NV Ag Foundation, State of NV - Range Resources Commission, Eureka SCD, and Newmont. If memories are correct, the section decided to fund \$2,000 (which went to Ron Torell via the Board of Regents), bringing the total to \$7,980. Expenses thus far have totaled \$6,112.92. Leaving \$1,867.08 unspent.)
- Erica / Ryan Leary asked about moving the checking accts to a central location and about the endowment account. Rick Orr commented that the endowment account lost a lot of value when the markets dropped and is currently \$10,000 in the hole. Rick added that the \$2,000 from the endowment account was allocated for the Wildfire Forum. The endowment corpus cannot be spent or budgeted, but the endowment fund managers determine where and how the interest can be used. Gary said some investments may require Brad Schultz' authorization to change. Jim Linebaugh emphasized the importance of an active Finance Committee, to include Brad Schultz among others. The discussion was continued later under new business.
- What is the Youth Fund Expenses – Sonoma Trailer line item? Tracy Shane asked if this expense was for repairs to the range camp trailer. Gary agreed and stated the line item can be removed from the budget.

Gary stated there may need to be a Bylaw change prior to moving funds.

Committee Reports

Awards – Committee Chair Cub Wolfe was not in attendance. Rick Orr will present the awards later at the dinner. Jim Linebaugh had an invoice to be reimbursed, and Gary agreed to pay by check.

Bylaws and Handbook – Jim Linebaugh, Jeremy Drew, and Don Henderson have been working on the Bylaw revisions as time allows. They have referenced the Constitution and Articles of Incorporation as filed with the State of Nevada. Don commented that the various documents have conflicting and / or redundant information. Jim Linebaugh stated the Articles won't change, and inquired about the date on the last revision of the Bylaws. Jeremy informed that the Bylaws reflect the Constitution and will be submitted to the State; the handbook should reflect the day-to-day operation. Jeremy anticipates sending an email to the Nevada Section members soon with the draft revision. Please review and respond by the end of February. The Committee will assess the comments and send a second draft revision prior to the summer meeting.

Disturbed Lands – The Committee was started in 1993 by Sheila Anderson on a mining reclamation project in Winnemucca. Currently, there is not an active Committee or Committee Chair. Throughout recent years, there has been much discussion regarding the continued need for this committee. Ryan Shane recalled past debates whether committees are perennial or simply organized and active as-needed. He believes the decision resulted in the latter. Ken Visser compared this topic to the recent Pinyon-Juniper Summit in Las Vegas, and John McLain agreed there are entire venues dedicated towards disturbed lands. (At a later date, Secretary Ann Bollinger reviewed all Nevada Section minutes since January 2005. There has not been any mention nor any report regarding the Disturbed Lands Committee since that time.)

Endowment Fund – Rick Orr reiterated the corpus has lost about \$10,000 in value and is distributed among different accounts. Jeremy Drew made a motion, seconded by Gary to establish a Finance Committee who shall report at the summer meeting. Jeremy amended the motion, seconded by Barry Perryman to appoint persons to the committee. Jim Linebaugh reminded attendees of a motion at the Nevada Section Meeting held at Bartley Ranch in December 2009 regarding establishment of a Finance Committee. He recommended Rick Orr and Brad Schultz as committee members. Rick Orr commented that the Handbook, 1993 revision, includes a Finance Committee. Barry stated the Section President can reactivate the committee and appoint members.

Excellence in Range Management – Gerry Miller reported that usually one nomination is received. Two nominations were received this year, but the second one was submitted after the deadline. Therefore, the first nomination was awarded the Excellence in Range Management. Gerry encouraged more recognition in the media. He would like to pass the position on to someone else, but also wondered if this committee could be combined with the Awards Committee.

Historian – Les was not in attendance. Gerry Miller reported that Les would like to pass the position on to someone else, and Gerry is willing to accept. Ken Visser asked Steve Foster to

update the website, and inquired about re-directing users on the old website hosted by UNR to the new website hosted by the parent society.

Information and Education – Betsy Macfarlan was not in attendance. Heather Mobley said Betsy wasn't sure how she was appointed as Committee Chair and would like to pass the position to someone else. Heather asked for volunteers; none were forthcoming. A question was raised regarding the continued need for this committee.

Membership – Patti Novak was not in attendance. Heather Mobley said Patti would like to pass the position as Committee Chair to someone else.

There was significant discussion regarding the section's education programs. Tracy Shane made a motion, seconded by Gary to require society membership by attendees. Tracy noted that a half-day program may not justify a membership cost of \$85 but a two-day program might. Section-only memberships are not available. Gary McCuin continued to inquire how the membership can be improved and increased. Ken Visser proposed charging non-members just enough to help pay for rental facility costs.

Jack Alexander, 2011-2012 Board of Directors President, explained the parent society and section dues structure. The intent was for sections to offer meetings and programs at a lower cost then encourage attendees to join the membership. There are several options currently, and the society continues consideration of alternatives.

Ken Visser asked if Tracy Shane would accept the Committee Chair. The duties were read aloud, and Tracy accepted. Tracy made a motion, seconded by Gary to add \$5.00 to the cost of section programs for non-members. Motion carried. Don Henderson opposed.

Nominations

Ken Visser read a report and announced Chris Jasmine as the new President-Elect. Gary reiterated that the Nominations Committee Chair is held by the departing President. Ken asked if people can self-nominate for section positions, and the response was yes. Zone council members serve a two-year term, and elections are held in alternate years.

Producer Affairs

Ken Conley and Agee Smith said there was nothing to report.

Public Affairs

Sherm Swanson had nothing to report.

Research Affairs

Paul Tueller was not in attendance. Heather Mobley said Paul would like to pass the position as Committee Chair to someone else but is willing to serve until a replacement has been found. Gary McCuin asked for a volunteer.

Ryan Shane made a motion to dissolve all committees where the present Committee Chair wants to step down but no one else wants to accept responsibility. Heather cautioned some committees

shouldn't be dissolved, such as membership. Don Henderson commented the Section President can decide on the committees and make necessary appointments. Some committees and/or duties may be less relevant, but several members emphasized the important of a liaison. Gary McCuin asked how the Section would remain active and provide value without the various committees. Ryan Shane reiterated that some reoccurring questions remain unanswered. If no one is willing to accept the Committee Chair and the purpose is unclear, then it may be time to dissolve the committee. Heather suggested keeping the committees unchanged for now and continue the conversation at the summer meeting. Ryan withdrew his motion.

In recent years, Tracy Shane said UNR has asked for SRM assistance with curriculum and research proposals. Sherm said a group helped Dr. Pardini to develop an inter-departmental range program. When the section wants research help, UNR may be of assistance. Sherm noted that most updates to members are via the parent society and section meetings. John McLain said arid rangeland research money is quickly decreasing. He commented this research isn't considered important by Congress and the need to speak with our congressional delegations and parent society. The Nevada Section needs to be pro-active in expressing concerns and the need for research. The Committee Chair or liaison doesn't need to be full-time commitment.

Sherm thanked and acknowledged Paul Tueller for decades of research and correspondence.

Scholarship

Sherm Swanson proudly announced that two students were awarded scholarships this year.

There are two scholarship funding options – the Robertson-Fleming Range Management Scholarship Program with UNR and the Nevada Section SRM scholarship. Sometimes one scholarship is awarded, the other, or both. Jim Linebaugh commented the investment returns on the Robertson-Fleming has occasionally been low, thus the reason for providing a Nevada Section scholarship. In response to whether the Nevada Section scholarship should be added to the Robertson-Fleming scholarship, this discussion should be held between the Finance Committee and Scholarship Committee. Jim cautioned that it's always difficult to receive the dollar amount from UNR.

Ken Visser made a motion that when the application period has opened, the Section President be informed and he/she will then send an email to all sections members.

Wildlife

Jeremy Drew has a continued interest to share information but doesn't have the time to be active. He added there will be a new Director appointed to the Nevada Department of Agriculture soon. Ken Visser said the BLM in Idaho is receiving several domestic sheep and bighorn sheep issues.

Youth Activities

James Gatzke was not present. Maggie Orr reported that James would like to pass the Range Camp duties on to someone else, but he will keep the other youth activity duties. Ryan Shane asked for description of the duties. Gary was not aware of a written description, but he will write one.

A Range Camp Director was needed ASAP to send letters to various groups by the end of February. Sherm also asked for counselors. Maggie inquired if personal contact with agency supervisors / line managers would aid in understanding the value of staff as counselors. Additionally, this would communicate the importance of the commitment and prevent no-shows like to last year.

Gary McCuin warned that local conservation districts may not have funding this year for kids to attend range camp, and the section may need to increase fees. The section has received some donations for scholarship opportunities, such as from Nevada Bighorns. The section is paying for two high school students to attend the SRM Youth Forum.

Parent Society

Jack Alexander reported several changes including staffing, contract services with Allen Press, and a new registration system. An outreach staff person is available and can attend section meetings. Jack will be available during the evening dinner to discuss questions, comments, etc.

Zone Reports

Zone 1, Ryan Shane: All is going great, welcomes any comments.

Zone 4, Ann Bollinger: After the SRM Annual Meeting in Billings, Mark Freese will be the Zone 4 representative.

Zone 5, Jeremy Drew: A group of resource professionals meet once per month in Carson City for breakfast. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Zone 7, Maggie Orr: Nothing to report.

Old Business

Hope on the Range Trailer Display: Gary McCuin has two displays, the second was provided by USFW. He has received great feedback and is taking the display to Billings.

The Progressive Rancher: Maggie Orr continues to manage the section's contributions every other month. She has some authors already but is looking for future commitments and ideas. Tracy Shane offered an article in late summer or early fall. Tracy also recommended an article on "Hope on the Range", but Gary wished to wait until later, maybe after returning from Billings. Ken Visser suggested an article on the Sage-Step Project, but Robin Tausch says the researchers are extremely busy. All members' contributions are posted on the section's website.

Bylaws and Constitution Update: Previously discussed under Committee Reports.

Website Update: Steve Foster reported minor changes from the old website hosted by UNR to the new website hosted by the parent society. Steve will contact UNR and inquire about re-directing users on the UNR website to the SRM website. If section members have any changes or updated documents, please contact him.

Hot Season Grazing: Gary McCuin discussed this topic at Cattlemen's. He suggested renaming and developing a few articles.

Grazing for Fuels Reduction Workshop: Sherm and Barry Perryman mentioned various discussions on the topic. The subject also includes fall grazing on residual matter. Barry mentioned an upcoming February workshop in Boise, ID. Additionally, he said a proposal has been taken to Washington D.C. Sherm emphasized the need for more on-the-ground data. Ken Visser encouraged the involvement of fuels managers and added the concern of working with producers to get enough animals to meet project objectives. He inquired about the topics at the upcoming Boise workshop. Sherm commented a similar workshop would be very appropriate in Nevada. Don Henderson recommended a committee.

Rex Cleary made a motion, seconded by Tracy Shane to organize a committee. Motion carried.

Sherm was nominated and accepted. Ken Visser will be involved from BLM. Other potential contacts were: Cindy Gregory from Fuels, Randy Sharp from USFS, Patti Novak from NRCS, Lee Turner for a wildlife perspective, any ranchers. The committee should organize logistics.

High School Youth Forum Update: James did find an escort for the student.

Endowment Raffle: Heather has tickets available for purchase, but she needs someone to take the remaining tickets and money to Billings. John McLain, Don Henderson, and Barry Perryman all offered to help.

New Business

UNR Student Range Club: No one from the Range Club was present. Ryan Leary reported the students have been focusing on the SRM contests, prepping for mock interviews, conducting fundraising activities including rifle auction and building fence for ARS. The students who wish to attend SRM have certain requirements to participate and fundraise. They have been working very hard but still need \$1,200. Barry commented that \$1,000 was provided to the Range Club last year. Tracy Shane made a motion, seconded by Gary McCuin to provide \$1,200 to the Range Club. Motion carried.

Excellence in Range Management Award: Gerry Miller said nominations are currently being accepted, and the handbook provides the criteria. There were recommendations to advertise in the Nevada Section newsletter and *The Progressive Rancher*.

Annual Meeting SRM in Reno in 2016: Ken Visser said the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Bureau (RSCVB) received several good bids from the hotels. He said that Reno meetings receive a high attendance, and he endorses a meeting in 2016. There was a comment that the RSCVB wasn't too helpful last time. Tracy Shane commented there are limited tour options in the Reno-area and inquired about Las Vegas. Barry responded that Las Vegas is difficult to plan without local membership. Heather inquired about a partnership with CalPac and a host location at Lake Tahoe. In response, CalPac would have considered a partnership but they are preparing an individual bid for 2015. If CalPac doesn't win this bid, it's unclear when or if

they will apply again. Typically, California is an expensive location. Barry commented volunteer coordination is one component that can be managed by a partner section.

Many members remain concerned regarding the responsibility and time commitment. Jack Alexander said a new handbook has been written and should be approved in Billings. The cost-share will be more straight-forward and there will be more support from the parent society, such as the new Outreach position. Some responsibilities, such as the Trade Show and Sponsorship, will be primarily managed by the parent society because of the long-term relationships and repeat business. Jack said much of the new approach will be implemented for the Spokane meeting in 2012. Meeting dates are planned five years prior.

Ken Visser made a motion, seconded by Kay McCuin to submit a bid for the 69th Annual Meeting of the SRM to be held 2016 in Reno. The motion was approved by 11 members, opposed by 5. Motion carried.

Nomination of Barry Perryman to the Parent Society, Board of Directors: Gary said few people have been nominated, and Barry has agreed. Rick Orr made the motion, seconded by Ken Conley to nominate Barry. Motion carried.

Resolution in support of Hope on the Range: Gary passed out a draft resolution and explained the section needs to meet strategic goals in the society's plan. This will improve relations with the public. Ken Visser questioned the utility, to which Gary responded the sharing of information. Don Henderson made the motion, seconded by Ken Conley to accept the draft resolution. Motion carried.

Committee Refreshing: Heather will reschedule the discussion to summer meeting.

Letter to Range Camp attendees: Jim Linebaugh suggested Tracy Shane to work with James.

Handbook Update: Ann Bollinger will work with the Bylaws Committee to update and present at summer meeting.

Finance Committee: Jim Linebaugh volunteered to organize a meeting, and Gary offered to help with video conferencing if needed. Ken Visser inquired about the finance handout and if there was a standard format.

Mentoring: Heather attended the first Range Club meeting of the school year and offered to provide mentors through SRM membership to any interested natural resource students, especially graduating seniors. Two students responded, and Heather found them members based on their interests. Rick Orr inquired with the Parent Society about whether or not we have protocols for mentoring and they are working on them now. Courtney Priess-Ghiglieri made a motion to provide mentorship to the UNR students, Tracy Shane amended the motion for any range student, Ann Bollinger amended the motion for any resource student, and seconded by Ryan Leary. Motion carried. Tracy added that her students at Great Basin College may be interested as well. If all goes well, Heather stated that the section may want to consider extending the service to high school kids sometime in the future.

Gary made a motion, seconded by Rex for the Executive Committee to appoint when absent.

Barry acknowledged and welcomed the new attendees and especially younger attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Bollinger
March 7, 2011