

NEVADA SECTION - SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT  
SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING  
UNCE, HUMBOLDT COUNTY CONFERENCE ROOM  
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA

JUNE 13, 2014

MINUTES

Present:

Ann Bollinger, Secretary  
Erica Freese, Treasurer  
Mark Freese, President  
Trina Johnson  
Leonard Jolley  
Anita Lahey

Maggie Orr  
Rick Orr, Zone 7 Council Repr.  
Ryan Shane, President-Elect  
Tracy Shane  
Sherm Swanson  
Tracey Jean Wolfe

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by President Freese. A quorum was present.

**1. Opening Remarks**

Mark acknowledged three items: a good winter meeting with a profit of \$4,300; a good summer tour organized by Ryan Shane; and appreciation to Ann, Trina and Tracy for their work on the 50-year member awards.

Mark initiated the conversation about how to attract more folks to the section meetings – and to the organization. Rick commented that traditional outreach may no longer be effective and suggested expanding the scope to reach a larger audience. Leonard added the CalPac Section is experiencing similar challenges. Tracy emphasized the need for an Executive Vice President who could work on outreach. Maggie suggested a conversation with Victor Lozano from the BLM Winnemucca District Office regarding recommendations on communication and coordination with agency managers. Tracy stated that the section provides opportunities to obtain Continuing Education Credits. She added that the state and federal agencies generally haven't shared training opportunities; and she suggested the section could inquire and assist in a coordinated effort.

The President-Elect and/or Zone Council Representatives should be responsible for contacting and inviting the higher-level agency managers, who could be included on the meeting agenda as well. All current members should help with the recruitment of new members.

Leonard said there is increased emphasis from the parent society towards training, and outreach is focused through social media vs. the website.

In a discussion about the cost of workshops and conferences, Trina said that it is easier to request and get approval for those with less expensive registration fees. Rick commented that

the Ecological Society of America (ESA) is pricey but attendance is high; so, what is SRM missing?

Mark concluded and asked everyone to continue thinking about the subject. He stated the Executive Committee may get together.

## **2. Introductions**

### **3. Minutes**

Maggie made a motion, seconded by Rick for approval of the minutes as written. Motion passed.

### **4. Board of Directors Report**

Leonard shared some of his personal history about living in the area. In the 1980s, he lived in Bishop. During this time, he met Sherm Swanson and began working on riparian projects. In the late 1990s, he was the NRCS liaison to SRM, and he worked in the Denver office for three years.

Under President Jenny Pluhar, Leonard sees effectiveness and discussion among agencies. The parent society is also aware and concerned about meeting attendance. Some problems are related to perception whereas others problems are related to fairly-strict agency policies, such as meetings must provide training opportunities. Sherm commented that goals and objectives may need to be identified and suggested a “parallel” registration, for example “register for conference / training”. At the 2014 Annual Meeting, the webinars cost \$3,000 per session and they were successful; however, they were complicated to set-up.

Update on the National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition: After a few changes to the letter from the NVSRM, the SRM Board of Directors presented it to the Coalition. The parent society also adopted a Resolution. Leonard read an email Kelly Fogarty who stated the next BLM Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting would be during August in Wyoming. The Wildlife Society has also submitted statements to the Coalition. There was a brief comment / question whether other organizations, such as The National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, should be asked to submit comments.

General discussion about wild horses continued. During the winter months, the horses traveled to higher elevations and consequently at the beginning of spring, they were in good condition. The horses could suffer throughout the summer months since many of the water holes are already dry and forage is limited. Pershing County has been vocal about supporting a round-up, but nationwide there will be very limited gathers.

2018 Annual Meeting: Reno has the bid. Mark will talk with parent society in an effort to understand the responsibilities. Mark thanked Sherm, who represented the section at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Florida.

## 5. Financial Items

Financial Report: Erica said the section has money. The winter meeting had good attendance and earnings. No donations have been received since last May. Erica is working with Kathryn Dyer for reimbursement of Valerie's trip to the 2014 Annual Meeting. The parent society had questioned whether the reimbursement was needed, and all agreed it was. Erica stated it would be a \$750 limit so the section and parent society are sharing the cost.

Rick inquired whether a contribution had been made to the endowment, similar to the past with other large earnings. Erica replied that 2/3s of the earnings were spent by student requests. Mark suggested re-visiting the subject.

Budget: Maggie briefed members on a recent discussion with Pete Anderson from NDF. The Sonoma Kitchen is currently owned and registered by NDF, but he offered it to the section. NDF is requesting updates to all of their kitchens. The Nevada Section may be able to use parts from the other kitchens for repair. Sherm offered to talk with Tim Rubald regarding options to partner with the Conservation Districts.

2015 Annual Meeting in Sacramento: There have not yet been any requests from UNR. Tracy reported that two students from Great Basin College attended the 2014 Annual Meeting in Florida, they are now working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife and BLM, and it's possible they may be eligible to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting. Also at Great Basin College (GBC), the Basin Biology Association is a new student club and it's aligning itself with the ESA. In Pahrump, the Nature Club – Pahrump Valley Center has 20-30 students and is led by Rita Bagwe. Rita may be a good contact in the south.

## 6. Open positions

Executive Vice President: Ann offered to follow-up with Barry Perryman. Tracey Jean suggested Cub Wolfe and John McLain as the Executive Vice President, and Mark offered to follow-up.

Zone 2 Council Representative: Duane Combs or others at Smith Creek Ranch were identified as an option. Meagan Carter at the USFS in Austin was also suggested, and Sherm offered to follow-up.

Awards: Maggie will follow-up regarding a conversation with Brittney Lossing about Sam Lossing accepting duties as Chairman of the Awards Committee. Tracey Jean will ask Cub to share information and past thoughts. Mark will ask Cub for award descriptions.

Youth Activities: Tye Morgan has been approached and she will talk with Kathryn regarding duties for youth activities.

Producer Affairs: Sherm nominated Gary McCuin as Chairman of the Producer Affairs Committee, and Maggie offered to follow-up. Gary Sundseth (Gary's boss at Barrick Gold Corporation) was offered as another alternative, and Tracy offered to follow-up. Jeff White was identified as well.

Research Affairs: Sherm nominated, seconded by Maggie, Charlie Clements as Chairman of the Research Affairs Committee.

Other Positions: Matt Mapels could be an option for any position.

Social Media: Tracy offered to start the Facebook Page for the Nevada Section, and Anita offered to serve as the administrator [Anita is no longer with the Conservation District and is out of contact]. Tracy will contact Kathryn and Stephen Andersen and ask if there has been any discussion since the last meeting.

## **7. Hope on the Range Booth**

Mark read an email from Maria Ryan regarding the various opportunities. Erica said there is a calendar year budget of \$1,500 for the display. The trailer improvements are completed but the design / logo is not. Tracy said GBC can help with graphics and printing, and the cost is low for non-profit organizations. Sherm added the UNR Knowledge Center can also provide printing.

Either before and/or after the dates and locations are confirmed, an email should be sent to the membership requesting assistance. Tracy suggested rancher Ashley Buckingham as a good contact to assist with educational events.

## **8. Strategic Plan**

The draft plan is completed. Mark will ask for review and comments from the Executive Committee prior to sending to the membership.

## **9. Committee reports**

Awards: As previously noted, Cub Wolfe is not interested in continuing as the Chairman of the Awards Committee. No updates.

Bylaws and Handbook: Don Henderson was not present. While there are no updates to report, updates to the handbook are still needed.

Endowment Fund: Rick Orr reported available balance which can be used to supplement the Hope on the Range booth and other special expenses.

Historian: Trina offered to provide historic notes for the Nevada Section Facebook Page.

Membership: Charlie Duncan was not present. Mark reported there are 114 current members in the Nevada Section. Tracy suggested that the section encourage recent graduates to join at the apprentice membership option, and she asked if we could receive a list from the UNR Range Club. Mark will ask Charlie to follow-up with the students.

Nominations: Chris Jasmine was not present. No updates.

Producer Affairs: Vacant. Refer to the discussion above.

Public Affairs: Sherm was present, but there were no updates.

Research Affairs: Vacant. Refer to the discussion above.

Scholarships: Sherm reported that the four or five applications were received, and one scholarship in the amount of \$1,750 was awarded to Riley Anderson.

Student Affairs: Mark will ask the UNR students to give updates on their activities, such as the Burning Man presentation and Science in the Sagebrush Step school trip to Oregon.

Youth Activities: Vacant. No updates.

Mentoring: Chris Jasmine was not present. No updates.

Website: Steve Foster was not present. There was discussion that the website is a useful source of information, but older items should be archived. Ann will follow-up with Steve.

Newsletter: Mark acknowledged Maggie for all her efforts on the newsletter.

Progressive Rancher: Tye Morgan was not present. No updates.

## **10. Zone Council Representatives**

Zone 1 Council Repr. (Northeast): Chris Jasmine was not present. No updates.

Zone 2 Council Repr. (North-Central): Vacant. No updates. Refer to the discussion above.

Zone 3 Council Repr. (Northwestern): BJ Raymond was not present. No updates.

Zone 4 Council Repr. (Reno): Génie MontBlanc was not present. No updates.

Zone 5 Council Repr. (West-Central): Rob Pearce was not present. No updates.

Zone 6 Council Repr. (East-Central): Jake Tibbits was not present. No updates.

Zone 7 Council Repr. (Southern): Rick reported that sage-grouse and wild horse issues remain, but new issues have surfaced in Southern Nevada related to disputes with Cliven Bundy.

## **11. Winter Meeting**

The proposed meeting topics included drought impacts on fuels / fire hazards, ranchers' need for forage, and landscape recovery; targeted grazing; managed grazing and healthy rangelands; weather variability and strategic management; and general understanding about drought conditions. Karen Launchbaugh has written several papers and reports which may be relevant to the proposed topics.

Tracy attended a workshop last February or March on the subject of drought impacts on producers. The presenters were from Montana and they explained climate, weather variability, forage production, and the need to maintain flexible. Tracy would be interested in seeing a similar presentation related to the Great Basin.

Other suggestions included wild horses, a possible partnership with The Wildlife Society and/or the CalPac Section, and inquiring with the federal agencies on recommendations for “training” topics. Sherm recently co-authored paper about public lands management and the importance of using sound science.

Sherm also suggested following the presentations with a roundtable discussion – a summary what was learned and how to move forward. If a facilitator is needed, Maggie offered two suggestions, one of which was Mike Lund. Rick emphasized that the land managers need to be involved, adding that the District Manager(s) could be included in the presentations and should participate in the discussion.

The week of January 12<sup>th</sup> was identified as the tentative date. If targeted grazing is the subject, western Nevada or Winnemucca would be good locations.

Sherm made a motion, seconded by Rick to adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bollinger

**SRM Nevada Treasurer's Report - May 31, 2014**

<u>Account</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>HSYF</u>	<u>Account</u>
						<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Checking	20,888.36	8,506.63	66,124.74	1,445.74		0.00	96,965.47
Savings	8,866.98	3,497.22	2,440.70	23,585.06		11,577.58	49,967.54
American Century Equity Income				19,740.34			19,740.34
<b>Fund Balances</b>	<b>29,755.34</b>	<b>12,003.85</b>	<b>68,565.44</b>	<b>44,771.14</b>		<b>11,577.58</b>	<b>166,673.35</b>

<u>Account Balances</u>	<u>5/31/2014</u>	<u>12/31/2012</u>	<u>12/14/2011</u>	<u>12/31/2010</u>	<u>12/31/2009</u>	<u>12/4/2008</u>
Checking	96,965.47	28,899.65	27,875.60	23,619.85	10,440.15	9,419.90
Savings	49,967.54	49,924.98	49,821.48			
Meridian Growth		29,911.54	26,196.92	26,444.61	8,489.07	13,885.84
Meridian Value		25,667.31	23,233.16	22,335.44	18,942.61	15,165.01
American Century Equity Income	19,740.34	15,615.88	13,099.33	13,633.65	12,026.47	9,917.42
<b>Totals</b>	<b>166,673.35</b>	<b>150,019.35</b>	<b>140,226.49</b>	<b>86,033.55</b>	<b>49,898.30</b>	<b>48,388.17</b>

Dec 2013 Winter Meeting Profit

\$4,384.96