

NEVADA SECTION - SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING
BLM ELY DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
JUNE 28, 2013

MINUTES

Present:

Ann Bollinger, Secretary	Leonard Jolley
Meagan Carter	Ryan Leary, President (conference call)
Jessica Dhaemers (Oregon)	Génie MontBlanc
Charlie Duncan	Maggie Orr
Kathryn Dyer (conference call)	Rick Orr, Zone 7 Council Repr.
Justin Feeman	Rob Pearce, Zone 5 Council Repr.
Mark Freese, President-Elect	Maria Ryan
Erica Freese, Treasurer	Sherm Swanson (conference call)

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Leary. A quorum was present.

1. Opening Remarks

Leonard Jolley was introduced as a new SRM Director for 2013-2015 and added to the agenda following the Treasurer's Report.

2. Minutes

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

3. Financial Items

Erica provided an update on the financial report, budget and investments (as of May 31, 2013). The market has fallen so the actual amounts made be a little lower. The winter meeting was well attended and made a profit for the section. The income and expenses for Range Camp will reported at the next winter meeting. The investment accounts are still in limbo with the transition because Wells Fargo cannot hold Meridian. Jim Linebaugh has approved using Jack Meadows as a financial advisor.

4. News from the SRM Parent Society

Leonard complimented the field tour held yesterday. He joined the business meeting and inquired if/how the parent society can assist the Nevada Section. Mark and Génie shared their experience with the parent society about posting a revised agenda and registration. Leonard will be attending the next annual meeting in Orlando and is working on the policies for the annual meetings. He reiterated that Reno is a great location for the annual meetings – good location and destination. He added that JA Nugget has called and expressed an interest. Bo Wagner continues as the contractor to help build capacity for the annual meetings. Leonard acknowledged that the Oklahoma City co-chair(s) spent 1-2 days/week with the planning and organizing, which is a lot of time. The attendance in Oklahoma City was 1,206.

Maggie stated the Nevada Section submitted a bid to host the annual meeting in 2018 and inquired on the status. Leonard was unsure but stated there was a positive response at the winter meeting. Erica reiterated members' concerns regarding repetitive meetings in Reno. Ryan commented that if meetings are co-hosted, then responsibilities need to be specifically identified and divided. Leonard replied that an MOU for the Sacramento meeting also identified the profit sharing with the CalPac Section. Sherm inquired whether rising populations are resulting in more cities with available facilities. Leonard agreed but commented the issue is the requested number of breakout rooms compared to the number of attendees. Ann enjoys the variety of locations. Ryan inquired about video options, especially with declining budgets and sequestration. Rick replied that video has been available in the past – two sessions in Billings and one session in Spokane. Video options need to be included in the planning process. It's cheap, but it's difficult to track the number of participants. Maggie suggested the section or parent society write an article regarding the importance and significance of a professional organization. She commented that many people don't seem to attend the meetings if work doesn't pay for it. Regarding discussion on the potential for regional meetings, which could be more affordable and relevant to the area, there was continued support for the annual meeting held by the parent society. Rick commented that 75% of their budget comes from the annual meeting. Charlie added the value of various student experiences and opportunities.

Further updates from the parent society: they moved into a new office; formed a task force to review the structure of committee meetings and the annual meeting; writing a few white papers i.e. climate change and feral hogs; participating in the Wild Horse and Burro Coalition and the Sage Grouse Initiative; and monitoring the Farm Bill. Rick commented the recent report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program significantly understated the impacts on self-management and regulation, vegetation thresholds, timeframes and logistics for birth control. Leonard has reviewed two chapters and commented that NRCS NRI data is being collected on BLM land.

5. Hope on the Range Booth

Maria shared a flyer for an outdoor Youth Expo hosted by the Wild Sheep Foundation in Reno on August 10th. It's a free event for kids and booth participants. She asked for volunteers and needs activities i.e. plant identification, soil texture. The event will also provide an opportunity to advertise for Range Camp. The trailer is currently on Valley Road in Reno. Maria commented that the timing was too short for some options identified during the last winter meeting. She's working on other venues such as Cowboy Poetry in Elko.

6. Range Camp Report

Kathryn reported 25 students had participated in Range Camp, however 32 students were registered. She inquired whether this attendance seemed low. Kathryn doesn't know how much information is passed from teachers to the students and stated that past participants have offered to post flyers at school. She suggested additional venues for advertisement such as Cabela's. Students came from across the state and one student came from Utah. The Trail Boss was Clay Molder (Albert Molder's son, NRCS). Joann Kittrell, Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, will develop a video and a copy can be shared with other agencies.

Due to cost, Kathryn said the Nevada Section can definitely afford to send one student to the annual meeting in Orlando. She commented that the runner-up is likely to return to Range Camp in future years. Mark would like to see the estimates. Sherm and Rick commented that they would like to know prior to Range Camp whether one or two students would be awarded the opportunity to attend. The winter meeting should be the time and place for discussion.

Kathryn added that Valerie won at the last annual meeting so she's been invited to present again at SRM Awards Banquet in Orlando. Kathryn wasn't sure if there are any expenses.

Kathryn suggested a youth forum coordinator/mentor – someone who will also attend the annual meeting. She said previous students have commented that others had a large support network. Rick suggested the coordinator help with travel and chaperoning. Erica wondered if a Range Camp counselor/instructor could assist. Kathryn added this year's winner, Clay, lives in Fallon.

The water buffalo needs about \$5,000-\$8,000 in repairs (brakes, stable lock). Are there other options? Rick suggested the offer of free advertising to Boss Tanks in exchange for a 1,200 gallon tank which could easily double attendance. The Sonoma kitchen is currently at Sherm's house. The repairs include a bracket for one pilot light and the freezer. Rick stated the freezer is approximately seven years old. Generally, Kathryn recommends keeping the trailers at the USFS yard in Austin – to reduce wear and tear – and the purchase of tire covers for protection. However, propane is delivered only once/week so there will need to coordination with a USFS employee. In the past, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited has made donations to the section. Sherm agreed to be the new liaison.

Brittany Lossing was an extraordinary cook. The \$500 approved stipend for the cook hasn't been paid yet. Kathryn suggested prior purchase of non-perishable items in order to reduce last minute stress. Insurance was purchased this year and fortunately, there are no injuries to report. Kathryn requested assistance for four to five volunteers to help with set-up on Friday and Saturday beforehand. Maggie said an earlier start-up with the freezer will be very helpful. Maria volunteered. Mark suggested an email request about one month ahead.

Maggie acknowledged Kathryn's purchase of reusable water bottles and commented it was well received by everyone. Kathryn stated a goal towards less waste and she would like to add the section's website address. Ryan acknowledged Kathryn and all her efforts towards Range Camp.

Kathryn commented that Maggie, Ryan Shane and others will be writing a handbook for Range Camp.

7. Open Positions

Executive Vice President

Erica commented that business matters and memories have been okay, so maybe a vacant position is fine. Maggie agreed.

Student Affairs/Activities

Charlie offered to chair the Student Affairs/Activities Committee as well, in addition to the Membership Committee.

Zone 4 Council Representative

Ann suggested John Swanson. Ryan will inquire.

Zone 5 Council Representative

Ryan welcomed Rob Pearce as the new council representative.

8. Strategic Plan

Ryan just received a draft of the Strategic Plan for the Nevada Section and deferred discussion to the winter meeting. The plan was written and reviewed by Chris Jasmine (Chair), Tracy Shane, and John McLain.

9. Committee Reports

Awards

Cub Wolfe was not present. Rick reminded members that awards are recognized in the bylaws. Maggie mentioned that Cub has not received nominations so he has been reviewing past submittals. Maria suggested an article in the next newsletter but encouraged email notifications as well. Zone Council Representatives should seek and submit nominations. Rick said it's the President's role to contact the committee chair.

Bylaws & Handbook

Don Henderson was not present. Ryan reported email communication but stated there weren't any updates.

Endowment Fund

Rick reported a total of \$43,924.13, with \$28,152.17 from donations and \$16,771.96 available for projects. He clarified this account can be used for hot topic issues, workshops/symposium, and for travel expenses for Valerie, if needed.

Historian

Trina Johnson was not present. Ann reported that Trina should have all the historic records by now. Charlie mentioned she has found additional materials including field notebooks, slides, and trend photographs from the 40's and 50's.

Charlie also reported that the UNR teaching herbarium has been expanding with the addition of duplicate specimens from Jerry Thiem at the UNR herbarium.

Membership

Charlie Duncan is the new chair of the Membership Committee. She has been in contact with Tracy Shane and anticipates receiving all the materials in July. Charlie will do outreach at UNR and include various disciplines. From Barry Perryman, she said 15 students have started in the Range Ecology and Management degree program, up from three. Erica stated

that new member reports should be forwarded to Génie who will add email addresses to the listserv.

As a follow-up to Tracy's suggestion to honor members with 50+ years, Ann shared her discussions with Jim Linebaugh and Chuck Salisbury regarding recognitions/gifts. Rick reiterated the idea for an endowment in their name, to the section or parent society. Maria inquired a roast and/or whether they would be interested in sharing stories. Jessica suggested an email to the membership to request photos and stories.

Public Affairs

Sherm said there was nothing to report. Génie inquired whether the section should submit comments regarding the NAS report on BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. Rick said a position statement, issue description or resolution could be submitted to the Board and Public Affairs Committee of the parent society. He added that anyone could write the comments but he is not interested or able to because he will be submitting his own through the consulting firm. Sherm suggested a committee and Maria offered to join.

Research Affairs

Paul Tueller was not present. Ann reported previous discussion that Paul was ready to pass it on, if anyone was interested. At present no one offered, so Ryan will confirm and may recruit at the winter meeting.

Scholarships

Sherm reported there were a number of young students who weren't eligible yet and those who were eligible didn't apply. With the increase of funds, he suggested an increase in the number of awards or the amount of one award. Erica mentioned the students were confused with the application process.

Student Affairs/Activities

Charlie said the UNR Range Club tries to recruit student members throughout the semester and offered to focus her efforts at high schools. Maria said high school outreach may be covered through Range Camp. Maggie reminded members of the student club at Great Basin College. Sherm suggested co-chairs.

Youth Activities

Jim Gatzke was not present. Maggie reported past conversations with Jim and he has expressed continued interest. Maria will contact him regarding the Youth Expo and other events.

Mentoring

Chris Jasmine was not present. Ryan will contact him regarding continued interest.

Website

Steve Foster was not present. Mark and Maggie said everything is posted and seems fine.

Newsletter

Maggie said there hasn't much information so the newsletter has become semi-annual with pre-winter and pre-summer editions. Additionally, she is working on a history of Range Camp. For example, she said Sherm was recognized for his participation throughout the past 30 years and it was an example that others should be recognized.

10. Zone Council Reports

Zone 5 Council Representative

Rob reported that Patty Novak has been nominated for an Outstanding Achievement Award by the parent society.

Zone 7 Council Representative

Rick acknowledged Justin Feeman's attendance.

11. Funding Request

Rick prepared members to comment on the Sage Grouse EIS. He advised it needs to be a complete and thorough document, and the Public Affairs Committee of the parent society may ask for comments from the Nevada Section. Mark is willing to take comments to the Wildlife Committee.

12. Winter Meeting

Mark asked for topics for the winter meeting and added there may be a sagebrush workshop in December in Reno. Sherm complemented the recent targeted grazing workshop in Elko and said the same topic would be presented to a different audience. He added grazing and fire interaction, wild horses, sage grouse, and Karen Launchbaugh's new book. Rick suggested the effects of livestock grazing after fire and implications to manipulate habitat for desirable effects. Ann suggested an update from the Sagebrush Ecosystem Team. Mark will begin with finding details on the sagebrush workshop.

13. Final Comments

Maria asked Rob about any updates from the CalPac Section. He didn't attend the meeting and apparently there was a small attendance due to the remote location.

Mark made a motion, seconded by Erica to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bollinger
October 8, 2013

SRM Nevada Treasurer's Report - May 31, 2013

<u>Account</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>HSYF</u>	<u>Account Balances</u>
Checking	18,210.77	7,721.29	-50.00	2,850.00	0.00		28,732.06
Savings	8,842.00	3,497.22	2,440.70	23,585.06	11,577.58		49,942.56
Meridian Growth			33,362.87				33,362.87
Meridian Value			29,182.31				29,182.31
American Century Equity Income				17,489.07			17,489.07
Fund Balances	27,052.77	11,218.51	64,935.88	43,924.13	11,577.58		158,708.87

<u>Account Balances</u>	<u>5/31/2013</u>	<u>12/31/2012</u>	<u>5/31/2011</u>	<u>12/14/2011</u>	<u>12/31/2010</u>	<u>12/31/2009</u>
Checking	28,732.06	28,899.65	22,489.13	27,875.60	23,619.85	10,440.15
Savings	49,942.56	49,924.98	49,862.99	49,821.48		
American Express MM					49,833.72	49,832.68
Meridian Growth	33,362.87	29,911.54	28,477.08	26,196.92	26,444.61	8,489.07
Meridian Value	29,182.31	25,667.31	23,138.28	23,233.16	22,335.44	18,942.61
American Century Equity Income	17,489.07	15,615.88	14,220.60	13,099.33	13,633.65	12,026.47
Totals	158,708.87	150,019.35	138,188.08	140,226.49	135,867.27	99,730.98

Winter Meeting Profit = \$1321.04