

Nevada Section – Society for Range Management
Business Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2019 / Elko NDF Office

Present: Maria Ryan, President; Dave Voth, President-elect; Gary McCuin, EVP; Rick Orr, Endowment Fund Chair; Erica Freese, Treasurer; Maggie Orr; Kaelie Pena; Barry Perryman, SRM BOD; Brad Schultz; Sherm Swanson; Gary Reese. By phone: Dan Harmon, newly elected President-elect; Kathryn Dyer, Range Camp Director; Meghan Carter, Don Henderson.

1. Zone Council Reports

None present; Gary Reese received proxy from Zone 7 Cayenne Engel to establish a quorum of the Executive Council.

2. Election Results

Dan Harmon is the new President-Elect. Ethan Mower is willing to be the new Section Treasurer. Their positions will become official after the Annual Meeting in February. Thank you to Erica for her many years of excellent service as treasurer. Zone 1 Council position is still open.

3. Treasurer's Report

Erica handed out the Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2019. We have \$252,274.95 total in all our accounts, up ~\$10,000 from May. Because we have missed out on possible earnings for the Section, Erica and Maria met with Eric Smith at Wells Fargo to consider our investments based on the investment policy that Charlie Clements wrote that was approved by the Executive Board. Currently our portfolio is all in moderate growth/moderate income strategies. Maria noted that this works well for our organization because we don't see ourselves heavily managing funds. The

The Investment meeting with Wells Fargo Advisors Summary as submitted by Erica:

Put investments into four accounts:

- *General*
- *Youth*
- *Scholarship (currently has ~32% of the monies invested in Core American fund source account)*
- *Endowment (currently has ~54% invested in the American Century Equity Income fund)*

These will be invested individually, so that funds can be tracked and accounted for in a manageable way.

We are currently a little out of our approved investment strategy, based on the holding of the American Century Equity Income fund (i.e., we are over our ~60% max in Equity funds).

The Fund Source accounts can be managed more in line with our investment asset allocation strategy.

Intent is to keep about 10% of the total assets in our checking account, with the remainder being invested in the Core American fund and the Foundations fund (youth monies because the investment dollar amount requirement is less).

- *These funds have an annual \$250 fee.*
- *Core American Moderate Growth and Income Gross Expense ratio is .57%.*
- *Fundsource Foundation Moderate Growth and Income Gross Expense ratio is .61%.*

We may want to consider, or at least keep the flexibility, to move to a more conservative allocation around the election. Depending on how the presidential election goes, the stock market may swing heavily. We need to stay on top of this outcome with Eric Smith.

There was extensive discussion of the proposals. Any questions or need for further information can be addressed to Erica. The idea is to simplify management of the accounts we have and increase our earnings. Erica suggested we make the changes and if we are not happy, we can alter it. She said Eric Smith is not charging us a fee. We've decided to stay with Wells Fargo, and all accounts are finally together there now.

Rick Orr, Endowment Fund chair, stated there is \$28,462.17 in the Endowment corpus which means there is \$28,364.79 interest available for use; no receipts have come to the Endowment Fund since the last report. Rick made a recommendation that a large portion of the ~\$50,000 profit from the 2018 SRM Annual Meeting be placed in the Section Endowment Fund. He noted that SRM at large is working to accumulate \$3 million in the SRM Endowment account so that the interest alone will almost cover the base operations of SRM. The governing body for the NvSRM Endowment Fund is the president, past president, and president-elect; Rick will make sure all get a copy of the Endowment Fund by-laws.

The Finance Committee, all being present – Erica, Maria and Gary McCuin, **voted to approve execution of the financial plan as explained; to be completed by the end of 2019 to be able to hand to Ethan.**

Erica made a motion, seconded by Gary, **to approve Ethan Mower as NvSRM Treasurer beginning after the SRM Annual Meeting.** Approved.

Dave made a motion, seconded by Rick, **to authorize Ethan Mower, Treasurer, and Gary McCuin, Executive Vice President, as signatories on the Wells Fargo accounts.** Approved.

Gary McCuin proposed two items to take to the Section for a vote:

1. Move 50% of the profit (~\$25,000) from the 2018 SRM Reno meeting to the Endowment Fund now.
2. Consider a by-law change to automatically move a portion of any SRM Annual Meeting's profit to the Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Fund governing committee present – Maria and Dave, gave their approval; they will seek a vote from Rixey Jenkins (Past President) for a vote with a three-day time limit for a response.

Gary also suggested the Endowment Fund Committee consider if any interest from the Endowment Fund is not utilized in a year that it rolls into the corpus for the following year. He said the Committee can decide if they want to make this part of the by-laws after we do these items this year. Rick will submit several ideas for the Endowment Fund Committee to consider.

President Maria Ryan said finalizing our investment strategy and investing our finances was the one thing she really wanted to accomplish during her presidency.

4. Financial Committee Report

No additional report beyond the discussion and decisions made above.

5. Outreach

Dan Harmon was having trouble with the phone connection so he heard the conversation and responded via texts to Erica and Dave. Dan decided not to spend the extra money on supplies this year and is happy to stick to last year's budget of \$700 which he will spend in 2020. We have the potential for outreach opportunities at The Nugget, but Dan needs to be involved in that conversation to do that. NvSRM will be present at the same venues in 2020 as 2019.

Dave said the \$1000 sponsorship for Jay Hill was approved and needs to be added to Outreach. Our Facebook presence was discussed. We want to have two admin people; Kaelie is willing to help. She said you can schedule posts. Maria will ask Cruz Kinder or Ty Minor to help. The current admin people have to invite new ones; presently they are Tracy Shane and Dan Harmon. Dan is doing a great job on the website; he will grant access to Kaelie and whoever else signs on to post.

Erica made a motion, seconded by Maggie, to **authorize \$700 for outreach**. Approved. Dan committed to continue heading up outreach with Dave's help.

6. UNR Range Club Updates

Dr. Robert Washington-Allen is the new advisor for Range Club. He needs to be placed on the list serve (Kaelie does as well). This is finals week so it is hard for any of them to attend NvSRM. Maggie said they didn't respond to several requests for a newsletter update. Maria will reach out to them to see what their needs are for attending the Denver SRM meeting. Gary made a motion, seconded by Sherm, **to provide up to \$2500 for Denver travel if they make a request and provide a report after**. Approved. The Section desires to not lose the good connection between the Section and the Club that we have enjoyed for the past years; we don't want to go back to minimal communication.

7. Parent Society Update

Barry Perryman from the SRM Board of Directors reported the Society has been working on diversity and codes of conduct for members and meetings. There is now a diversity statement on the website. There is not a mechanism to deal with violations yet, but there will be an ombudsperson to be the link between the person with the concern and SRM; they are currently teasing out the boundaries.

There is a task force to review Certified Range Management Consultants and Certified Professional in Range Managements to possibly combine them into one and see if there is a need, use, and is desirable for all members rather than just consultants. It has to be achievable and meet professional standards; it is geared for agency employees. It will not be a requirement for membership but a professional development opportunity.

Financially, SRM is as solvent as it has ever been. The Denver meeting will be interesting if nothing else; Boise hosts 2021 at The Grove, and 2022 is Albuquerque. Boise will be the first meeting where a professional meeting planner will do most of the work. SRM has the best annual meeting of any organization, but it is hard on people to organize. This new meeting planner position will mean less money coming to sections, but it is inevitable. SRM is thinking to do their meeting in Reno every five years.

Barry stressed that there is definite VALUE to being a member of SRM; we need to make people realize that to belong is valuable to them. Particularly for federal employees, SRM provides a voice that they can't have in the work place; it is a powerful tool available for only a \$100 membership. As an example, SRM sent a letter to BLM about the headquarters move and because of lobbying by SRM, Congress supports using appropriated funds for professional development.

It is common for there to be lapsed memberships a year after a Section hosts an Annual Meeting; Barry suggests the Section officers communicate directly with lapsed members because people respond to personal relationships.

Barry was emphatic that the Wild Horse Summit in Reno, that NvSRM helped sponsor, is directly responsible for additional funding coming from Congress. The House approved \$6 million, and the Senate \$35 million additional funding for BLM for wild horses; last week Congress went into reconciliation to set the final amount it will be. There were over 90 groups at the Reno Summit, all who agree we have to start removing horses. Another meeting is in planning for May 2020 most likely in Cody, Wyoming. He suggested NvSRM consider another donation. This year 7100 horses were adopted; the most that has ever been done. With the foal crop, there will be an excess of 100,000 horses on the ground even with increased removals and adoptions. But things are in the works and coming to fruition; this kind of information should go on our outreach pages, both the good and bad news.

Sherm said he attended an October 23 event in Reno called the Committee for Healthy Nevada Lands for Wildlife and Wild Horses which had 250 people present of a diverse nature in the wildlife and environmental areas. They showed the video "Horse Rich and Dirt Poor," held a panel discussion, and feel empowered to move forward with future events. Sherm is willing to represent the Section with this group; agreed and he will keep us informed of their activities.

Dave made a motion and amended, seconded by Brad, **to authorize \$7500 for the 2020 WY Wild Horse Summit; \$2500 donation to the meeting, the remainder for travel for Gary McCuin, Barry and Dave as President; any money not spent on travel will be donated to the meeting.** Approved.

Barry said that Congresswoman Dina Titus issued a press release on wild horses that requires a response from NvSRM. Maria made a motion, seconded by Erica, **to empower a committee to draft a letter to Titus and cc to BLM and USFS leadership, SRM, and Nevada Department of Agriculture.** Approved. Maria will draft, Barry will enhance, and Dave will sign it from the Section. Sherm suggested it be done from an educational standpoint. It can reference the SRM mission and policy statements. We should put the letter on Facebook.

Barry said that Nevada has always been in the forefront of new initiatives, ideas and concepts for SRM to address; he hopes NvSRM will carry on that tradition. He reminded all that the Advisory Council is the Section voice and therefore a big deal; SRM is working toward holding meetings electronically to enhance involvement and reinvigorate the Advisory Council.

Sherm and Kathryn said that in the last 10 years BLM has cut their range staff in half; there are not even 400 Range Management Specialists nationwide. It is hard to get qualified range people. Barry said it would be appropriate for NvSRM to draft a whereas/resolution document and send it to the Advisory Council to suggest the SRM BOD write a letter to the agency heads. This is one of the values of SRM. We should also promote local efforts to attract good people as well. The longer the jobs stay vacant the more likely they are to go away or turn into something else; a Natural Resources Specialist is not a Range Management Specialist. Gary Reese said Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) requires him to be a certified arborist; certification in range management would be more useful.

Gary and Kathryn will co-chair a committee of Gary McCuin, Sherm, Kathryn, Gary Reese/Cayenne Engel. Kathryn and Sherm will write the letter/resolution to the Advisory Council to ask SRM to ramp up

marketing and outreach to attract people to pursue a rangeland management profession, and that there is a need and the importance to have/increase range management specialists in the land management agencies. NvSRM will also write a letter to NDF to have staff be certified in range management, not certified arborists.

SRM Awards Committee

No one volunteered; post the opportunity on Facebook!

8. Mary Winters Flora Book Sponsorship

Gary Reese said there were five printings of the book before Mary Winters died. The Nevada Native Plants Society and the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group have each committed \$2000; they seek a third group to add another \$2000 so they can print 600 copies. They will print more if they can get more sponsorships. It is a comprehensive field guide for all but high elevation in northeastern NV; it is the textbook used at Great Basin College and invaluable to the Great Basin Institute field crews. NvSRM's name and contact information would be included. Mary Winters' Will stated there cannot be a profit from it and it cannot be produced in digital form. As treasurer of the Nevada Native Plants Society, Gary will work to have any proceeds that come from sales be put into a fund to allow future printings. Erica made a motion, seconded by Sherm, **to sponsor the printing with \$2000 from the NvSRM Endowment Fund.** Approved.

9. Summer meeting in Bishop

Kaelie said the Cal-Pac Section will do their next meeting in Bishop and would like to invite NvSRM to join them. They are looking at April or June with a water theme; Nevada topics discussed included Pershing County water issues, SNWA, a speaker from the State Water Engineer's office, the critical Bi-State late brood rearing habitat and LAWPD shutting off water to meadows, over-appropriated ground water issues. Sherm would like to advertise PFC classes in CA and Kaelie would like to do a YPC event. Maria suggested a campout location. Sherm made a motion, seconded by Dave, **to empower the President-Elect to do the meeting in Bishop and consider the ideas suggested.** Approved. Kaelie will be the liaison with Cal-Pac, we are interested in the first week of June and Maria/Kaelie/Dan will talk with the Cal-Pac president.

10. Annual Meeting Representation - Denver

Maria, Dave and Dan will be there to attend the Advisory Committee. Erica said she can fill in too. Maria will tell Vicki. Gary suggested to always have at least one in the meeting who can text the others to get there to vote.

11. REDD Fund – Ron Cerri

Dave said through the Redd Fund SRM offers a free registration and \$500 travel for a producer to attend the SRM Annual Meeting. Dave is working on the nomination for Ron Cerri; he needs one more letter of support and plans to ask Doug Busselman. The N-3 Grazing Board was also suggested for a support letter.

12. Awards

No one was present at the banquet to receive the awards; the write-ups for the awards given will be in the next newsletter.

13. Nugget Committee Report

Don Henderson reported that after the 2018 SRM meeting the new ownership of the Nugget expressed an interest to get more involved with youth activities. Don met with them last summer and they talked about establishing an operational fund to support Range Camp to provide \$2000 annually, and if we hold SRM meetings there to make other sizeable contributions to the NvSRM Scholarship Fund; in 2018 they donated \$17,500 to scholarships.

They need staffing for their regional events and are looking to NGOs for bodies. Possibly the UNR Range Club and other university groups would like the opportunity. Gary said we need to be up front and say we would love to be involved but we can't set expectations very high for people available to staff their events. Other possibilities include in-kind stuff given that could be raffled as a fundraiser for Range Club. Don thinks they want to reestablish their previous relationship with the UNR College of Agriculture. Don suggests a future NvSRM meeting at the Nugget so we can talk.

The next meeting with the Nugget is January 20; Don is working on the meeting notes from the December call. He suggests a name of Nugget Partnership Exploratory Committee or NPEC. The committee is Don, Mark Freese, Kathryn as she can, Dr. Robert Washington-Allen, Kaelie, and the incoming and outgoing UNR Range Club presidents.

14. Range Camp

Gary expressed a cautionary note that there is a movement/intention in UNCE to think that Range Camp is a UNCE function that they control even though they have been told that is not the case. Gary is adamant that if NvSRM decides they want to continue Range Camp that it is made clear it is NvSRM's function; we appreciate any participation by UNCE as a partner, but it is our camp. Sherm said that is consistent with the approach that has been taken.

Kathryn said that for a variety of reasons we want to take Sherm's retirement as an opportunity to take a comprehensive look at Range Camp, something we haven't done for a number of years. We plan to follow the existing format in 2020 but we intend to do some parallel future planning – covering all the bases for 2020 as well as looking at such things as location, duration, dates, etc, with an open mind. Maggie drafted a Range Camp Duties List to make sure we remember everything. Kathryn will turn it into a matrix of Tasks and Names on the Y axis and Month on the X axis by the end of December. She will indicate on the chart what she will handle.

For 2020 – Kathryn said Ray Hendrix said he is happy to continue to have Range Camp at Smith Creek Ranch and using the big house for some to sleep in is OK with him. Kathryn will check with him on using the shower, a truck to haul the water buffalo from headquarters to the camp site and if we can plug the freezer in. The freezer is currently in the Conex with the Sonoma kitchen. Points were considered:

People:

- Gary McCuin said he and Steve Foster had volunteered to do curriculum but Steve now has another commitment and Gary's impending Sheep Experiment Station duties means he may not be able to be there. Status: pending
- Dave said he is doing the 3rd year kids per Steve's request. Status: final
- A shout out of thanks to Dan Harmon for his work with the Trail Bosses prep for the High School Youth Forum!
- The position description for the person to replace Sherm at UNR does not include Range Camp duties. Status: pending

- We have to find the people and we need younger people to get involved so the torch can pass. Paul Meiman, UNCE in Elko, cannot commit yet. We hope Kaelie, Cruz Kinder and Ethan Mower will increase their involvement. Meghan Carter is willing from her current position in Sparks.
- Kaelie cautioned that Range Camp cannot just be handed off to the younger people. The CA range camp was handed off and it was too overwhelming and died – Cal-Pac has turned their camp over to their Extension. We need to mentor and not just hand off.
- We need to look to our other partners for volunteers. Boss Tanks provides the water buffalo each year because the owner is an enthusiastic previous Range Camp camper.
- Maggie will organize the set-up crew which immensely helps the crew there all week.
- Maybe parts of the curriculum could be shepherded by an agency like NRCS does for soils.

Logistics:

- Critical items from the Duties list are vehicles, people, background checks and curriculum printing; Status: pending
- The background checks have been done by UNR; they will only allow the County Sheriffs to do the fingerprinting, not the checks; they require the checks run through the UNR system. Gary thinks we could get them done through the sheriffs. Status: pending
- Barry said NvSRM needs to have liability insurance since we have fiduciary responsibility. Status: needs investigation
- If anyone is going to Smith Creek Ranch let Kathryn know as there are things that need to be done there.
- Sherm paid for printing curriculum from his Specialist and other program funding; he got it done at Nevada Ink on campus. Status: pending
- Don said we need an MOU document to clarify roles and responsibilities with UNR/UNCE; Status: pending
- Sherm obtained the vans from the Natural Resources and Environmental Science and Range programs; Tamzen is now the department chair. Status: pending
- We need to decide before the January 20 Nugget meeting what we think they could pay for. Gary said the Nugget funding maybe could pay for a position to coordinate everything since we are all so busy.
- Maria will set up monthly calls starting in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Maggie Orr, December 17, 2019; with edits by Maria Ryan 12/19/20

Treasurer's Report attached.

**SRM Nevada Treasurer's Report - November 30,
2019**

<u>Account</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>HSYF Endowment</u>	<u>Account Balances</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Checking	66,161.60	13,993.15	57,629.74	447.64		138,232.13
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Savings	9,025.28	3,497.22	2,440.70	23,585.06	11,577.58	50,125.84
American Century Equity Income*				\$		\$
Wells Fargo Fund Source*			\$	32,794.26		\$
			31,122.72			31,122.72
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Fund Balances	75,186.88	17,490.37	91,193.16	56,826.96	11,577.58	252,274.95

<u>Account Balances</u>	<u>11/30/2019</u>	<u>11/30/2018</u>	<u>10/31/2017</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>12/31/2014</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Checking	\$138,232.13	\$144,195.65	\$80,163.45	\$82,211.33	\$77,173.10	\$100,765.15
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Savings	50,125.84	50,096.07	50,063.56	50,038.54	50,008.45	49,982.19
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Wells Fargo Fund Source	31,122.72	29,294.73	28,132.48	25,026.35	23,695.61	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
American Century Equity Income	32,794.26	29,281.32	27,562.03	24,410.92	20,928.73	20,810.06
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Totals	\$252,274.95	\$252,867.77	\$185,921.52	\$181,687.14	\$171,805.89	171,557.40

2019 Sumer Meeting Profit \$
163.54