



**Nebraska Section SRM Annual Meeting
October 13, 2016
Gothenburg, NE**

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting was distributed and reviewed. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of October 12th, 2016 were as follows: \$2695.25 for the SRM account, \$8717.20 for the Range Judging account, \$6882.21 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2591.15 for the HSYF fund, and \$6354.71 for the NE State Range Judging CD.

Committee Reports:

Nominations: Bob Broweleit currently serves as the Committee Chair. He is always seeking individuals willing to serve on the board. If anyone is interested in serving in these leadership positions, or have skills, passion and values that they wish to help in any way, please visit Bob about positions or responsibilities that you be willing to be a part of.

Awards: Awards will be presented this evening at the banquet.

Range Camp: Shelly Taylor reported that Range Camp was held June 6-10th this year with 44 students participating. It was the 53rd year for Range Camp.

They are looking to develop a no-show policy, as several campers register, but then do not show up. This can be an issue as we need to know the location of these individuals so that we know if they were supposed to show up and didn't, or did not actual intend to be there.

Outreach for Range Camp includes emails to all high school agriculture education and science instructors in the state of Nebraska, all NRCS offices, all UNL Extension Service offices and all NRD offices. Emails were also sent to NE Game and Parks employees, The Nature Conservancy employees, and the NGLC email list. News releases were e-mailed to nearly all Nebraska newspapers announcing Range Camp. We continue to include information on the website thanks to Dorrene, and a Facebook page is also active.

About half of the campers were second or multiple year campers. Attendance did increase from 32 campers in 2015 to 44 campers this year. The financial and overall support of sponsoring ranches is an essential part of the Camp's success. A concern is losing some ranch sponsorship. As new generations are taking over ranch sponsorship some are choosing not to continue to provide this sponsorship. We need to work to get more and new ranches engaged and also possibly increase grant funding. Some ranches have been sponsoring for over 40 years. Thank you to Adkinson Inc. -Boyd & Shirley Adkinson of Benkelman: Diamond Bar Ranch Co. – Virginia, Robert, Suzanne Jones and Family of Stapleton; Enfield Ranch – Terry Enfield Family of Arthur; KM Grain and Livestock of

Sidney; Reed Hamilton Ranch Inc – Hamilton Family of Thedford; Maddux Cattle Company – Jack & Carol of Wauneta; Neal Hansen Ranch of Sutherland; Kelly Ranch LLC – Mike & Cynthia Kelly of Sutherland. Thank you to all our sponsors for all of their support.

Ten adult volunteers spent the entire week at the camp with 10 other professionals supporting Range Camp by leading tours and providing presentations on range-related information. The financial and overall support of sponsoring ranches continues to be essential to the camp's success. Wayne and Sheri Rodocker was the site of the Ranch Tour; a special thank you goes out to them. Range Camp continues as one of the Nebraska Section's most important activities and its success has been and continues to be dependent upon the involvement of Section members, Nebraska ranches, and other professionals and organizations that support the activity. Thank you to everyone who helps make Range Camp possible. Thank you to the Sandhills Task Force and the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition who continue to sponsor Range Camp. Thank you to all of our sponsors who continue to support Range Camp and help keep costs down for individual campers. Thank you to everyone who helps make Range Camp possible.

Thank you to Sara Winslow and Shelly Kelly for serving as Co-directors for the camp. Campers go home with numerous publications and educational material. Overall Top Camper was Asha Scheideler from Ord High School.

Registration rates were \$325.00, but thanks to sponsorships from NGLC and NRDs, all students paid \$100.00 or less to attend. Next year all registrations will be taken online and students or their parents or FFA chapter will be responsible for paying the \$325.00 fee and will be responsible for contacting their NRDs or other sponsoring agencies for sponsorship.

The 2017 camp is scheduled for June 5-9. Thank you to all individuals, ranches, and organizations who continue to provide support and make Range Camp possible. Additional information on Range Camp is available by contacting Shelly or Sara and information will be posted on the web at www.nesrm.org. Sara also took videos throughout Range Camp to increase promotion.

HSYF: The Nebraska Section has traditionally annually sponsored delegates to the High School Youth Forum at the winter parent Society meetings. We have two presentations tomorrow. A huge thank you goes out to an Anonymous Donor who continues to sponsor HSYF expenses and make this trip to the Annual Meeting possible. Shelly will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting this year and we will need someone to help chaperone our students. If we do not have someone to chaperone we would need to send a parent and pay for their trip.

Range Judging: Kristin Dickinson, Range Judging Committee Chair presented a report. This year was the 62nd year of range judging in Nebraska. This year there was 1241 participants though Area Contests and 402 participants in the State Contest held in Lancaster County. A huge thank you goes out to the State Committee and all of the local contest committees for putting together some outstanding contests!

The locations for the 2017 area contests have been set and formal invitations to host a contest in 2017 will be sent out within the next couple of weeks. The proposals for 2018 will also be sent out to potential local committee members. They hope to have contest dates set by March so schools can get it on their calendars.

The committee has worked hard to prepare a major update to the Range Judging Handbook. The update transitions from the range site concept to Ecological Site Descriptions. Nadine Bishop has worked on most of the text updates for this change. Jerry Volesky has also contributed a significant amount of review and editing to this Handbook version.

Several committee members, led by Nadine, presented these changes to the Ag Ed instructors at their annual conference again in June. There were approximately 40 instructors present in this classroom and field training. They also presented a Range Judging 101 that was targeted at instructors new to range judging. They intend to do another presentation next June

and focus on the range problem portion of the contest. They have also had requests to provide information on degree of use.

South Dakota hosted Old West Regionals in Rapid City this year. No Nebraska teams were able to attend. Nebraska will be the hold in 2017 in Cherry County.

One of the major action items in this year's Committee Meeting was to discuss the liability insurance that the Nebraska Section has, which includes range judging coverage as part its policy. After a lot of discussion and cost analysis, the committee approved to offer to the Section that they reimburse the Section for one-half of the costs associated with this insurance coverage. This will still take action by the Council, and then if there is a counter offer, we will need to address tis at the January meeting.

New members to the committee are Kristy King, Mitch Stephenson, and Don Davis. A big thank you also goes out to Marcia Lee and Larry Schultz for their years of service as they have chosen to step down from the committee.

Thank you to all those who continue to assist in one way or another to help educate youth in Nebraska about our rangeland resources!

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop presented the committee report. Envirothon is a contest for high school students which compete in 7 areas: soil, aquatics, forestry, policy, wildlife, range, environmental policy, and current issues. There are 6 Envirothon regions in Nebraska and 7 regional competitions. The 2016 contest was held in Nebraska City at the Arbor Day Farm. Fourteen teams participate this year with Concordia High School taking 1st place, Sidney High School placing 2nd, and Pender placing 3rd. Regional competitions are going to be held in February and March. The Mid-Plains Region competitions are scheduled for Feb. 10th at North Platte Community College and Feb 28th at NCTA. Next years competition is possibly going to be in the Chadron area. Last year included a overhaul of some of Envirothon reference material. Not many changes were made to the range portion.

Scholarship: Jess Milby reported. There were 7 applicants this year, which is a good increase from the number of applicants the last few years. They will be presented tonight at the banquet. Four applicants were from Chadron State College and 3 were from UNL. Traditionally two \$1000.00 scholarships are awarded, one to a student from each college.

Membership: Lance Schutte reported for the membership committee. As of October 11, 2016 the Nebraska Section had 81 current members. There are currently 31 members who have let their membership lapse. There have been 18 new members since January. Memberships are changing in that renewals will now all be sent out January 1st. For those that recently paid for a yearly membership the cost should be prorated. We need to encourage students to renew their memberships as theses make up the large majority of memberships that do not renew. Thank you to Lance for filling this position.

Historian: Jeff Nichols reported. He continues to gather information and reports and continues the build the annual history report. The Nebraska Section SRM 64 Year History 1952-2016 publication has been updated, with a few more updates coming after the current annual meeting. This publication is made available on the section website. If you are interested in a hardcopy please let Jeff know. He also continues to submit articles to the newsletter. If anyone is interested in working with the Historical aspects of the Section, please let Jeff know.

Investments: Walter Schacht reported on our investments. We currently have 3 CDs for a total of \$37514.24. We also have savings accounts for a total of \$5811.27. We use interest from

these accounts to fund one of the scholarships. An anonymous donor provides for our second scholarship. Our CDs do not currently make enough interest to cover the scholarship costs. We may need to discuss other ways to fund the scholarship if we wish to continue giving out both scholarships.

If anyone would like to take over as chair or provide advice on increasing our investments please feel free to contact Walt. We may need to make changes in the future to increase our income from these investments.

Discussion concerning ways to help fund these scholarships include having a photo contest, which would then be auctioned off at the Crazy Auction and the money would go to the scholarship fund.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop reported. There have been a few news releases over the year. SRM also had a display at NGLC. If you have any articles or news releases please send them to Nadine or if you are interested in helping to create or update displays.

Student Activities:

Ethan Freese, president of UNL Range Club reported. Four undergraduate students attended the National SRM Meeting in Corpus Cristi, TX and participated in the ERMI and Plant ID competitions. There was also one student who competed in Extemporaneous speaking and presented an undergraduate paper. They placed 9th in the ERMI. The range club lost a lot of members last year due to graduation, but there are also a lot of new members coming in. Currently there are 8 students planning on attending the National SRM meeting in St. George, Utah. They plan to have students who will be competing as a team in the ERMI and plant ID competitions. Current officers also include Autumn Dunn as Vice President/Treasurer and Ellen Dolph as the Secretary.

Cole Kayton reported for Chadron State College. Current officers are Spencer Gerk as Vice President, Melissa Vanderslice as Secretary/Treasurer, and Kourtini Bunette as Campus Activities Board Representative.

Walt also presented on the Nebraska Range Shortcourse which was held June 20-24, 2016. They had 35 participants from across the United States. It was a great group and they were excited by the participation. Thank you for everyone who participated and helped make it a successful program. The next program will be held in June 2018.

Newsletter: Laura Rubeck has agreed to take on this position along with the help of Amanda Heffner. Their goal is to go back to a quarterly newsletter. This is important to communicate with our membership and to stay viable and active. Please submit articles and committee reports to Laura.

New Business:

Our newly elected council member is Lance Shutte. Anthony Perlinski is president elect and is currently planning to hold next year's meeting in Chadron. He currently has 25 Ag Club Members and Professor Ron Bolze is also helping with the meeting. He is still open to ideas for a theme for the meeting.

Our new president is Jeff Nichols, thank you for planning the meeting. Thank you to Monsanto, Lisa Berlinger, and Brian Olsen for hosting us at the Monsanto Water Utilization Learning Center. We welcome new members and look forward to a great year.

Thank you to Karla Jenkins for her service this past year!

Laura Rubeck and Jess Milby discussed the new photo contest that they are looking at having each year at the annual meeting. It must be of Range or Natural Resource. Members will vote on the winner and then auction them off at the Crazy Auction to go toward the Scholarship fund. Prior to the meeting they will have photo tags to attach for any photo submissions.

The Social before the banquet will begin at 5:30. The banquet will begin at 7:00 and includes Awards, Scholarships, and Jim Griffin will be presenting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer