



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
October 16, 2018
North Platte, NE**

Anthony Perlinski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM at West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, NE.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and three CDs as of October 17th, 2018 were as follows: \$7655.36 for the SRM account, \$12395.55 for the Range Judging account, \$7033.16 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2637.64 for the HSYF fund, and \$6494.09 for the NE State Range Judging CD. The treasurers report will be presented at tomorrow's business meeting for approval. The Nebraska Section CD and the Range Judging CD do not mature until July 2020. The HSYF fund CD matures in Dec. 2018. The current interest rate is 0.80%. The possibility of investing it differently to get a higher interest rate was discussed. Angie Petersen will check into the possibility of reinvesting it to possibly get a higher interest rate on a CD.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee:

Mitch Stephenson and Lance Schutte provided updates on the 2018 and 2019 meetings. Everything is set for the meeting tomorrow. Registrations are currently at approximately 75 people, but a few more are expected. Thank you Mitch for planning the meeting!

Lance discussed the 2019 meeting possibly taking place in Clay Center.

Awards: A report was offered by Jeff Nichols. We will be presenting 3 awards this year. In addition to the Rangeman's Award and Range Management Service Award we will be presenting an Outstanding Young Professional Award. We want to recognize people for their work. We need to increase the number of award nominations. The parent society is also struggling with awards and receiving nominations. We need to be more active with award nominations and encourage members to write nominations. The discussion of possibly having a template available to help people start this process was discussed. There are deserving individuals that we want to encourage and recognize.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop presented the committee report. The 2018 State Competition was held at Niobrara State Park in April. Concordia High School won the State competition and represented Nebraska in the International competition held in Boise, Idaho, where they placed 28th. Thank you to Myra Richardson who has been assisting with everything. The Spring 2019 contest will be held in central Nebraska, but a location has not been set.

Fundraising: Vacant position. Please think of new ideas for fundraising.

Historian: Jeff presented a report. The Nebraska Section SRM 65 Year History 1952-2018 publication has been updated. The publication should be ready for the Section's website. The Section website will be the sole source of this publication going forward unless there is a demand for printed copies by the membership.

Jeff will continue to submit articles to the Newsletter Editor. If there is anyone that has an interest in working with the Historical aspects of the Section, please let him know.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop presented a report. News releases were developed to cover the major Section activities. Keeping the email addresses of smaller home-town newspapers current is difficult as publishing of many of these papers is completed by larger newspapers. The larger newspapers usually have a weekly expanded agriculture section and do include the articles in their papers. Several have special editions which cover FFA activities and have requested additional information, especially about range judging for these editions.

The Section did not participate with a booth at the Nebraska Grazing Conference this year as the solicitation for sponsorship was not received as in the past. We are working to ensure that in 2019, SRM will be represented at the grazing conference.

If your local papers are printing information about the Section activities let Nadine know. If they are not, send Nadine their current contact information so that she can ensure that the press releases are reaching the correct individual.

Investments: Walt Schacht is looking for someone to take over this committee. Interest rates are very low right now so we aren't making much money on interest. Investments are what fund our two \$1000.00 scholarships. With these low rates we need to find funding to continue covering the scholarships at their current rate.

Membership: Lance Schutte reported for the membership committee. The Nebraska Section currently has 110 current members, which is an increase since last year. There are currently 17 members who have let their membership lapse, and over half of those are students. Overall the transition to a calendar renewal date has been successful to help us increase and maintain our membership numbers and will minimize problems with payments from the parent society. There have been a few complaints that the calendar renewal date falls directly in the middle of the holiday season and becomes a bill that needs to be paid at a bad time of the year.

The main thing that we need to continue to work on is retaining student members to become apprentice or full members.

Nominations: Bob Broweleit reported for the nominations committee. We had two nominations for the open council position, Bob Wesley and Brad Schick. There were a total of 37 total votes. There were a few individuals who expressed concern that they did not get the email to vote. Bob will check into how this is done and make sure this process is correct and the emails are going out.

Producer Affairs: Sheila Luoma – no report

Public Affairs: Vacant

Range Judging: Kristin Dickinson, Range Judging Committee Co-Chair presented a report. This year was the 64th year of range judging in Nebraska. This year there were 1256 participants through Area Contests, with 448 participants in the State Contest held in Chase County. A huge

thank you goes out to the State Committee and all of the local contest committees for putting together some outstanding contests!

Scholarships will once again be offered to the top 4 teams from the State contest. This scholarship is to be used for travel and registration for either the Old West Regional Contest or National Contest. The top 4 teams in 2018 were: West Holt, Imperial, Hayes Center, and Ainsworth.

Formal invitations to host a contest in 2019 will be sent out within the next couple of weeks. The proposals for 2020 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.

Two years ago, a major update to the Range Judging Handbook was published. This update transitions from the range site concept to Ecological Site Descriptions. The transition to the new handbook has gone very well. Minor updates will continue to happen on an annual basis, with most of the changes being to the tables used in completing similarity index.

A few new State Committee members have been added. Ben Beckman was welcomed to the committee this fall, and Justin Lemmer joined last spring. Roger Lechtenberg has been a committee member for several years and has decided to retire from teaching at the end of the school year. He has submitted his resignation from the committee as well, but has given several names of instructors that would potentially be good additions to the group.

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

Range Research: Vacant

Range Tour: Vacant

Range Camp/HSYF: A brief discussion was held about Range Camp and the students that are then chosen for HSYF. Attendance at Range Camp was lower this year so we need to continue to encourage students to attend to increase student participation. The budget and money used to send students to HSYF was also discussed. As the cost of sending students to HSYF is increasing we need to have funding to support those activities. In the past Range Camp raised funding for HSYF. However recently this has not been happening and the two activities were separated. Discussion regarding how HSYF should be budgeted for and paid for was discussed. Discussion regarding having a chaperone available to attend the meeting was also discussed. If a chaperone from the Section is unavailable we must also consider the possibility of sending a parent and how this will also be funded.

At this time we do not have a student to present at HSYF. We will try to encourage a student to present and attend to represent Nebraska at the national meeting.

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.

Scholarship: Two \$1000.00 scholarships will be awarded at the banquet. There were a total of 7 applications this year. They will be announced tomorrow at the banquet.

Old Business:

Finding an individual to take over HSYF activities was discussed as well as covering rising costs of HSYF attendance and the issue of providing chaperones.

New Business:

By-laws need to be amended to include the new award.

Writing and voting on resolutions was also discussed. The question of how new resolutions are added to the by-laws was discussed. New resolutions are normally brought forward at the Business Meeting and voted on by the Section. A letter is then written on behalf of the Society. Discussion regarding online voting regarding various issues was also discussed.

Mitch Stephenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jack Arterburn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen