



**Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting
October 12, 2016
Gothenburg, NE**

Karla Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Comfort Suites Hotel in Gothenburg, NE. Those present were Karla Jenkins, Jeff Nichols, Sheila Luoma, Laura Rubeck, Shelly Kelly, Anthony Perlinski, Mitch Stephenson, Nadine Bishop, Lance Schutte, Kristin Dickinson, and Sara Winslow. Angie Petersen and Jess Milby participated via phone.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed from the August 4, 2016 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Tony Perlinski, seconded by Sheila Luoma. The minutes were 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. Approximately \$1800.00 in the NE SRM account is in memorial to Jim Nichols and has been set aside for Range Camp. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jeff Nichols, seconded by Lance Schutte. The treasurer's report was approved. There was some discussion regarding missing income from the Parent Society and membership dues that are to be given back to the Nebraska Section.

Committee Reports:

Nominations: Bob Broweleit currently serves as the Committee Chair.

Awards: Bob Broweleit will be receiving the Service Award tomorrow and Scott Stout will be receiving the Rangeman's Award

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 my 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 held 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 of 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 this 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. Last year included a overhaul of some of Envirothon reference material. Not many changes were made to the range portion. 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.

Scholarship: There were 7 applicants this year, which is a good increase from the number of applicants the last few years. They will be presented tomorrow at the meeting. 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. Thank you to Lance for filling this position.

Newsletter: Sheila and Laura reported for the Newsletter Committee. Laura has agreed to take on this position along with the help of Amanda Heffner. Newsletters have been sporadically put out over the last few years and we would like to get back to a regular newsletter being put out. This is important to communicate with our membership and to stay viable and active. Please submit articles and committee reports to Laura.

2016 Annual Meeting: Jeff Nichols provided a report. Everything is set for the meeting tomorrow in Gothenburg. Registrations are currently at 125 people. Landowners were also encouraged to come for lunch and the afternoon session for a discounted fee. A total of 14 speakers are planned. The banquet social is scheduled to begin at 5:30 with the crazy auction scheduled from 6:00 to 7:00. Awards will be at approximately 7:30. Jim Griffin will be the banquet speaker. Approximately 65 people are expected to attend the banquet. Jeff has worked to get a grant from the Environmental Trust to help offset some of the costs of the meeting. Approximately 60 people are expected to attend the tour.

PayPal was used this year to take registrations. Overall this was very successful. The lunch meal after the tour was also sponsored.

Jim Roth is expected to attend tomorrow from the National Board of Directors.

New Business:

Anthony Perlinski is planning the 2017 meeting. Currently he is planning on having it in Chadron, but he is open to other ideas.

Meeting adjourned

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer