



Nebraska Section SRM Annual Business Meeting November 5, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Jack Arterburn called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, welcome to the 2020 Annual Meeting. Normally Lance Schutte would be conducting the meeting as acting president, however due to an important personal matter, Jack will be conducting the meeting.

Last year's minutes from the annual meeting can be sent out from Oct 23, 2019 in Clay Center. The council did receive those minutes. Kyle Schumacher moved to approve last year's minutes and was seconded by Walt Schacht. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The balances of the two checking accounts and four CDs as of November 4th, 2020 were as follows: \$9189.85 for the SRM account, \$8586.74 for the Range Judging account, \$7195.78 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2788.73 for the William Wester HSYF fund, \$6644.24 for the NE State Range Judging CD, and the \$9324.32 for the other Range Judging CD. A few key notes regarding insurance and main costs and incomes were also noted and discussed.

The treasurer's report will be presented at tomorrow's business meeting for approval. Three of the CDs did come due in July and August. Obviously it is not a good time for interest rates, they are very low, so the rates we received were very low unfortunately. No CDs now mature again until 2022.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jerry Volesky and seconded by Mitch Stephenson. Motion approved.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee:

Jack Arterburn will be conducting the meeting as previously mentioned. Thank you Jack for planning the meeting and filling in for Lance. A big thanks goes out to Walt Schacht and Liz Husmann who have played a huge role in putting the meeting together and moving it all virtually. Thank you for all attending virtually.

Hopefully next year will return to normal and can once again meet in person. We are set to have the business meeting this morning followed by awards, then presentations scheduled for this afternoon. 9:00 tomorrow morning will be the graduate presentations. There is a separate zoom link for later today and tomorrow.

Awards:

A report was offered by Mitch Stephenson. We will be presenting 2 awards this year, the Range Management Service Award and the Outstanding Young Professional Award. They will be presented after the business meeting and mailed out afterward to the award winners

Thank you to everyone who submits nominations. It is not an easy task to decide among many deserving individuals. Please continue to submit those individuals in the future.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop presented the committee report. The 2020 Envirothon contests were cancelled. In 2021, the regional competitions will be on-line. Test writers are being encouraged to incorporate photos and Jeopardy-type questions into the regional tests. At this time, we do not know if the state competition will be in-person or virtual.

Fundraising: Vacant position. If you have any desire to fill the positions or fundraising ideas please let the council know.

Historian: Jeff presented a report. The Nebraska Section SRM History has been updated and continues to be updated online.

Jeff will continue to submit articles to the Newsletter Editor as well as keep the website updated with historical information. He will also continue to gather information and gain reports from the student section for publication on the website. 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 and sent to the current Nebraska newspaper listing. Due to the cancellation of many of our activities this year, this was a minimal effort. News releases about the 2019 award recipients and the annual meeting were sent.

If there are any news releases to cover any Section activities, please let Nadine know. Nadine has resigned from this position and has recommended Laura Rubeck for Chair of the Information and Education Committee.

Investments: Walt Schacht presented a report.

Lance will be taking it over this position, but has not transferred yet. The balance in the account used to fund undergraduate scholarships is currently \$1563.93. Which is just barely more than what we need to fund two, \$750.00 scholarships. That bank account is funded by 2 CDs and its interest. CDs are earning very little this year so we are fortunate we receive \$1000.00 from an anonymous donor every year. We may need to further reduce our scholarship amounts unless members of the NE Section start donating money for scholarships. Which has been done in the past, so please keep this in mind, especially former recipients of the scholarship if possible. The other bank account has a balance of \$5258.47. That is to be used at the discretion of the council to support high school programs, though none of the money has been used recently for any activities.

We have not pursued other options for improving returns on investments besides CDs. If you have advice on other options please discuss this with Walt or Lance. Kyle Schumacher may look into other options. With interest rates so low this has been tough to use the interest income as in the past. We are also not conducting a crazy auction this year, which also donated 10% from the crazy auction to this scholarship fund.

Membership: Lance Schutte is the current committee chair. No report at this time

Nominations: Bob Browleit reported for the nominations committee. We had two great nominations for the open council position, Laura Rubeck and Kyle Schumacher. Please let Bob know of any future individuals who may be interested in future.

Producer Affairs: Sheila Luoma presented a report. The Grazing Tour set up for June 14-16, 2020 in the Sandhills was cancelled. They have been active with the 2020 Traveling Road Show discussing prescribed fire and woody encroachment featuring Dirac Twidwell.

Public Affairs: Vacant

Range Judging: Kristin Dickinson presented a report. There were no contests held in 2020 so they plan to use the 2020 sites in 2021 assuming they are able to hold contests next year. Some contest cards were given to teachers who wanted to hold contests at their schools. Kristin is looking for a replacement to take over. So if you are interested in the position please let her know. As the 2021 contest time approaches they will discuss how the contests will be conducted.

Range Research and Range Tour: Mitch Stephenson will be taking over these committees. If you have any thoughts about what this position should include please contact Mitch. He would like to keep people updated on what is happening at the University and get feedback from the members on things that we could be looking to do research on and moving forward.

Range Camp/HSYF: No report. Range Camp was cancelled for this year.

Newsletter Editor: Laura Rubeck has resigned from Newsletter Editor. She has recommended Emma Barnett. This is also a president appointed position.

Student Affairs:

HSYF: Last year the Nebraska representative was elected as President. The High School Youth Forum is cancelled until 2022. The Texas section has a lot of concerns and may have larger costs. So both last year's representative and the paper winner from South Dakota are planning on coming back in 2022.

CSC – President of CSC Range Club presented a brief report. The club revised the constitution to fit updated objectives; furthering education and service towards others and keeping our rangelands and agriculture healthy. They are trying to get more involvement from more of the student body, such as trying to bring in speakers and do more events to increase student activity.

UNL – President Asha Scheideler, Vice President Nick Sanders, Treasurer Lydia Rieger, and Secretary Kaitlyn Dozler.

Last February they competed at the National SRM Meeting in Denver, CO. Nicole Strand placed 6th in the URME completion. Kaitlyn Dozler placed 5th in Extemporaneous Speaking, and the Range Cup Team placed 3rd. Asha Scheideler, Nichole Strand, Kaitlyn Dozler, and Nick Sanders all competed in Plant ID competition as well.

For the virtual meeting coming up in Feb. they plan on competing in plant ID competitions and whatever else they are able to host based on what they are offering.

Due to no crazy auction UNL is having a clothing sale as a fundraiser.

Their Native Plant Sale is scheduled in April, where they sell native perennial plants as a fundraiser, as well as being a good way for members to interact and learn.

They also have a Facebook and Instagram links for those who want them:

Facebook: UNL Range Management Club

Instagram: unl_range_management_club

Scholarship: Two \$750.00 scholarships will be awarded. Scholarship applications are due Nov. 20th. Jess Milby did send out scholarship information to the Range Clubs.

Old Business:

Daryl Cisney would often recognize individuals whom we have lost in the past year and remind people of our important resources and contributions these individuals have made in the past. One of our long term very faithful members passed away, Jack Maddux (1932-2019). His obituary was shared by Jeff Nichols regarding his great contributions to the Nebraska Section, service to many entities, and devotion to agriculture issues and the state. He was the 1987 NE Section SRM Rangeman's Award, 1990 President of NE Section, 2001 W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award, and the Maddux Cattle company has been a ranch sponsor of the NE Range Youth Camp for many years.

New Business:

Steve Waller had some of the original historical documents for NE SRM. These are currently with Cheryl Dunn and she wants to know what we would like to do with these items. They are being sent to Jeff so that they can be electronically scanned and saved and the council can decide where to house these original records. Jeff keeps other historical records, so for now Jeff will keep these items. Discussion was had regarding where our records, both paper and digital copies, will be kept in the future as things are passed down to future individuals. Discussion on where the digitized version would also be stored was conducted as well. This could also be placed on the website as well. The Center for Grassland Studies would also be willing to create a page for it as well to make it available in a second location.

Committees and Committee Chair information needs to be updated on the website. Regarding election of officers, Article IV, Election of Officers within the by-laws needs to be amended. Bob Browleit presented these changes and how to amend these within the by-laws. Changes need to be sent out 15 days prior to meeting and before they can be voted upon.

The Outstanding Young Range Professionals Award addition to the by-laws was previously presented and voted on at a previous annual business meeting in Chadron. Therefore this can be called to a vote via Zoom. Ben Beckman moved to accept the amendment to the by-laws pertaining to the Outstanding Young Range Professionals Award and seconded by Jerry Volesky. Motion approved.

Changes to the Nominations Committee and Election of Officers, could be sent out via email and voted on. We have voted electronically in the past to update our by-laws. Mitch moved to accept the changes as written and seconded by Brad Schick. The council votes to approve the motion and email the proposed changes to the membership for voting.

Nadine Bishop, at the Oct 2019 meeting presented the PowerPoint created and available for new council members. This is a possible way for new council members to review their responsibilities and important information. It is available on the website for all.

Changes in by-laws membership dues will be tabled due to the absence of Lance Shutte.

Laura Rubeck has resigned from Newsletter Editor. Thank you for filling this position and doing a great job to produce the Section Newsletter. She has recommended Emma Barnett and has been working with her to pass on the position. Emma Barnett, will be contacted and appointed unless anyone else is interested.

Discussion regarding holding a joint Annual Section Meeting in the future was discussed. Mitch attended the Natural Legacy Conference. They have their meetings at a similar time of year. They are interested in talking about a joint meeting, so we may keep that connection open for possible future meetings. In the past we have had joint meetings. It does require more coordination and effort for the chair of the annual meeting. It may not be every year, but keep that discussion open for Brad next year and in the future.

Bob presented the nomination of the new council member. Laura Rubeck was elected as the new council member. It was a very close election.

There was a call for nominations from the floor from Mitch Stephenson for the position of President. None were presented.

Mitch motions for Jack Arterburn to become President of the NE Section SRM, Walt seconded this motion.

There was a call for nominations from the floor for President Elect Brad Schick. None were presented. Brad is elected for position of President Elect.

Kyle Schumacher is working with the Young Professionals Conclave at the parent level of SRM. They are looking for opportunities to work at the Section level to get YPC initiatives going to get section level involvement recruiting young professionals. At the parent level YPC is looking for ways to be more involved at the section level. If there are any ideas please pass it on to Kyle.

Mitch Stephenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kyle Schumacher. The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 MT.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen