



Nebraska Section SRM Council Meeting June 13th, 2022

Brad Schick called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm CST on June 13, 2022. This meeting was held remotely via Zoom. Brad Schick, Jeff Nichols, Lance Schutte, Ben Beckman, Kyle Schumacher, Emma Barnett, Laura Rubeck, Mitch Stephenson, Jack Arterburn, and Angie Petersen attended remotely.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed from the October 12th, 2022 council meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ben Beckman, seconded by Lance Schutte. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The report was submitted by Angie Petersen. balances of the accounts as of June 13th, 2022 were as follows: \$12,031.76 for the SRM checking account, \$8,839.70 for the NE State Range Judging checking account, \$7,217.68 for the Nebraska Section CD, \$2,918.99 for the William Wester HSYF fund, \$9,354.67 for the Range Judging CD and \$6,664.47 for the NE State Range Judging CD. The SRM Account looks high due to the fact that income from Range Camp has been deposited, but the largest bills have not been received or paid, so it will change drastically once those expenses are covered. The change in the range judging account is due to income from range judging contests, and then costs including insurance and scholarship payments. The balance was \$11,102.20 in January due to income from the Range Judging contests, but has dropped due to those expenses to sum up the changes for that account. The older Range Judging CD came due in February, interest rates are extremely low right now, so the current interest rate is very low, and will mature again in August, 2023. Other CDs will mature in July and then in November. Unless there is a decision passed by the board we have always simply rolled these over back into a CD as previously instructed. We call and try to get a higher interest rate, but those rates are really low right now. Insurance was paid for the year at a cost of \$1425.00 split between both Range Judging and the Section Account so those expenses are reflected in the totals above. All taxes were filed. The Biennial Report to the State of Nebraska was not due this year. If you have any questions, please let Angie know. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Ben Beckman, seconded by Kyle Schumacher. Treasurer's Report accepted.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting Committee:

Ben Beckman presented information about the annual meeting currently being scheduled for later this year. He is currently planning the annual meeting to be held in O'Neil and is working on getting preliminary scheduling done. He is also submitting a PIE grant to help with covering expenses for the meeting. Kyle has been helping with the planning as well. As more things are planned and finalized he will get more info out and passed on to the membership. Hotels in the area were

contacted, but they do not reserve blocks of rooms for events such as this, so that will not be available. The meeting is currently planned for Oct. 19th and 20th, 2022.

Awards: Jack Arterburn, no report or updates. He will post in the next newsletter a deadline for nominations. Since the venue is in O'Neil, he may reach out to local people from the area to get nominations that would be good candidates for the Rangeman's Award, and that may be able to attend the banquet. Kyle has some possible candidates in mind for nomination.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop, no report.

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

Historian: Jeff Nichols discussed the newsletter and how it supported the historians report and recorded SRM events throughout the year. As the newsletter was missing for a time the number of newsletters was altered. A big thank you to Laura and now Emma for working on bringing the newsletter back on track. He suggested that we could possibly schedule a newsletter for four times a year, with issues coming out in late Feb/early March, May, late August/early Sept., and November. These times corresponded to events taking place within the Section, and helped coordinate and advertise important events. Emma is willing to transition back to this schedule to help SRM recap and prequel all of the SRM events. Thank you to Laura and Emma for all their work on the newsletter.

Information and Education: Laura Rubeck presented a report. She has been involved with the Soil Water Conservation Society group, and they have been discussing potentially bringing our groups together for a joint meeting at some point. There are experts in both organizations and it would be a chance to meet people, network, and also have the meeting open to the public. It could possibly be a day-long technical meeting possibly the end of June or slightly later next summer. Laura will work on presenting the idea at the annual meeting this year to further discussion and planning of a possible event. The Section used to have summer tours in the past, and this would be a great chance to bring back a summer event and collaboration between different entities.

The Nebraska SWCS Tours and Annual Meeting is June 23-25th, 2022 in Norfolk, NE if anyone would like to attend.

Investments: Lance Schutte, no report. He is still working on getting together with Walt to get all information transferred. Kyle Schumacher mentioned the possibility of working to make better investment opportunities of our savings and CDs.

Membership: Lance Schutte reported. There were 99 members at this time last year, with 15 members that had lapsed. This year we are at 89 members, with 24 that have lapses. On the national level things are looking good, with membership up approximately 50 members from a year ago. Renewal notices continue to be sent out through July. The Good Grazing Makes Cent\$ project between the Society for Range Management and the Cattlemen's Association has been helping to promote both organizations.

Nominations: Bob Broweleit sent an update that we currently do not have a nomination for SRM council this year. Please send any ideas or possibilities for possible nominations.

Producer Affairs: No report. The NGLC tour is tomorrow.

Range Judging: Kristy King submitted a report, with an update from Ben Beckman. There are commitments and dates from all the Area Contest Hosts and the State Contest Host. This information is provided in time for the FFA calendar and also onto many school calendars for the following school year. Thanks to all the committee members who are helping with the planning of the area contests. The liaisons are helping to ensure consistency among area contests and to answer planning questions as they come along.

They are continuing to update the handbook as the need arises as well as updating the website <https://www.nesrm.org/RangeJudging.html> with the upcoming contest dates/locations and other resources for the contest hosts, Ag Ed instructors, and contest participants.

Nebraska was well represented at the National Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma this spring. Burwell, St. Paul, Ord, and Wheeler Central all took two teams and West Hold took one team.

They encourage committee members and SRM members to reach out to their local schools/FFA Chapters to offer assistance with preparing field sites and training opportunities, especially those schools just getting their Ag Education program or FFA Chapter started.

The Old West Regional contest was not done this year as there was no interest from participants.

Range Research Committee/Range Tour Committee: Mitch Stephenson presented reports. He would be happy to help out with any possible future summer tour plans. He will plan a more extensive presentation for the newsletter and the fall meeting regarding range research. There are many great studies taking place that could be presented.

Range Camp/HSYF: Shelly Kelly submitted a report. Thank you to Blair Hartman and Sara Wahl for all of their help organizing and running this event. They had a great week with 42 students in attendance. They do not have the final budget numbers, but with continued and new sponsorship the budget looks good. Thank you to Blair, Sara and all the other helpers, speakers and sponsors, it takes a village to pull camp off each year! Sara, Blair, and Shelly will continue to plan Range Camp for next year, but they are not able to take on High School Youth Forum. They have reached out to Mary and Lisa McMillan to see if they would help student attend the state and international SRM meetings. They will share contact information for the students.

Scholarships: No report

Student Affairs: Mary Reece submitted a report. Mary's role with HSYF is more at the parent Society rather than the Section level. There were 3 high school students that participated in the 2022 HSYF at the National Meeting: Chancey Hoblyn-Bittner as returning President, Sam McMillan and Rebecca Reece were new SRM delegates for the recent meeting in Albuquerque. Mary assisted the Section with getting the Forum costs reimbursed for Chancey as the HSYF President. Sam placed first and Rebecca placed second in Albuquerque, they represented our Nebraska Section very well. The Section had an anonymous donor donate \$1000.00 to help cover HSYF costs. Thank you very much to this annual donor! The Section supported financially Lisa McMillan as the adult who traveled with the students from Nebraska to New Mexico.

Next year's meeting is in Idaho. Sam McMillan will return to present his winning presentation to the Society and assist the HSYF President in conducting the Forum. The Nebraska Section can ask for reimbursement of Sam's costs following the meeting.

As a Co-Director of the High School Youth Forum Subcommittee this past year SRM Board of Directors required that the adults assisting with the Forum at the SRM Meeting level have the same training (Train Right – "Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Training Program") and the same type of background check. All adults working with the youth at the International meeting signed a

code of conduct. The Subcommittee of adults have always had background checks and training but this year we have all had the same course and same background check as directed by the Board of Directors. The training and background check last for 2 years before renewal is needed. The training cost was \$6.50 per person and the background check was \$5 per person. Mary is sharing this information because if the Section was interested she would approach SRM regarding Sections also getting the adults through the same training and the Section could reimburse Denver SRM. We can also discuss this in October – the training and background check does not require any significant time. Mary will be continuing to be a Co-Director in Idaho in 2023 of this worthwhile youth activity that started in 1965, even with Albuquerque being the first meeting coming out of the Pandemic we had 18 high school students in New Mexico which is 3 less than Denver in 2020. Mary is hopeful that Lisa McMillan will continue to assist Nebraska with the students in 2023 as well.

Old Business:

Nadine is writing up the structure, duties, and responsibilities for the Envirothon Committee to be added to our by-laws and constitution, but it has not yet been shared or submitted.

We are excited to have in-person meeting again this year!

New Business:

The 2022 Great Plains Fire Summit/Patch Burn Grazing Conference is being held on August 23rd-25th, 2022, in North Platte, NE. We discussed sponsorship of this event as well as having a booth at this event. The SRM booth needs to be located and possibly updated before the event. We also discussed our budget and expectations of sponsoring such events.

Jack Arterburn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lance Schutte. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm CST.

Respectively submitted,

Angie Petersen