

International Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Albuquerque Convention Center, Sandia room, 1:00-5:00PM

Participants: Humberto L. Perotto-Baldivieso, Bulgamaa Densambru, Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Jim O'Rourke, Joe Wagner, Jim Lingbaugh, Tim Fulbright, Wade Anderson, Lou Hagener, Ben Wu, Layne Coppock, Bruce Fox, Andrés Cibils, Kishor, Bhattarai, Cindy Selensky, Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Andrea Jamie Wages, Vanessa Prileson, Poncho Ortega, Barry Perryman, Dale Waisbrot.

Review and approve minutes from the 2008 IAC meeting in Louisville, KY. (A. Cibils): Minutes were approved unanimously by the committee.

Report from the SRM Board of Directors (Bruce Fox): The committee website has been redesigned. The committee page has new capabilities. It has become more visible so it can recruit more people in the committees. Because Leslie Stewart-Phelps does most of the work on the website it was requested that she gets admin privileges to make the changes in the webpage. Ann Tanaka and Leslie Stewart-Phelps work really closely on the website. Committee handbook has been created many years ago and there is a need to follow up to obtain a copy of the handbook. (see also attached report to BOD)

Update from the Mongolian Society for Range Management (Mongolian colleagues – Maria Fernandez Gimenez): Research is focusing on pasture degradation. Some of the current legal issues are dealing with land tenure. There is a need to develop integrate methodologies at the National level. Traditionally herders were nomads and lived near urban areas and water sources, however, nowadays they are moving into urban environments. SRM has offered to help develop policies, which is an interesting area for SRM. An international issue that is interesting to be considered as a topic for a future symposium is policy development (Andres Cibils). The discussion also focused on the role of SRM to help establish international contacts for management. About 10 years ago countries were creating sections of SRM, now they should probably create their own organizations.

Plans to establish a Bolivian chapter of the SRM (Humberto Perotto): The first step to make a successful SRM chapter/section of SRM would be to have enough people to understand how the organization works in the US and abroad. It would be very nice to have people coming from Bolivia to attend. The committee agreed that national organizations should be encouraged. For example SRM has a liaison in Argentina and Mongolia has MSRM. Unfortunately, the political and social changes occurring in Bolivia made this initiative a low priority, since most organizations are trying to get reorganized to meet the new demands from the current government for the next 5 years.

2009 IAC Symposium (Poncho Ortega – A. Cibils): Poncho Ortega and Herman García prepared a symposium for Thursday afternoon.

Publication of proceedings from prior symposia (Ben Wu, A. Cibils, Humberto Perotto): Ben Wu indicated that there would be about 7 papers in a special feature of SRM. Andres Cibils indicated that his manuscripts would be published as individual rangelands articles. Humberto Perotto reported that 4 papers were ready for submission the REM and still needed 2 more papers to submit a proposal for a special feature to REM. It was discussed during the meeting that there should be links to have the symposium papers freely available. Past proceedings are publicly available and could be included in the IAC website. For articles, the link could be done to the paper abstract.

2010 IAC Symposia (Maria Fernandez Gimenez): Maria contacted several organizations to get help for the 2010 symposium. There might be some funds to bring participants from China and get some support for other organizations. The 2 symposiums being organized are: "Pastoralists and property rights" and "The emergence and performance of community-based conservation in rangelands". As part of this topic it was also discussed about the opportunities for 2011 symposium. Some interesting topics could be related to Rangeland issues not dealing with grazing and Canada and US common topics for 2011.

2009 International Travel Fellowship (ITF) – (Poncho Ortega): 15-16 applications were submitted ITF was awarded to Pedro Jurado (Chihuahua, Mexico)

Room-sharing volunteer drive (A. Cibils): The room sharing worked quite well. There were more volunteers than requests. The drive worked quite well.

2009 ITF Raffle update and discussion of how proceeds will be used (Joe Wagner): The proposal was to use the money raffle to buy subscriptions to REM for Agricultural Universities.

International Membership Subsidy – update and award guidelines discussion (Maria Fernandez Gimenez, Ben Wu, Humberto Perotto, A. Cibils): Maria provided with an update of the funds available (\$1470) the question was how to use those funds. It was proposed to provide partial help for subscriptions in developing countries. The BOD suggested that memberships should be the best use for this money. Guidelines should be developed to allocate international membership funds.

International Member Survey (Jim Thorpe – SRM Membership Task Force): One of the main points discussed in this topic was the possible inclusion of international members of BOD.

2011 IRC in Rosario, Argentina (Jim O'Rourke or A. Cibils): China was extremely successful. The fundraising for Argentina has started. The organizing committee is getting together and they are very well organized. The link to the website is: <http://www.irc2011.com.ar>. Some suggestions given by the IAC committee members were to include a link to the SRM website and add details to the organization of oral sessions, posters, and discussions.

IAC website update (Leslie Stewart-Phelps S.): The committee website has been redesigned. The committee page has new capabilities. It has become more visible so it can recruit more people in the committees. Because Leslie Stewart-Phelps does most of the work on the website it was requested that she gets admin privileges to make the changes in the webpage. Ann Tanaka and Leslie Stewart-Phelps work really closely on the website.

I& E proposal regarding IAC's website (Cindy Selensky – I&E Committee): One idea would be to add the Rangelands map of the world with information in different languages.

Input and discussion on IAC's Strategic Plan (Humberto Perotto): Feedback has been received by IAC committee members and a new draft of the strategic plan will be discussed in next year's IAC meeting.

Election of 2011 IAC co-chair (Humberto Perotto): Joe Wagner has been proposed as 2011 Co-chair.