

Minutes
International Affairs Committee
February 6, 2011 Meeting
Billings, Montana

Joe Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. Joe is filling in for Herman Garcia this year. A list of attendees is attached. Stephanie Larson is our board representative.

2010 Minutes – Layne Coppock moved and Andres Cibils seconded that the minutes be accepted.

International Travel Fellowship – Joe covered the process followed this year. The advertisement for the fellowship went out before Thanksgiving, and a decision was made by December 15. A \$1000 fellowship from the IAC was awarded to Pedro Angel Calderon-Dominguez from the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua. Another \$1000 from the Billings committee was not used this year. Cindy Hogemark will suggest to the Spokane committee that they offer another \$1000 for next year. We will need more fellowship money for the Mongolia Symposium in 2012.

2011 IRC Display in Argentina – Andres reported that the SRM display will go to Argentina. Shipping is very costly, so the panels will be split apart and taken to Argentina by members of the IAC who are attending. We discussed whether Argentina should be a section of SRM or form their own organization. We decided to maintain a close working relationship but encourage them to form their own organization. That would be better for the country in the long term. In addition, the Rangelands of the World map is under development, and there will be a display in Rosario. We decided to send any handouts to Maximiliano and have him print them there for us.

2012 Symposium – Mongolia Support – We plan to have an 8-hour program on rangelands and grazing management in Mongolia. Jim O'Rourke talked about the fact that the range there is state owned but the livestock is privately owned. The country is moving from a Communist philosophy to a market economy. The traditional knowledge of the Mongolian nomads regarding how to use the pastureland sustainably was lost in the socialist era and has been gone now for generations. City people are moving back to the country without this knowledge, leading to degradation and overgrazing. The biggest need that range managers have is the financial resources to do what is needed. The Mongolian Society for Range Management (MSRM) is being set up to act as broker and to come up with a business plan. MSRM has also proposed a Parliamentary measure that would allow community-based land management. Jack Alexander proposed coming up with an MOU with MSRM. Jim O'Rourke, Urs Krueter, Andres Cibils, a representative from the Billings committee, and a representative from the Spokane committee will work on this MOU.

There may be 8 speakers total at the Mongolia Symposium. We know of funding for two of them (funding from the Swiss for one Green Gold representative and funding for one speaker from the Millennium Project). The IAC has one or more fellowships, but these are competitive awards (possibly the unused \$1000 from the Billings planning committee plus a possible \$1000 from the Spokane planning committee). We also have about \$400 from the silent auction and \$3000 from Dow Chemical. With any Dow funding, we need to produce a publication under their name, and not all \$3000 can go to travel. Using the room share program and comp registration might help. Jim will work on other funding. At the MSRM conference in Mongolia in October, the speakers will be giving these same talks and may generate more funding.

Some of the topics that may be covered in the Mongolia Symposium include community-based rangeland management, strategy for a rangeland health monitoring and assessment program, a legal and regulatory framework for rangeland management, and pasture use and socio-economic issues of herders in this period of transition. There are expected to be several posters, and there may be slide shows and videos as well as cultural events such as throat singing.

The Dow funding was further discussed. Apparently, Dow gives \$3000 to the IAC for the symposium and resulting publications. In addition, it may also provide an un-earmarked \$2000 to the IAC. Dow also provides funding to the annual meeting planning committee for bags and other costs. Stephanie will find out if the IAC will receive the \$3000 or a total of \$5000 and whether it is all earmarked. Urs will contact Dow for a possible \$3000 to \$5000 for next year. Stephanie will also ask about complimentary registrations and will talk to Jenny Pluhar about all the Dow funding.

Symposium Publication 2007 – Andres reported that the February issue of *Rangelands* will include the information from the 2007 Argentina Symposium. Another article will appear in a British journal in March.

International Membership Donation Application Forms – These donations of \$25 pay for annual membership for developing countries, non G-7 people. Last year, the amount available was \$1070. We need to determine a way to encourage the recipients to stay members. Stephanie will check to determine how much is currently in the fund and how much has been used. We expect that some was used for memberships for representatives from Mexico. We think the process is for the Denver office to allocate memberships. However, some of us believe that the IAC has a draft of how to allocate memberships. Andres, Joe, and Jim will search for this draft document.

IAC Website – Leslie Stewart-Phelps reported on information that is needed: IAC Handbook (Layne, Stephanie, and Andres will see if it can be found). We also need the minutes from 2010 and 2009, a list of people contributing to international memberships in 2010, the amount of money collected for international memberships since inception, the names and organizations of awardees of the fellowships for 2009, 2010, and 2011 (Pedro Jurado for 2009 and Pedro Calderon-Dominguez for 2011), links to publications resulting from any symposia (Andres to get links), and publications of interest to international audiences (Jim O'Rourke for British Grassland terminology) In addition, all links need to be updated, sister rangeland societies and government agencies need to be added (Layne for Ethiopia, Ricardo Mata Gonzalez for Mexico, and Jim for Chinese Grassland Society, Mongolia, and India), photos from rangelands around the world need to be added, membership lists need to be updated, and presentations from the 2010 symposium need to be added. The Rangelands of the World map would be an excellent addition to the website (Cindy).

Chairperson 2012 and 2013 – Joe Wagner will be chair for 2011, culminating in the Spokane meeting in 2012 with Leslie Stewart-Phelps as co-chair. Leslie will be chair for 2012, culminating in the Oklahoma City meeting in 2013. Co-chair for 2012 and chair/co-chairs for 2013 (Orlando 2014) and 2015 are not yet known. Layne Coppock and Ricardo Mata Gonzalez expressed interest.

Other Business – Joe will send in a room request form for the Spokane Meeting.

Respectively submitted,

Leslie Stewart-Phelps