

Committee Report – Spokane 2012

Committee Name: International Affairs Committee

Committee Co-Chairs: Joe Wagner (2011) and Leslie Stewart-Phelps (2012)

Committee Members:

Joe Wagner
Leslie Stewart-Phelps
Wade Anderson
Andres Cibils
Layne Coppock
Maria Fernandez-Gimenez
Urs Kreuter
Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez
Christian Moreno
Jim O'Rourke
John Taylor
Tom Thurow

BOD Representative: Stephanie Larson-Pralan

Progress Report, 2011:

1.

At this Spokane SRM meeting, the IAC is sponsoring a one-day symposium, the Mongolian Symposium, to be held all day Thursday. It includes 12 speakers from Mongolia giving 10 presentations. In addition, 6 posters are being presented ~~presenters from Mongolia are giving poster presentations.~~ In total, 25 24 guests came from Mongolia to make presentations, attend the sessions, and learn about how SRM functions. They will be taking their knowledge back to Mongolia to help them in the formation of the Mongolian Society for Range Management. Sponsorship funds came from Peabody Energy, Utah State University, Dow Chemical, SRM, and others.
2. The IAC sponsored the SRM booth at the International Rangeland Congress (IRC) in Rosario, Argentina in 2011.
3. The next IRC is scheduled for India in 2015. The IAC has interest and concern about the progress of IRC and is assisting the IRC by doing the following:
 - a. Encouraging the SRM board of directors to continue to have a leadership role in rangeland management around the world and supporting the IRC to forward this goal.
 - b. Suggesting methods or personnel to manage the registration and paper-submission processes.
 - c. Suggesting that India have a presence at SRM conferences in the next few years by having a booth and/or organizing a symposium.
4. The IAC provided two International Travel Fellowships (ITFs), each for \$1000, to Dr. David Berman from Australia and to Batbaatar Amgaa from Mongolia. The funding for these ITFs came from the Spokane planning committee.
5. A subcommittee of the IAC has been formed to develop a process to determine recipients of the International Membership Donations Fund. (See item 5 under "Funding" and item 1

under “Policy”). In addition, the subcommittee will determine the criteria for awarding these memberships with the goal of making the process very simple.

6. A subcommittee of the IAC has been formed to update the committee handbook and the committee strategic plan.
7. Jim O’Rourke will work on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mongolian Society for Range Management if the board of directors still desires one. (See item 2 under “Policy”).

Action Items for BOD Consideration:

Funding Requested:

1. \$1000 from the board of directors for an ITF to be presented at the 2013 meeting in Oklahoma City.
2. \$1000 from the Oklahoma City planning committee for an ITF to be presented at the 2013 meeting in Oklahoma City. (This has been agreed to per Karen Hickman.)
3. \$1000 (requested in 2011 from the board of directors but not utilized this year) for ITF to be presented at the 2013 meeting in Oklahoma City.
4. \$425 from the silent auction of Mongolian items that occurred at the Albuquerque meeting in 2009.
5. Unknown amount of funds from the International Membership Donations fund. The most recent amount we know of was \$1070 as of 2010. (See item 1 under “Policy”).
6. Dow is expected to provide \$3000 in 2012 for a symposium. However, we have decided not to hold a symposium every other year but a minimum of every other year. Therefore, there will probably not be a symposium at the 2013 meeting in Oklahoma City. We request that this \$3000 from Dow in 2012 be held over to 2014 to be used for the symposium in Orlando.

Policy:

1. We are asking the board of directors to develop a method to do the following:
 - a. Track on an annual basis the receipts from the International Membership Donations Fund.
 - b. Notify the IAC chair annually as to the total amount currently available.

These funds may or may not be utilized in any particular year. These funds are to be used for memberships for people from developing countries at the reduced rates of \$25 per year. The IAC is developing a process to determine recipients of these funds. (See item 5 under “Progress Reports”).

2. We are asking the board of directors to determine if a Memorandum of Understanding is required between SRM and the Mongolian Society for Range Management. (See item 7 under “Progress Reports”).

