

Minutes
International Affairs Committee
January 29, 2012
Spokane, Washington

Joe Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. A list of attendees is attached. Stephanie Larson-Pralan is our board representative.

2011 Minutes – Andres Cibils moved and Maria Fernandez-Gimenez seconded that the minutes be accepted.

International Travel Fellowship (ITF) – Joe Wagner reported that we received \$2000 from the Spokane Planning Committee to cover the costs of two ITFs, each for \$1000. They were awarded to Batbaatar Amgaa from Mongolia and Dr. David Berman from Australia. Stephanie Larson says that Karen Hickman has agreed to put \$1000 in the Oklahoma City Planning Committee budget for next year.

We also discussed the need to review the ITF criteria. For example, past recipients should not get another award. In addition, there should be close coordination between symposium organizers and ITFs awarders so that presenters do not double dip. We need to know if complimentary registrations can be added from the annual meeting planning committee. Furthermore, we need to know if we are accomplishing our goal with the ITFs, which is to increase international membership. It would help if we could compile a history of who has received ITFs to help determine the future of the fellowships. John Taylor mentioned that in Australia, award recipients are required to write an article for the newsletter within a few months of the meeting. A subcommittee was formed to review the ITF criteria. It consists of Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Urs Kreuter, and Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez.

2011 International Rangeland Congress (IRC) – The SRM display was sent to Argentina in April and was shown in a booth with SRM materials. Jim O'Rourke reported that there were three excellent pre-Congress tours. He said that the funding for the IRC has been problematic. They received \$200,000 from the US, but the \$50,000 expected from the World Bank was not forthcoming. The Argentina committee is pursuing that funding either with the World Bank or with INTA.

The next IRC is expected to be in India in 2015. It would be a joined meeting with the Grasslands Congress. The two groups would meet at the same time and same venue but have different conferences. The proposal is to meet in New Delhi, but having rangeland tours from there would be difficult. There is some concern that the organizers in India do not understand rangelands as well as grasslands. In addition, there has been no word from India about fundraising for the IRC. We discussed whether there should be a symposium or booth for the India IRC at the SRM meeting in 2013.

The IRC is dealing with two additional issues. The first is determining what to do with the Secretariat position that had been held by Gordon King. The feeling is that this position should be held in the U.S. because much of the funding for the IRC is from U.S. agencies. This position is key to handling the day-to-day affairs of the IRC, such as registrations and submission of papers. It is not a compensated position, so it may require finding an institution that can subsidize someone who is already employed.

The second issue is the IRC bank account. It had been held by SRM until just before the Argentina Congress. (Recent update from Jim O'Rourke: It is still held there pending a response from the BOD as to further cooperation between the IRC and SRM.) Then the IRC received a bill for \$17,000 from SRM to manage the account. A letter from the co-chairs of IRC to SRM regarding this bill has not received an official response. Stephanie will follow up with the board regarding the process for handling the funds for IRC.

Tom Thurow said that the International Affairs Committee should be sending a strong recommendation to the SRM board that SRM should have a leadership responsibility around the world because we have the rangeland expertise. If SRM cannot fulfill that role, there would be a cost. We are the heart of the profession, and if we drop the ball, no one else can pick it up. In regards to this, we discussed the IAC strategic plan, and Maria suggested that it should tie directly to the SRM strategic plan.

We agreed on the statement. "This committee has interest and concern about progress of the IRC. We encourage Doug Johnson to work with the Continuing Committee of the IRC to discuss with India their action taken in response to the demand by the Continuing Committee to change the program and the venue of the India proposal for holding the IRC in India."

2012 Mongolia Symposium – We have a full-day symposium on Thursday, a tradeshow booth with yak products, and posters. Thirteen attendees from Mongolia will be giving 12 presentations, and six posters are being presented. All 24 guests from Mongolia will be learning about SRM and how agencies work with SRM. Sponsorships were provided by Vern Pfannenstiel from Peabody Energy, Reed Funk from Utah State University, Dow Chemical, and SRM.

MOU with the Mongolian Society for Range Management (MSRM) – Jack Alexander has requested a formal cooperation agreement between SRM and MSRM. Samples have been sent to him, and we are awaiting word on the next steps needed.

IAC Handbook – We have a draft of the handbook from 2001. Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Wade Anderson, and Andres Cibils have formed a subcommittee to submit it to the IAC, receive comments, and provide a new version for approval at the 2013 meeting.

Strategic Plan – We have a plan in draft form. We have accomplished many elements of that plan. Andres Cibils will submit it to the IAC, receive comments, and provide a new version for approval at the 2013 meeting.

Historian – Given the recent difficulty the committee has had finding the handbook and the strategic plan, we decided that we need an historian. Andres Cibils has graciously agreed to be the repository of historical IAC material.

International Membership Donation Funds – These donations subsidize annual membership for developing countries, non G-7 people, so they need to pay only \$25 for membership. We need clarification about how much money is in the fund and who controls it – SRM, Allen Press, or the IAC. We also need to design simpler guidelines to ensure that people who need the subsidy receive it. A

subcommittee was formed consisting of Joe Wagner, Andres Cibils, Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, and Leslie Stewart-Phelps. To start the process, Leslie will talk to Allen Press.

Rangeland of the World Map – Lovina Rosell gave an update of the Global Rangeland Online Knowledge System. This website is directed toward the public. It starts at the continent level, goes to the biome level, and gets eventually to ecosystem descriptions. It is a work in progress. A full presentation will be made at next year's IAC meeting.

IAC Website – Leslie Stewart-Phelps reported that little work occurred on the website this year but expects great progress in 2012,

Summary of 2013 Agenda Items Resulting from the 2012 Meeting –

Subcommittee Report – International Membership Donation Funds

Subcommittee Report – Strategic Plan

Subcommittee Report – Handbook International Rangeland Congress

Rangeland of the World Map

IAC Website

Chairpersons 2012 - 2015 – Leslie Stewart-Phelps will be chair for 2012, culminating in the Oklahoma City meeting in 2013, with co-chair Wade Anderson.

Wade will be chair for 2013, culminating in the Orlando meeting in 2014, with Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez as co-chair.

Ricardo will be chair for 2014, culminating in the Sacramento meeting in 2015. Co-chair is not yet known.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Leslie Stewart-Phelps

Attendees

Barry Adams	Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Wade Anderson	Ranger/Land manager
Andres Cibils	New Mexico State University
Michelle Clark	UNR – Student
Maria Fernandez-Gimenez	Colorado State University
Lou Hagener	Retired
Urs Kreuter	Texas A&M University
Stephanie Larson-Pralan	University of California Coop-Ext. & BOD representative
Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez	Oregon State University
Cristian Moreno	University of Bonn, Germany
Jim O'Rourke	Rancher
Vern Pfannenstiel	Peabody Energy
David Phelps	Queensland, Australia, Government
Leslie Stewart-Phelps	U.S. Forest Service
John Taylor	Rangelands Australia and Australia Rangelands Society
Tom Thurow	University of Wyoming
Joe Wagner	BLM-Retired

Guests from Mongolia

B. Altantsetseg	MCA – Mongolia
Altantsetseg	LLC – Mongolia
B. Batbuyan	CNPS – Mongolia
D. Bolormaa	Mongolian SRM
J. Daraabaatar	Land Agency – Mongolia
K. Dyunbileg	Hustai National Park
P. Gankhuyag	Director of Animal Husbandry, Mongolia Ministry of Food Agriculture and Light Industry
Suche Tsereu	Mongolian SRM
S. Sumjidmaa	National University of Mongolia
D. Tumenjargal	Mongolian State University of Agriculture