

Minutes
International Affairs Committee
February 3, 2013
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Leslie Stewart-Phelps called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. A list of attendees is attached. Stephanie Larson is our current board representative with Leonard Jolley taking over after this week.

Attendees:

Leslie Stewart-Phelps
Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez
Wade Anderson
Chis Bernau
Andres Cibils
Layne Coppock
Maria Fernandez-Gimenez
Lou Hagener
Leonard Jolley
Stephanie Larson
Stephanie Lopez
Jim O'Rourke
Mohamed Sawalbah
John A. Taylor

International Travel Fellowship: Leslie reported that that \$1,000 ITF award was given to Veronica Vazquez Garcia from the Colegio de Postgraduados, Texcoco, Mexico.

Funding: Leslie explained that, according to the SRM board, the budget for the IAC will be \$4,000 for the year 2013-2014. This amount should be used for organizing the symposium and providing International Travel Fellowships in Orlando in 2014. The board stressed that the IAC should not look for extra funding with Dow AgroSciences as we have done in the past. The advantages and disadvantages of this new approach were discussed. Jim O'Rourke and Andres Cibils expressed the historical relation of the IAC with Dow, which should not be seen as meddling with SRM businesses. Andres mentioned that the IAC should express the history of cooperation of Dow with the IAC in the committee's report to the board and explain that the inability of searching for funds with Dow hurts our committee more than it might hurt other committees. The consensus was that as long as the board continues to provide \$4,000 annually, the IAC should also comply by not looking for funds with Dow. However, the IAC is open the possibility of looking for other external sources of funding.

2013 Symposium and Rangelands Special Issue: Layne Coppock talked about the 2013 IAC symposium. For this symposium \$4,000 were received from the SRM board as well as \$425 from the selling of Mongolian items at the silent auction. In addition, \$2,000 were provided also from the SRM board (originally from the organizing committee) to cover honoraria of some presenters. Including the \$1,000 used for the ITF, a total of \$7,425 will be used for the 2013

symposium. The committee expressed thanks to the SRM board and the organizing committee for their support of IAC this year. Layne estimates that, with the SRM funding, he has leveraged about \$10,300 in support for registration and travel for non-SRM members.

The symposium is seen as unique in SRM history for the treatment of gender issues. Representation from multiple countries and Native American people is expected. Layne Coppock mentioned the difficulty of obtaining statistics on women members of SRM. The symposium proceedings are to be published in a special number of *Rangelands*. Layne has been working with USAID, which may provide \$12,300 to have limited open-access to the papers of the special issue. The plan is to submit the manuscripts for this issue in September 2013 and to have them published in December 2013. Layne also mentioned that he is planning to record the presentations during the symposium and to post them in the Agrolink web page of Utah State University.

Handbook and Strategic Plan: Leslie talked about the need to have a formalized handbook for the IAC which could be modeled after some other committee handbook. Leonard Jolley was asked about another handbook to use as model. In addition, Andres Cibils has collected older versions of the IAC strategic plan. Leslie will continue to work on the Handbook, and Andres will work on the Strategic Plan. They would agree with the SRM Strategic Plan. These should be finalized in part to better substantiate and justify funding for the committee to SRM.

Historical Collection and Archive: Jim O'Rourke will be in charge of the historical collection of documents related to the IAC. He has a number of hardcopy documents that will be scanned and digitized for better preservation and to possibly have them available in the IAC webpage. Persons with historic links to the IAC, such as Doug Johnson and Jim Tiedemann from Oregon State University, will be contacted by Ricardo to ask if they can provide some historical IAC documents. Jim is missing most of the International Rangeland News issues from 1988 to 1998. He is also missing many of the IAC proceedings. If members have any of these that Jim could borrow, please notify him.

Layne Coppock suggested the possibility of reviving the International Rangeland News. *Rangelands* have a large profile in the international arena and it should be attractive to many people. If we decide to pursue this, it would be appropriate to join the SRM Outreach committee to better coordinate this effort.

IAC Webpage: Leslie discussed the IAC webpage. Some needs are: 1) Photos from rangelands of the world; we need more of them; 2) links to sister societies in the world and agencies in other countries. Leslie requested documents or publications that have resulted from previous IAC symposia. Andres Cibils and Maria Fernandez-Gimenez will provide some documents to Leslie. Ricardo will ask Poncho Ortega for the 2005 document.

International Membership Donation Funds: Leslie discussed the need for getting information from the board regarding the international membership donation funds. We need the balance in the fund and the list of members who have donated.

MOU with Mongolia SRM: Jim O'Rourke provided information on the potential MOU between SRM and the Mongolia SRM. However, at this point an MOU seems irrelevant because the Mongolia SRM is struggling.

International Range Congress in India: Jim also provided information on the 2015 IRC in India. It seems that the organizers from India are behind schedule and some doubts are arising as to the feasibility of the IRC taking place at the planned time and in the planned place. However, at this point, it is still expected that India would organize the IRC in 2015.

2014 IAC Symposium: Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez discussed the need to continue having an annual symposium organized by the IAC because it provides visibility and it is a real strength to our committee. The topic ideas for the 2014 symposium were: 1) tropical and subtropical rangelands and 2) water and drought issues around the world. Both topics were discussed, and the consensus was to select the former topic. The symposium will be on the ecology, management, and social issues of tropical and subtropical rangelands from around the world. The objective is to link this symposium to the unique conditions of Florida, where the next SRM meeting will take place. In addition, we will try to have one or more speakers from India to also provide a link to the upcoming International Rangeland Congress in 2015. An organizer for this symposium was not named, and Ricardo is open to suggestions. Stephanie Larson suggested that the topic of water issues, although very important, could be better represented in the 2015 annual meeting, which will take in California. Stephanie has agreed to organize that symposium.

Global Rangeland Online Knowledge System: Chris Bernau from the University of Arizona gave an update on the Global Rangeland initiative and the global rangelands map. Chris requested help from vegetation experts from some areas of the world where there is still lack of verifiable information. Some members of the committee might contact Chris with information about potential collaborators. Especially needed is information about Africa, Eastern Asia, Mongolia, and the Himalayan region. His email is cbernau@cals.arizona.edu. We discussed the International Terms document produced by the IRC/IGC. Jim O'Rourke will send information about it to the IAC members.

Room Share Award and Registration Award: Leslie discussed the feasibility of reinstating the Room Share Award, which allows SRM members to volunteer to share their rooms with conference participants travelling from other countries in order to encourage international memberships and participation in the conference. The IAC will revive the program, possibly under a new name and with the help of the Outreach and Communication Committee. However, the Registration Award Program will be discontinued.

Extra Set of JRM/REM and Rangelands: Jim O'Rourke has an almost-full set of these documents from their inception. Even though these documents are now available on-line, he feels that hard-copy versions would be useful for a rangeland program in a non-G7 country. If anyone knows of a possible recipient, please let Jim know.

Requests from the BOD: The committee discussed several requests SRM board. One was for input on how to better plan the committee meetings. This issue arose because a large room might not always be necessary and it is an unnecessary expense to SRM. IAC members agreed that the

organizing committee should ask what size room is needed and accommodate committees' requirements to save costs.

The board also asked about how to make the Action Update Calls more useful. IAC members feel that there should be an agenda produced ahead of time with a possible round-robin at the end of the call.

The board was also interested in hearing how the committee structure could be changed to make it more effective. IAC members feel that the voluntary membership that we use is open and inclusive and should continue for our committee. We also feel that our co-chair practice works well as long as co-chairs continue to be selected by our members. One concern expressed is the lack of new, younger members and the possible loss of institutional memory. We also feel a need for the SRM BOD to pay more attention to a permanent archive.

Chairs for 2013 and 2014: Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez will be the Chair of the IAC during the 2013-2024 period, culminating in 2014 with the SRM Orlando meeting. The co-chair will be Layne Coppock, who will become the IAC Chair during the 2014-2015 period.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.