

Minutes

SRM International Affairs Committee Meeting

Held February 01, 2015, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Carmel Room, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sacramento, California

1. The agenda for this meeting follows the minutes. The minutes follow the topical order in the agenda.
2. The meeting was called to order by the IAC Chair, Layne Coppock, at 1:00 PM. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.
3. People in attendance included: Layne Coppock, Alan Iwaassa, Paul Jefferson, Jim O'Rourke, Bayarbaatar Luusan, Sam Tulganyam, Altanzul Tserlee, Batkhishig Baival, John Taylor, Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez, Edmundo Garcia Moya, Urs Kreuter, Jay Angerer, Humberto Perotto, Doug Johnson, Joe Wagner, Jim Linebaugh, Val Anderson, Leonard Jolley, Xiao Gang Zhang, Martin do Carmo, and Maria Fernandez-Gimenez.
4. Layne reported on general progress for 2014-5. This included a major update of the IAC webpage—with assistance from Jim O'Rourke and Mohammed Salwalhah—creation of the IAC facebook page, funding and selection of an International Travel Fellow (ITF) for 2015 (Mr. Martin do Carmo), and a reinvigoration of the subsidy program for international scholars, with an expanded focus on membership support as well as support for attendance at SRM meetings.
5. Urs and Alan reported on the 2015 SRM symposium to be held on Tuesday morning with the theme "Rangelands and Energy Development." A slate of eight invited speakers are bookended by Urs and Alan introducing and wrapping up the session, respectively. Alan raised \$3,000 from two Canadian energy consulting firms to provide support for the speakers, while the sum was matched by the Sacramento Organizing Committee.
6. Leonard updated us on matters pertaining to the IAC and the SRM Board of Directors (BOD). The main points were that: (a) the BOD passed the proposal for the IAC to distribute donated funds for international scholars in the form of SRM membership support as well as support to attend SRM meetings (see above); and (b) the BOD is pursuing a plan to upgrade the entire platform for the SRM website—it needs to be more interactive to meet the needs of SRM. SRM will be searching for a vendor to do the upgrade. The fact that the IAC has upgraded it's webpage in the past year has been viewed favorably by the BOD.

7. Val commented that the SRM leadership is looking for more “range success stories” that are concise and that can be circulated via social media or the new stewardship outlet. International examples are especially eye catching and are different from the typical material from US rangelands. So the IAC should respond to this need.
8. Jim reported on progress associated with the parent organization for the International Rangelands Congress (IRC). Jim serves as an unelected member of the IRC secretariat. The IRC now has status as a non-profit organization which means it can process federal and other funds without needing to have a financial interface with another organization like SRM. The IRC website has also been redone, and a new logo has been created. Much work has gone into updating the IRC mailing list; the last version was a list of 3,000 used for the Argentina IRC, but this has been revised to a list of 10,000 clean addresses that has been used to send out recent IRC announcements by the 2016 IRC Organizing Committee. Efforts have also been made to raise funds for the IRC. There is interest in obtaining bids for the next IRC a bit further in advance so the bids can be properly assessed by the IRC Continuing Committee.
9. Paul and Alan gave an overview of the 2016 IRC to be held in Saskatoon, Canada, in July. Paul described the regional environments, venues, facilities, tours, organizers, etc. Alan reviewed the paper submission process and how people can be considered for invited-speaker slots. It was also mentioned that the meeting will strive to be producer-friendly. Paul and Alan emphasized that those seeking more information can obtain details and brochures from the IRC 2016 booth this week at the SRM meeting. The IRC also has a new website.
10. Doug reported on the Reed Funk Account at Utah State University. Funk was a turf grass breeder who became wealthy. He established a fund to support young range professionals and students from Mongolia and Uzbekistan to attend professional meetings. The upcoming meetings at Corpus Christi and Saskatoon may be opportunities for people to seek support. The Reed Funk Account is not openly advertised. Candidates are cultivated via word-of-mouth. Those who have comments or questions should contact Doug. Funds can be made available in a fairly short period of time. Leveraging Reed Funk funds is preferred for applicants.
11. Under “Any Other Business,” Batkhisig Baival described an international conference to held June 8-9 in Ulaanbaater, Mongolia. It is entitled, *“Building Resilience of Mongolian Rangelands: a Transdisciplinary Conference.”* It will have a large focus on knowledge sharing among young Mongolian scientists and students. It is also seen as a stepping stone to building a Mongolian Rangeland Society structured like SRM. This could have promise for some connectivity with the Reed Funk Account.

12. A discussion was held concerning an international symposium to be held at Corpus Christi. Originally it was thought that the topic would be on energy and rangelands with a cross-border perspective for Mexico and the USA. This would be similar to a cross-border energy perspective for Canada and the USA that would be cultivated at the 2015 SRM International Symposium and the 2016 IRC in Canada. Edmundo has become concerned that information concerning energy development in northern Mexico is classified and thus unavailable; hence the topic could be severely constrained for the 2015 symposium. Other ideas were discussed including other cross-border issues such as water, wildlife, community-based management, etc. It was agreed that Edmundo, Maria, and Urs would continue to ponder possible topics. Alan Rasmussen, a co-chair for the Corpus Christi meeting and one with contacts to possible south Texas donors, should be in the loop on symposium ideas soon. There is a bit of time to solidify thinking on the symposium (about two months), and the IAC was reminded by Layne that an application to offer a symposium will need to be submitted to the Corpus Christi Organizing Committee by early May.
13. Joe Wagner commented that when he recently tried to donate money for international scholars on a PDF of the SRM annual membership application form, a check-box was not evident. We checked online and found the online application form has the check-box, but the PDF does not. Making both forms consistent to the other will be brought to the attention of the BOD in the IAC committee report this week.
14. Nominations were solicited for the IAC co-chair for 2015-6 and hence IAC chair for 2016-7. Maria nominated Jay Angerer, and the nomination was seconded by Jim. Jay graciously agreed to serve and was unanimously elected.
15. Layne described the general duties for the IAC leadership for the coming year. This includes: (a) Shepharding the 2016 SRM symposium concept and getting an application in by May; (b) requesting support from the Corpus Christi Organizing Committee for the 2016 International Travel Fellowship—also by May; (c) keeping an eye on updating the IAC website, facebook page, etc., with the help of the IAC web liaison (Mohammed Sawalhah will be asked if he can continue in this role for the IAC); (d) updating the IAC membership list; and (e) keeping an eye on the generation, and dispersal, of funds associated with the subsidies for international scholars. Applications for the ITF and scholar-subsidy support will come to the IAC chair, but as of late there has not been a high volume of applicants. An ad hoc committee can select both the ITF and the subsidy recipients; in the past year Maria and Andres selected the ITF. Jim may want to have oversight for the recipients of the SRM subsidy monies.
16. The leadership torch for the IAC was passed from Layne to Edmundo.
17. The meeting was adjourned at about 4:00 PM.

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions (*Layne Coppock*)
2. IAC General Progress for 2014-5 (*report by Layne Coppock*)
3. International Travel Fellowship for 2015 (*Martín do Carmo introduced by Layne Coppock*)
4. Update on the 2015 SRM International Symposium (*report by Urs Kreuter, Alan Iwaassa*)
5. Update from the IAC Board Representative (*report by Leonard Jolley*)
6. Update on the 2016 International Rangelands Congress [*report by Jim O'Rourke and the IRC Organizing Committee (Paul Jefferson and Alan Iwaassa)*]
7. Update on the Reed Funk Account (*report by Doug Johnson*)
8. Concepts and Leadership for the 2016 SRM International Symposium (*open discussion led by Layne Coppock et al.*)
9. Donation Challenges for SRM International Member Purposes (*comments from Joe Wagner; open discussion*)
10. Elect an IAC Co-Chair for 2015-6 (*Nominations and vote coordinated by Layne Coppock*)
11. Summary of IAC Priority Work for 2015-6 (*open discussion led by Layne Coppock*)
12. Any Other Business (*open discussion led by Layne Coppock; include identification of IAC SRM website/facebook technical liaison*)
13. Passing the Leadership Torch to the IAC Chair for 2015-6, Dr. Edmundo Garcia Moya

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