

President's Corner

Will Boyer

President, Kansas Section, SRM

Greetings from Manhattan, where the sun is shining, the ponds are full and the grass grows tall. According to the US Drought Monitor, in a little over one month, conditions in Kansas have shifted from over 75% experiencing drought conditions to less than 5%. For those of you working in areas which may still be short on rain, I'm keeping my fingers crossed for you.

In the process of thinking about what to write for this article, I spent a little time thinking about reasons I belong to the Society for Range Management. Also I wondered how you as SRM members might answer the question: *Why is SRM important to me?*

A fairly obvious answer to a question like this is that SRM stands for principles we find important. Enough said? Maybe? But no, probably not. We could all probably come up with a list of more specific reasons we choose to be members. It's the people, it's the programs, it's the publications, it's our common voice for helping shape public policy. What is it for you?

In my view, foremost and above all, it has to be the people. Membership in SRM provides opportunities to build relationships, and open doors of communication and cooperation. If I have a question about things such as ecological sites, prairie chickens, or pollinator habitat, I can easily find a member to ask, I am comfortable approaching them, and feel confident that they will either provide, or help me find, a useful answer. Furthermore, it is the people involved who make outstanding programs happen such as range youth camp, adult range schools, and field tours.

Next in importance for me are the educational opportunities which are made available to our membership and others. The leadership that Kansas

Section members provide in delivering an array of both intensive and informal education programs is invaluable. Publications produced by our parent organization are a foundational part of our continuing education. *Rangelands* plus the newer online publication called *Stewardship* provide articles which are enjoyable to read yet technical enough to keep us informed on happening in our profession. I also appreciate how *Rangelands* provides many brief summaries of research articles from our own *Range Ecology & Management*, plus many other appropriate journals and texts. And of course, *Rangeland Ecology & Management*, formerly *Journal of Range Management*, is the go-to resource for rangeland research.

Since its beginning in the late 1940s, SRM has helped lead advancements in range management – especially regarding livestock production and grazing management. And over the years its leadership role has broadened greatly into management of rangeland for water, wildlife, recreation and even plain old aesthetics. The Society for Range Management has much to offer natural resource professionals like ourselves. Please don't hesitate to share that fact with others. Some growth in our organization's membership will keep it strong and will help us maintain if not increase the impact we have on range management and education. Just as important, however, is that existing members strive to become more informed and/or involved. I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to do so as Section President. And thanks to those of you who ran for director and officer positions (vote counts were extremely close). There is however one very important position in our organization which is still open, Secretary/Treasurer. If you are interested in being considered for this position or have someone you would like to recommend, please let me know by email wboyer@ksu.edu or phone 785 587-7828. Thanks, and have a great summer!

**KANSAS SECTION
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
BOX 303, MANHATTAN, KS 66505**

<http://rangelands.org/kansas>

Will Boyer	President
Elmer Finck	First Vice-President
Shelly Wiggam	2 nd Vice-President
Jessica Casey	Director
Zac Roth	Director
Mitchel Greer	Director
James Ungerer	Director
Vacant	Secretary/Treasurer
Dusty Tacha	Past President
Livia Olsen	Webmaster
Jessica Casey	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

If you have not paid your dues or would like to join SRM, please do so at <http://rangelands.org>. Membership forms can be found under the Membership Services tab. There have been some problems with membership renewal notices in the last few months. For more information on membership in SRM, or to request a Membership Application, please contact the Membership and Subscription Administrator at 785-865-9456 (OR) 1-800-627-0326 x 456 or email at: membership@rangelands.org If you would like to contribute an article related to rangeland management please do so and send it to me at whick@ksu.edu.

MINUTES – KS-SRM

The Kansas Section, SRM meeting was called to order on January 29, 2015 by President Dusty Tacha at 4:34 p.m. in Wichita, KS. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Kansas Natural Resources Conference. Dusty presented a certificate to outgoing director Aaron Ball, and recognized that Alex Miller (absent) would also receive a certificate. Dusty turned the remainder of the meeting over to incoming

President, Will Boyer. Will gave a brief summary of his background.

Will announced the results of the election. Shelly Wiggam will be the new 2nd vice-president. New directors elected for 2-year terms are Mitchell Greer and James Ungerer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed in the Bluestem Bulletin. Only correspondence mentioned was a letter from the IRS. Fick and Boyer will deal with this issue. Fick reported that the KS-SRM banking account is \$5,684.46 as of today. David Kraft indicated that the Kansas Range Youth Camp had \$14,536.64.

Officer Reports - As the new 2nd vice-president, Shelly Wiggam introduced herself and gave brief synopsis of what she does. She also mentioned that the Rangeland Wildlife Working Group of the Wildlife Society was partnering with SRM to advance wildlife conservation on private lands while still maintaining economic stability. Walt Fick indicated 399 newsletters were distributed. New director, James Ungerer introduced himself and indicated his current position as a District Conservationist with NRCS in Russell.

Committee Reports - David Kraft and Shelly Wiggam led a discussion on awards. They received three nominations for the Excellence in Rangeland Management Award. After discussion a motion was passed to recognize all three with the award. The awardees are Daniel and Kathleen Miller, Chase Co., Frank Graham, Anderson Co., and Brian Pearce and Ben Johnson, Wallace Co. Fick mentioned that the section may want to advance one awardee for SRM competition next year in Corpus Christi, TX. The section will develop a method to make a selection e.g. e-mail survey. The awards will be presented at a later date, preferably at a section activity. Another motion was passed to give all 3 awardees a membership in SRM, with half of dues coming from the section and the other half from the Range Youth Camp account.

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MINUTES – KS-SRM cont'd

Dusty read a written report from Livia Olsen regarding the section website. Fick will make a \$600 payment for student scholarships for the 2014 KGLC range management schools. The shortgrass/mixed grass school is August 4-6, 2015 at Scott Lake and the tallgrass school is August 18-20, 2015 at Camp Wood.

Old Business - Twenty-two students attended the 2014 Range Youth Camp. Amber Johnson is the 2015 RYC chair with the camp being held June 29 to July 2 at Camp Mennoscah.

New Business - A motion was passed to support KGLC with \$700 for student scholarships for the 2015 range management schools. Keith Harmony mentioned that KAWS is selling calendars. Organizations such as the Kansas Section, SRM could participate in helping sell calendars for \$25 with \$5 coming back to the section. Calendar buyers are automatically added to a drawing for prizes. Calendars may also be purchased by individuals from the KAWS website. It was suggested that we e-mail our members to see how many people might be willing to buy or sell the calendars. Then we would inform KAWS of our findings. Elmer Finck indicated that the Kansas Non-game Advisory Council expects some action by the Kansas legislature on the future of easements.

Announcements/Updates - Will Boyer indicated that the KNRC is worth 7.5 CEU for those with certification. Carol Blocksom indicated the Patch Burn Conference will be in Pratt this year, probably in August. Shelly Wiggam will be attending the SRM meeting in Sacramento and should be able to represent the section some of the time at the Advisory Council. Elmer Finck will give his proxy to Mitchell Greer, and Will Boyer will give Keith Harmony a proxy. Discussion followed on the next summer/fall KS-SRM meeting. It was suggested that we might tour one of the Excellence in Range Management award winners operation with a possible target date in October.

A total number of 22 attended the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Fick

SRM Opportunity – Advisory Council

I was only able to sit in on one session of the Advisory Council as a replacement, and the main topic for that session was future SRM meetings. One of the locations brought up with a presentation trying to promote was for Anchorage, AK. Some folks seemed to like the idea, others not so much. I don't think that it will be accepted as a location. The most interesting part of this session, though, was that the meeting planner stated that the cities of Omaha and **Wichita** were trying very hard to persuade the SRM to have a meeting in their city, and both made some very lucrative offers. However, bids from cities to host a meeting usually only are accepted if the host section for the city is willing to help with the planning. Jess Petersen, the SRM Exec. VP, also said that the national headquarters could help as much as needed to plan a meeting in either of those two cities. Anyway, this is something for **the Kansas Section to ponder for 2019**, which is the year that the next meeting location needs to be approved. The meeting planner needs to know by the end of September though if a section is interested in hosting so that official bids from cities can be pursued and then presented at the next meeting in Corpus Christi. I mentioned this to everyone from Kansas that I saw at the meeting, but I'm sure we need to have some further discussion and deliberation amongst the members to see if this is something we are willing to pursue. I imagine the headquarters will be sending out a call later this summer for interested host sections and cities, so we probably ought to start the discussion. The main meeting site location planner said that with the Hyatt and the other large hotel right by the convention center in Wichita, and then the addition of the new Fairfield hotel and a couple smaller hotels only a couple blocks away, that more than enough hotel rooms are available to meet the peak night's stay to host an SRM meeting, and busing probably wouldn't be necessary like it was last time the meeting was in Wichita. If you have any questions for me, just let me know.

Keith Harmony

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 25 Tallgrass Legacy Alliance Meeting & Tour, Dalebanks Angus Ranch, 1030 River Road, Eureka, KS
- June 29-July 2 Kansas Range Youth Camp, Camp Mennoscah, Murdock, KS
- August 4-6 Shortgrass/Midgrass Range Management School, Camp Lakeside, Scott County, KS
<http://www.kglc.org>
- August 18-20 Tallgrass Range Management School, Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS
<http://www.kglc.org>
- August 26-28 Patch Burn Grazing Meeting, Pratt, KS <https://commerce.cashnet.com/firescience>
- 2015 Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams (KAWS) – purchase a 2015-16 Kansas Natural Resource Calendar; \$5 goes to conservation society e.g KS-SRM of your choice. <http://www.kaws.org>