

Minutes of Targeted Grazing Committee
February 6, 2011
Billings, MT

In Attendance	
John Walker – Chair	Guojie Wang
Rachel Frost – Chair elect	Barry Perryman
Rick Orr – Board Representative	Bob Welling
Misty Hays – Incoming Board Representative	Martin Kimmet
Lovina Roselle	John Hendrickson
Karen Launchbaugh	Ann Peischel
Ray Holes	Grant Rogers
Mark Rude	Mindy Seal
Bob Bolton	Maddy Knodel
Marc Horney	Desi Seal
Virginia Vurroughs	Katherine Blum

The Targeted Grazing committee met from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on Sunday the 6th of February. There were 20 members present in addition to John Walker and Rachel Frost, the chair and chair-elect.

The meeting began with a review of old business, specifically how to address the rejection of a proposed synthesis paper by the Editorial Board of Rangeland Ecology and Management. The Editorial Board had previously rejected the synthesis paper because they believe the information was not new and simply a repeat of the recently published Targeted Grazing Handbook. Therefore, our Board Rep Rick Orr recommended that we could go ahead with the issues paper without a synthesis since the editorial board feels that the Handbook serves as an effective synthesis of the topic. The Targeted Grazing committee will proceed directly to writing an issue paper, which has already received approval from the SRM Board of Directors. However, the Targeted Grazing Committee contends that even though the Editorial Board of REM feels that the Handbook serves as a sufficient synthesis document, there remains a need for a compilation of the current state of scientific knowledge to be published in a peer reviewed journal. Consequently, a synthesis paper will be prepared for publication in another journal (Ecological Applications was suggested), to fully document the scope of scientific literature related to targeted grazing.

Tasks proceeding from the discussion include:

1. Select a journal – seeking response from committee members on “Ecological Applications” or other journals that they feel are appropriate for the synthesis.
2. Gather volunteers as a subcommittee of this writing committee to start on the issues paper.
3. Schedule conference call to get this project going again. (John Walker will still lead this publication effort)

- The committee discussed the need and potential to work cooperatively with targeted grazing committees in several other organizations, such as the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and the American Goat Federation (AGF) to coordinate education and information dissemination among producers, land managers, agency personnel, and funding entities. Several members currently serve on multiple committees and will explore ways to coordinate education efforts.
- The committee discussed the need to create a more powerful web presence within the SRM webpage and to add some content stemming directly from committee activities such as the symposium held last year in Denver. Rachel Frost, Lovina Roselle and Marc Horney volunteered to conduct an initial web survey to determine appropriate links and content to expand the website.
- The possibility of expanding the committee to serve more grazing issues and interests within the Society was introduced. After discussion, it was decided to keep the focus of the committee on the use of grazing for vegetation management and restoration.
- The committee's next project will be developing a training program geared toward agency personnel that would provide resources on how to implement and fund targeted grazing projects within their agency. The intent is for this educational program to be developed into a workshop for the 2012 meeting in Spokane. Rachel Frost will lead this effort and is seeking volunteers to contribute to the program.

Karen Launchbaugh was unanimously selected as Chair-elect for 2011-2012.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The following are committee activities that occurred outside the regularly scheduled meeting.

Rick Orr suggested that we send a letter to SRM board requesting that targeted grazing be included in the agenda for SRM meetings with agency heads this spring. I (John Walker) will send this letter. Rick and I discussed the need to include individuals that were not engaged in targeted grazing as currently defined but were interested in promoting good grazing management into the targeted grazing committee. Later Rick was contacted by people that were interested in participating in our committee. I will pole the committee members to determine the support for expanding the scope of this committee.

Rachel Frost and I met with Janette Kaiser about opportunities to promote and seek support for targeted grazing. Janette thought given Secretary Vilask's priorities there were opportunities to get greater recognition and support for targeted grazing. Targeted Grazing fits several priorities of the secretary including:

- Increasing rural wealth through developing new markets. This includes not only the potential for targeted grazing contracts but also opportunities for locally produced foods associated with targeted grazing.
- New programs should include all of USDA
- Sustain and restore ecosystems and clean water

I committed to writing a 1-page white paper for Janette that she could use to start a conversation on targeted grazing with other agencies.

Symposium: Targeted Grazing: Applying Research to the Ground

This symposium was held on Thursday to a full house. There was great interest and questions following each presentation had to be stopped to stay on time. The panel discussion following formal presentations lasted a full 2-hr and never went in want of questions. Narrated presentations of all talks were recorded and will be posted on our website. Ten people signed up to join our committee at this symposium raising the total number of committee members to 55.