

**Society for Range Management Advisory Council**  
**Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> – Redwood 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Call to Order, Nikki, 8:00am  
Welcome, Handouts and House Keeping  
Roll Call and Proxys

Sections Present:

Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Int'l Mountain, Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma,  
Northern Great Plains, Southern, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, North  
Central

Read, Review and Approve Minutes

Amend minutes to reflect web hosting is not a free service by  
parent society.

Move to approve minutes: Texas

Second: North Central

Motion passes

From Int'l Mountain Section

Open for discussion the 5 dollar reimbursement is not sufficient to carry on section activities. Not proposing a separate collection of dues at section level, maintain dues through parent society. What options for fund raising? Is the parent society responsible to help raise money for the sections? Recommend to take the issue back to sections and move forward.

Discussion: Need for officers in struggling section.

Is it a problems of membership?

Multiple state sections and large geographic areas struggling with membership and officers. Southern section would like more face to face interactions to help with recruitment and retention.

Kansas section: at section level numbers decreasing. Members aren't getting anything from SRM, see no value in membership. Having trouble with response from national to get help showing the value in SRM.

Arizona numbers down, but young members wanting to fill advisory council roles.

Int'l Mountain: international sections face a unique challenges; changing terms of officers? Make it a longer term. Parent society meeting has stays stable in size; section meetings lagging in attendance.

Colorado: some trouble getting board members. 1 at a time. Membership stable. Lack of employer support.

North Central: Questions of fundraising at the section level. Free to fundraise at the section level.

From board: having a board member at each section meeting.

Nevada: two year terms for officers and updating social media and website.

Outreach to draw new members. Summer tours and winter meetings. Outreach articles.

NGP: Joint meetings to draw attendance at section meeting.

Arizona: agency and academics, try to push back to toward 50 50 producer/others

Nevada: Producers committee chairman. Difficulties trying to get producers to join. Application to rangeland producers. P-values and scientific studies to get away from producers. Teaching and certifying ranchers in an attempt to draw them.

NGP: Partnered with GLC and getting a few more producers at meetings.

Producer forum session at national meeting widely attended.

Southern Section: Producers ostracized because producers weren't "range"

Pastureland groups and grazing land groups more producer oriented. Disconnect between range and those groups.

Intl Mountain: Advisory council recommends the creation of a task force to look at strengthening sections; recognizing that at the section level is where the science to application communication occurs.

What suggestions do you have for us to do that?

- Increasing the "Management Implications" section of REM and Rangelands articles
- Certification of practitioners that doesn't require a range degree
- Creation of a way to disperse additional funding for sections to recruit and retain members, with a focus on producers
- Promotion of partnerships with other organizations
- Allow members of other organizations to participate in SRM meetings at member cost

Arizona: every section has their annual meeting, and discussion of application. Range tours to bring ranchers in. But still struggling to get members.

Nevada: Need to increase the management implications in publication and presentations at meetings. "Putting science to work".

Kansas: Is there an avenue for funds to come from the parent society to recruit members?

Arizona: Pointed recommendation return to section is specifically for membership.

Recruitment and Retention: promotion of partnership agreements. Allow members of other organizations to attend meeting at member rate.

Southern: Section organization and officers – leadership from different member groups. Requiring representative from: agency, academia, producer, etc.

Kansas: Advisory council: request board include a producer appointee. By laws change?.

Poncho Ortega: Don Pendleton Memorial College Awards: Texas sections would like the advisory to recommend the creation of Don P. Award.

What is going on with the Don Pendleton donation at SRM?

Texas created D.P. M award at section. After creating the 1<sup>st</sup> competitions student attendance and membership is increased. Recommend: create an award and competitions. Possible to have considerable award. Form a task force to structure a Don Pendleton memorial award.

Create specific award. Task force would develop the structure and approach. Don't want to overlap with current competition? A special session of D.P. presentations by students?

Proposal for new award category.

Take the current completion, name it after D.P. as a possibility.

Increase size of awards to students.

D.P. donation went into the endowment fund. Potentially. Not sure from endowment committee member. May have some difficulty accessing D.P. donation.

Desire to increase cash award and honor D.P. with some award.

Task force needs to figure out: where the money is, how it can be accessed, how the award will look, how it will be conducted (what the contest)

NGP motion to create task for. Oklahoma second.

Passes unanimous.

Announcement of endowment fund silent auction –Nikki  
Mary Beth – Committee of past presidents primarily. ½ open committee ½ past presidents. Purpose of committee: keep track of and grow endowment fund.  
Works to seek donations as well as silent auction. Funds invested and earnings comes back to parent society.

Kansas: Is there a part of the bylaws that requires transparency in funds?

Should it be posted on the website? Is there a way to improve flow of information, quarterly reports etc. to members. Build it into the website? More information beyond what is presented in the annual business meeting.

Recommendation to the board: Encourage transparency in endowment.

Jason Karl EIC of Rangelands:

Rangelands as a practitioners journal

Transfer from REM to producers

Challenges for Rangelands:

Generating content

Case studies comes up a lot. Short articles highlighting what the problems was, what was done, and what was found. Within sections – topics of interest from sections. Review papers: summarizing the topics applicability to management.

Excellence in Rangeland Management feature stories.

Dedicated producer pages. Photos etc.

Rangeland cup winners to create articles.

Peer review of experience? Working with Elsevier to clarify language on instruction for authors. Making it more “approachable”.

Mix of content in journal. Need to keep articles focused on management to make distinct from REM.

Revived the browsing the literature section.

Finding reviewers has been a challenge.

Reach out to sections to provide a list of potential reviewers and areas of expertise.

Target audience: anyone who is engaged in practice of rangeland management.

Page charges: 100 per page (full color) the board has a standing offer to cover half of page charges.

Steering Committee: creating a template for case studies.

Carter et al. Article.

Steering committee meeting 1-29-18 U of I booth at 4:00. [jkarl@uidaho.edu](mailto:jkarl@uidaho.edu)  
To discuss the article.

Options: retraction, series of rebuttals.

Retraction statement then goes away

However, rebuttal would present evidence against the article.

Nikki: supports the idea of rebuttal.

Int'l mountain: how does it make it through review?

Are there classes of membership that only get electronic versions?

To the AC: Unanimous vote for rebuttal vs retraction.

Options for rebuttal:

View Point pieces: Methodology flaws, legal decision. Letter to the editor.

New By-Laws Ken Fulgham

Election successful and 94% approval for most.

84% pass on gender equity.

Formal establishment of an executive committee. Obligatory responsibility to report out to board.

Received and adopted by the board 1-27-18.

Questions about by-laws:

Updating of section by-laws and impacts from changes in parent society by-laws updates

Bring forward to be in conformity or parallel to parent society.

Needed as a suggestion to the board: all the committees should update their handbook. All committees and sections should have documents stored with Vicki.

Miranda Awards Committee:

Revising handbooks and due dates for nominations.

Need submissions for awards

Excellence in Range Management Awards:

Doesn't need to have been recognized at section. Just want producers honored.

Young professional award based on age (40). Suggest changes based on time in career. So change to early career? Young Professional award is early career.

Is the awards committee being pressed by diversity issues?

Evaluation is fair. Just need nominations.

CPRM – Clayton Marlow

Brief Update: now required for some programs written into farm bill. In anticipation of successful implementation: need input on the concept of improving and updating the CPRM. Consider the idea and provide a recommendation.

Need support from parent society to train individuals. SRM tasks standing committees with template, section fine tunes for state specific people,

Who are we targeting: conservation stewardship and equip

Anybody working with private land owner and NRCS in the planning process. Would need CPRM – creates credibility for CPRM and creates a market for CPRM.

Asking standing committees develop a training template. Template given to sections to train and update CPRMs. May help with membership. If sections were more involved in CPRM update training using people in the section to do it.

Feedback from D.C.: if CPRM goes through SRM responsible for getting CPRMs out there.

**Concerns with the proposal to board:**

Fairness and objectivity of CPRM

Vicki Trujio and Ryan Wingert:

Rangelands changing hosting company

Most sections haven't moved.

Month to month contract with current hosting company.

Options exist. Just need to get off of current host.

SRM can manage website for sections. \$5 month.

Want to keep content up to date. Information that is important to section.

March 2018. If not moved, they'll be gone.

Maria Fernandez-Jimenez, Amy Ganguli, Diversity Task Forces

Proposed revisions to the diversity statement.

Diversity & Inclusion – recognizing and valuing diversity, accepting and welcoming individuals.

Why are D&I important? More effective, creative, innovating groups.

Diversity Task force (Amy)

Diversity statement slightly altered to include: "Membership in SRM is open to anyone engaged in or interested in any aspect of the study, management, or use of rangelands.

Discussion: what triggered the diversity task force? Texas

Concerns were presented to SRM leadership. No one tipping point.

Some felt marginalized, not being welcome, not belonging, including some of the aesthetics of the society (gender, race, etc.). What can we do differently to move forward?

Identify a variety things to understand what the issues.

Still collecting data.

Diversity statement is kind of hidden. So one recommended action was updating the diversity statement.

1/28/2018 – track changes reflect input from the BOD on 1/27/18

## **Society for Range Management Diversity Statement**

The Society for Range Management (SRM) is a diverse body of members, employees, and representatives that are dedicated to leading the stewardship of rangelands based on sound ecological principles. Membership in SRM is open to anyone engaged in or interested in any aspect of the study, management, or use of rangeland.

These principles have led us to understand that Humankind originated in rangelands and our historical dispersal and migrations have led to our present global diversity of peoples, languages, cultures, and natural resource management and socio-economic systems. Today, greater than 38% of the global human population directly and indirectly benefit from an estimated \$1 trillion in rangeland ecosystem services.

SRM welcomes, encourages, affirms, and values the participation and inclusion of all individuals with an interest in rangelands regardless of race, color, religion, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, national origin, culture, educational status, disabilities, emerging ideas and perspectives, or socio-economic status. We vigorously strive to eliminate implicit bias and reject discrimination and stereotyping within the society by proactively fostering tolerance, mutual respect, and multicultural awareness and competency by actively promoting inclusion in membership, education & training, competition, leadership, committees, staff, and all other areas of SRM activity. In all professional activities, members, employees, and representatives of the Society for Range Management acknowledge and value the right of others to hold values, attitudes, and opinions that differ from their own. We expect that all participants at the Society for Range Management activities will hold to these same standards.

### Jenny Pluhar membership stuff.

Powerpoint available to the membership.

Membership tool kit available online (membership committee)

Sections is where the rubber meets the road

Still some hiccups (gaps, firewalls, etc.) with annual membership

How to use social media effectively to promote membership

Chalk boards for social media. Send pictures back to SRM

### Redd Fund

Mary Jo Foley: Update on Redd Fund. Had been underutilized for several years. Revised guidelines that allows parent society to work directly with producers. This year 3 on Redd Fund. Trying to stay within the region of the annual meeting.

Nominations several months prior to meeting.

Committee decides how much funding to give out.

Bridging the Gap from Young Professionals Conclave.

Mentorship program. Tuesday night.

### High School Youth Ben Berlinger – Colorado Section

Some issues arose with budget. The board of directors of Colorado formalized budget. Cost summary not fully transparent. Came to the attention: hidden cost in HSYF. State budgets are tight, so it is important to know where all the money is going. Board of Directors approved to have committee members travel covered. Still, there is a lack of transparency.

Annual Meeting Planning Kelly Fogarty and Christen House from Conference Direct

1500 attendees ~400 students

Minneapolis Feb. 10 – 14 next year.

2020 in Denver

2021? KS?

2022?

KS still needs clarification on conference planning before committing to host.

Discussion of Boise for 2022: there is interest from AC. The Idaho rep would take it back to Idaho section.

Executive VP Report – Jess Peterson, Kelly, Vicki, Mary Jo,  
Membership, section meetings, and annual meetings.

Farm bill programs

Transition to annual renewal. Annual payment to sections. Section payments going out to section soon.

Updating RangeFlash

Transparent report of the financials at the business luncheon

Cooperative between NRCS, USFS,

Programs division of NRCS. Building new training modules. SRM taking lead on training.

Working with ARS public relations.

Wild horse and burrow SRM taking lead with conservation districts

P-PAC – emphasis on CPRM

Question to the board: Why can't the SRM not do the monthly automatic dues like other sections.

Suggestions to the Board of Directors:

Advisory council recommends the creation of a task force to look at strengthening sections; recognizing that at the section level is where the science to application communication occurs.

Suggestions to strengthen and grow SRM at the section level:

- Increasing the “Management Implications” section of REM and Rangelands articles
- Certification of practitioners that doesn't require a range degree
- Creation of a way to disperse additional funding for sections to recruit and retain members, with a focus on producers
- Promotion of partnerships with other organizations
- Allow members of other aligned organizations to participate in SRM meetings at member cost

Motion to approve: International Mountain

Arizona Second

Motion passes

The advisory council recommends an amendment to the by-laws (Article II Section 3) that either creates a boards position that must be held by a producer or requires at least one seat on the board be help by a producer. Defining a producer as a person who owns or manages an operation that grows crops or raises livestock or both.

Motion to approve: North Central

Second: Southern

Motion: Passes

The advisory council recommends the creation of a task force that will work to create a Don Pendleton Memorial College Award at the national level.

Motion to approve: North Central

Second: southern

Motion passed

The advisory council recommends the board work to increase transparency of the distribution of funds, including HSYF and the endowment fund. It may be necessary to amend the by-laws dictating an increased flow of information to the membership on how funds are spent.

Motion to approve: North Central

Second: southern

Motions passed

Concerns and comments regarding proposed CPRM training at the section level:

The advisory council recommends the board review the submitted Revised Diversity Statement, as amended, and take in to consideration the submitted comments from the advisory council.

Motion to approve: North central

Second: Arizona

Motion passes

Diversity Statement comments:

Do we want a long (CSU style) statement or something short (terse) statement? Or Both?

NC RECOMMENDS TO USE FIRST FULL LINE AS A DIVERSITY STATEMENT (via email)

Moving the discussion forward from the old statement.

There were some problems, so the prior statement was not effective.

4 sentences is enough

Create a short statement as well as a longer statement located somewhere.

Explicitly including many identities as possible

Remove language referencing today's statistics because it won't be true later

Is this meant to be a statement or a hammer? Requiring or recommending D & I? The idea or concerns with forcing diversity instead of finding "the best"

Has there been issues with the prior statement?

Can be offensive to those who work hard to put together meetings and then being felt "attacked" for not having a diverse enough plenary session.

Policy statement = short and sweet

References in "Rangelands" and range flash to educate the membership

Trying to set a tone or direction with the statement

Chair Elect:

Andrew Brischke, Arizona Section president-elect nominated.

Nebraska moved to cease nominations.

Cast unanimous ballot in favor.

Barry Irvine: move to accept for study AC recommendations.

Roy Roth second.

Discussion: How does the first recommendation differ from Barry I. membership initiative?

Similar discussions are had across SRM on how to get people more involved across the board.

Karen - Drop in membership from student to professional. Need to get young professionals going forward.

Barry - task force may not be fast enough. Little initiatives to move the ball forward.

NC Social media again as means of outreach.

Some of the options discussed in first recommendation are being incorporated.

Board:

Move to 2018 board adjourn. Barry.

Second: Jerry D.

Unanimously approved

Motion to adjourn: Southern

Second. NGP

Passed.