

Rangeland Invasive Species Committee Minutes, St. George, UT, January 29, 2017

Attendance: Walt Fick, Keith Harmony, Brian Mealor, Clay Wood, Jordan Skovgard, Jaycie Arndt, Jake Disney, Matt Phillippi, Cooper Sherrill, Karen Hickman, Tom Monaco, Merilynn Schantz, Nathan Dulfon, D. Chad Cummings, Elsie Denton, Ariana Gloria, Joe Hicks, Lia Biondo.

The RISC was called to order by Chairman Walt Fick at 4 p.m. followed by introductions by those in attendance. Minutes of the 2016 Corpus Christi meeting were briefly reviewed.

Fick provided copies of the committee handbook and discussed the BOD desire to be more involved with committee makeup to insure some continuity and match SRM guidelines. Fick will work with Joe Hicks to update the RISC handbook.

Website revision was discussed. Fick will update the committee list, add minutes of meetings since 2010, and check/edit links.

Keith Harmony and Lia Biondo discussed various aspects of the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition (RRISC). Potential impacts include CRP, EQIP, etc. in the next Farm Bill. SRM will send information to Walt Fick to share with the RISC for review and input.

Joe Hicks, SRM BOD, indicated that the BOD would like the RISC to recommend a chair and a core of committee members for their approval. Karen Hickman will be the new BOD representative for the RISC.

The last item of discussion was on setting priorities and a plan of work for 2017. The first priority was to update the Website. Previous symposia and tours related to invasive species were discussed. Ideas for the coming year or two included symposia in Sparks, NV on invasives of the Great Basin and in Minneapolis, MN on native species with invasive characteristics. Including information on the RRISC in 2019 in Minneapolis might be appropriate as that is the year of the next Farm Bill. Brian Mealor suggested that a pre-symposia article would help advertise and promote the event. It was suggested that could possibly be done in Rangelands or the preconvention news. Merilynn Schantz agreed to chair a symposia subcommittee along with Chad Cummings and Brian Mealor to develop a symposium for the 2018 meeting in Sparks, NV.

The RISC recommendation for chair in 2018 is Merilynn Schantz. Suggested RISC committee members are Walt Fick, Keith Harmony, Brian Mealor, Tom Monaco, and H. Chad Cummings.

Fick thanked those in attendance. The RISC adjourned at 5:45 p.m.