Rangeland Invasive Species Committee Minutes, Sparks, NV, January 28, 2018

Attendance: Walt Fick, Dustin Ford, John Brock, Surenda Bam, Cooper Sherrill, Chad Cummings, Jeff Davidson, Leeland Murray, Elsie Denton, Keith Harmoney, Karen Hickman, Beth Fowers, Merilynn Schantz (by phone).

The RISC was called to order by Chairman Walt Fick at 4:03 p.m. followed by introductions by those in attendance. There were no additions to the agenda. Fick read the minutes of the 2017 St. George meeting.

Fick reviewed the membership policy of the RISC. It is an open committee to those interested in invasive species. The SRM 2nd VP works in conjunction with the Committee Chairs to appoint a new chair each year.

Old Business:

Fick continues to update the RISC website and asked attendees to review the site, especially for links to invasive species information. The RISC handbook needs to be updated to include new SRM policy on committee structure. Keith Harmoney reported his participation with Claudia Ingham last April in conducting a webinar on targeted grazing. If the webinar was recorded, the RISC may be able to link to our website. Webinars may be used to provide training for certification in targeted grazing.

New Business:

Fick reported on a conference call with SRM officers, BOD, and other committee chairs on January 17, 2018. He briefly reviewed the SRM Strategic Plan and how the RISC should be involved with tactics and actions in support of the Strategic Plan. Karen Hickman, SRM Director reported the following: 2018/2019 will be the Year of the Member; 1100 preregistered for Sparks meeting; encouraged members to be active at the Section level if they are unable to attend the annual SRM meeting; SRM having difficulty involved to the point of becoming a member; RISC is being asked how it will enhance membership; budget requests should be made to the BOD; Rangelands is in need of articles; 2020 meeting in Denver may be out of the norm and will be based on member input. Merilynn Schantz led discussion on a symposium topic for Minneapolis in 2019. It was decided that a symposium emphasizing non-native species that have been used as forage crops that threaten native rangeland would be an appropriate topic. This might include Kentucky bluegrass, smooth brome, crested wheatgrass, etc. It was indicated that Brian Mealor would be interested in putting a symposium together if articles were published ahead of time in Rangelands. Chad Cummings also expressed a willingness to help plan a symposium for 2019. Keith Harmoney will help contact potential speakers. It was suggested that authors presenting at the 2018 symposium be encouraged to prepare articles for Rangelands, such that one or two articles might appear per issue. For 2020 it was suggested that the RISC combine with some other committee e.g. Target Grazing for a larger symposium.

Membership Services (Recruitment & Retention)

1. Hold an invasive species symposium
2. Encourage Rangelands articles
3. Contact Young Professional’s Conclave and encourage participation in SRM committees

Announcements:

Symposium in Sparks, NV on Wednesday on Weedy Native Species (Cascade 4 and 5)  
NIWAW – February 26 to March 2, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

Fick thanked those in attendance. The RISC adjourned at 5:15 p.m.