

## **SRM Watershed-Riparian Committee (WRC) Meeting Notes** **Oklahoma City, OK, February 3, 2013**

The committee meeting started with introductions, a review of the agenda and passing the membership list to attendees for any needed updates.

**1. Committee Chair Meeting with BOD** – Lou reported that one of the main themes was the need for more interaction of the various committees. Adequate communication is a big factor and there is a role for SRM committees and the Board to facilitate this. Additional topics are covered under in these notes in the section covering the WRC and Board Representative discussion.

**2. 2013 Committee Chair/Chair-Elect** – Sarah Quistberg is the incoming Committee Chair for 2013 but was not able to attend the meeting and not able to participate remotely. Linda Spencer said she would be willing to be Chair-Elect. Several people felt it was advantageous to serve a 2-year term but it is always up to the individual.

**Action:** Lou will ask Sarah if she can be the Chair for two years; either way, Linda Spencer has volunteered to follow Sarah. *(See LH1 at the end of these notes.)*

**Action:** Lou will contact Sarah after the meeting with items she needs to be aware of or take action on.

**3. Webpage** – It was pointed out that the Committee Chairs on the main page are not up to date which does not help with inter-committee communication. The group discussed that the committee webpage is primarily for SRM members and is not accessed a great deal which is why the decision was made some time ago to limit the links and other material provided, i.e., it is not intended to be a primary ‘go to’ source for riparian information although another use report would be helpful. The WRC felt it would help to have more clarity on the Website Committee’s role/focus – the WRC had previously recommended, and reiterated that setting a minimum formatting and content requirement for quality and consistency with oversight necessary to ensure that decisions are implemented. The website may be someone’s first connection with SRM.

**Action:** Susan will ask Melissa Schneider for an updated WRC webpage report and will send the updated webpage material.

**Action:** Lou will ask that the 2013 lentic presentations be reviewed and edited by the presenters and sent to Melissa for posting to WRC webpage. *(See LH2 at the end of these notes.)*

**4. Membership** – We talked about past efforts at WRC recruitment and felt that this is something other committees are dealing with too so we would talk to our Board Rep regarding ideas that would benefit all the Science and Technology (S&T) committees.

**Action:** Lou will follow-up with an article in Member News aimed at building awareness of the WRC and inviting participation/membership.

**5. High School Youth Forum** – This year members of the WRC are supporting the HSYF by judging presentations.

**6. Watershed-Riparian Content in Curriculum/URME/Plant Contests** – Several WRC members received and participated in a survey sent by Karen Lauchbaugh as part of her efforts to ascertain curriculum content. They reported that WRC input to the RSEC was incorporated into the survey. To date, the WRC is satisfied about the extent of their input addressing Watershed-Riparian Core Competencies; however, more will be done if the opportunity arises.

**Action:** Lou will ask Karen about the survey results relative to watershed-riparian content in curriculum and report back to the WRC. (*See LH3 at the end of these notes.*)

- **SRM Plant Contest** – Lou reported that students are expected to know 200 plants; any riparian-wetland plant species added would require an equal number of plant species removed from the test.

**Action:** Sarah will contact Shelly Taylor, Student Activities Committee, about submitting the list of riparian-wetland plants developed by members of the WRC and encourage the incorporation of a sub-set of those into the plant contest.

- **SRM URME** – This is still an area for inclusion of riparian ecological concepts.

**Action:** Emily will research, consult, draft, vet within the WRC a set of questions in preparation for the WRC Chair submission; WRC members can also send to individuals they feel can contribute review. Shelly Taylor, Student Activities Committee is also the contact for the URME.

**7. Riparian ESD Development** – This is an evolving effort led by NRCS. The WRC is interested in keeping up on the status of riparian ESD development and supporting any learning activities for the general membership.

**Action:** Lou will ask Sarah to provide the WRC with a short written update on the Riparian ESD development process and any related information she feels the WRC should know.

**8. BOD Representative/Committee Discussion** – Misty Hays reported on several topics and asked for committee ideas and input. The committee brought up several other issues they wanted to discuss.

- **Funding** - Submit any WRC requests for 2014 (August 1- July 31 fiscal year) funding needs; sponsorship funds must go through the Board - they may consolidate if multiple requests are being made to the same sponsor organizations. It is important to be in discussion with our committee Board Representative and the finance committee well in advance of the actual need for funds.

- **Action Update Calls** – There is some interest in bringing these back, they were monthly; need specific topics, committees could report out on a schedule, need to know content in advance.

- **BOD Representatives** – SRM is looking at the spread/workload of committee assignments per Board member and may make reassignments based on that review.

- **Committee Membership** – Overall, a number of committees are experiencing a reduction in member participation and several ideas were discussed, some of which Misty can bring forward to the Board and others that committee members can act upon.

- Misty is going to suggest to the Board that SRM institute the process of each committee submitting a one page article for Rangelands - committee structure, roles, purpose would be put out to all once a year to build awareness, understanding and invite participation. A shorter version can be submitted for the News Flash emails as more people are likely to view these as come directly into a person's inbox.
- Many people are mentored into committee participation – the group felt that this is one of the most effective ways to facilitate increased recruitment and retention and is something any individual can do.
- A number of the new member venues in SRM are already including information and encouragement regarding committee involvement; however, this may need to be followed with some individual invitations and continued Board oversight regarding effectiveness. Examine other ways to capitalize on the transition time from student to apprentice or regular membership as students are really busy with exams at the annual meeting but may want to do more once they graduate and join the workforce.
- Another suggestion is to include a place in the annual membership renewal and the annual registration materials that asks for areas of interest regarding committee participation. Committee participation is also an avenue for addressing/influencing/shaping issues and interests within SRM.

- **Committee Interaction/Integration** - Misty said she will share the S&T Division Committee's reports/notes with all Chairs to pass on to their respective committee members to raise awareness of focus areas and opportunities for integrated efforts. The WRC suggested that if there are items to share beyond the division or with all committees, the Outreach and Communication Committee can help facilitate that.

**Action:** Misty said that next year she plans to arrange an informal get together of the S&T Committee Chairs.

**Action:** If there is information from her Board participation throughout the year that is of interest to the S&T Committees, Misty will send email updates to the Chairs to share with members.

- **Position Statements** – Misty emphasized that position statements are intended for SRM to show a stance on a variety of subjects when asked, and not asked i.e., posted on the web site, and to also help members represent SRM in a more consistent way. The WRC asked that the BOD and PPAC examine the review and input process for consistency, timing, etc.; there is a standard 5-year rotation but anyone can bring up concerns at any time. Timing has not been the best (field season) – need time for email exchange and discussion during the committee meeting before sending input to the Board. (See LH4 at end of these notes.)

- **SRM Glossary Update** – Misty confirmed that there is now some interest in updating the SRM Glossary from other committees she has heard from. Besides adding watershed and riparian terms, others have suggested the need to include terms such as Ecological Site Descriptions, State and Transitions, and others. Misty asked how we would like to see this effort move forward. The WRC asked Misty to secure Board support for appointment of a Task Group and she said she would bring it up during the Thursday meeting. Further discussion brought up an issue that will surely surface - should there be one SRM definition or recognize that there are more than one definition and link to others? Perhaps SRM's role is to foster consistency to the extent possible. The revision task will be difficult and complex and conflict will be inherent in the process. (See LH5 at end of these notes.)

- **SRM's Strategic Plan Revision** – The WRC asked Misty for an update of the strategic plan revision process and she reported that the Advisory Council is working on the document at this meeting and will submit their input to the Board this week. Based on earlier drafts, the plan will be more streamlined than the previous version and structured to serve as the basis for operational plans. When finalized, committees can tier to it within their handbooks and with their activities.

**Action:** Misty will check on the timeline for finalizing the document and report back to the S&T Chairs.

- **WRC Report to the BOD** – Misty asked that we continue using the format provided last year and that she receive the report before the Thursday Board meeting. The WRC acknowledged that SRM is a volunteer organization so given that, asked that the Board consider what they can do to create more structure and guidance for committees, improve communications, etc., (e.g., determine minimums, set expectations, and implement follow-up processes).

**Action:** Lou and Susan will finalize the WRC report to the Board and email to Misty before Thursday and send to the membership with the committee meeting notes.

**9. WRC Handbook** – No changes are warranted at this time.

**10. 2013 Lentic Workshop** – Because there is a lot of interest in lentic riparian areas the WRC continued with that topic for the 2013 workshop on Wednesday morning that includes six speakers covering aspects of assessment, monitoring and classification. Lou did most/all of the organizing for this session but feels a subcommittee is the best way to plan and implement WRC workshops or symposium and advises we go back to that moving forward.

**11. 2014-2015 WRC Activities** – Through the group discussion people acknowledged their doubt about being able to attend the 2014 meeting in Orlando and also expressed reluctance to put a lot of work into a workshop or symposium given their skepticism about overall meeting participation based on budgetary issues and their past experience of poor session attendance at that location. The consensus of the people present was to think two years ahead and plan one or more activities for the 2015 meeting in Sacramento. That said, any committee member(s) can certainly plan something for Orlando if they so choose.

We also had a short discussion about co-sponsoring activities and what that really means. The conclusion was that it could range from very active involvement of members of multiple committees and/or organizations to funding-only support, or basically just an endorsement.

***Ideas for 2015*** – Below is the group’s brainstorm list of topics based on what people felt is important/relevant, emphasizing that activity content needs to be objective driven and have a logical flow.

1. Management, Restoration, Monitoring of Riparian Resources - what are people doing, what is working, what is not working; more on lentic efforts; also bank alteration...would need to find out who is doing what, etc.
2. Inventory, Assessment and Monitoring of Springs - management concerns and biodiversity issues are drivers
3. Ephemeral Systems – why the focus on these, definition, the variety of types, assessment; a report out on what IIRH has and is doing relative to incorporation into v.5 of the technical reference
4. Ground Water – introduction to ground water types, Forest Service protocols/updates, issues/efforts in the southwest, Utah/Nevada, other areas
5. Riparian ESD Development (this may be covered in an agency sponsored workshop)

**Action:** Sarah will query the membership for interest and commitment to lead/serve on a subcommittee for one or more of these topics, or other topics not covered by those present at the meeting.

**12. WRC Meeting Room for 2014** – A form to reserve a meeting room for the next year was not provided at this meeting so at some point it will likely be available from the Orlando meeting website even if a reminder note is not sent. Because of the discussion about attendance at Orlando it might be a good idea to get some feedback from WRC members before reserving a meeting room. It may be alright to reserve a room and then cancel it provided a charge will not be incurred – this is also something to research.

**Action:** Sarah will follow up on WRC meeting room needs/provisions for the Orlando meeting once the planning process is further along.

**Action:** Sarah will query WRC membership several months in advance of the 2014 meeting to determine if the meeting room should be held or cancelled.

**13. WRC Information Management** – Emily Lent has volunteered to assume the WRC information management tasks that Susan has been doing - this will insure that basic functions are accomplished and will provide continuity into the future.

**Action:** Susan and Emily will coordinate on the information management transition.

**Post-meeting follow-up notes from Lou:**

*LH1 - Sarah has indicated she would like to serve for 2 years if practical.*

*LH2 – Four of the five presentations have been posted on the Introduction section of the WRC webpage.*

*LH3 - Lou discussed with Karen Lauchbaugh the curriculum and qualifications issues that have been on going. Karen has incorporated what the WRC submitted last year but not in as much detail as we provided. Karen will be calling again for “teachable products” that can be incorporated into training sessions or other teaching processes. The WRC has a start on this effort with some members already offering items.*

*LH4 - Position statements are being sent from the Policy and Public Affairs Committee (PPAC) periodically for the WRC and other committees to review and provide comments/updates. The WRC Chair will forward these on to the rest of the committee for comment and ask to have them back by a specific date so comments can be collated and returned to the PPAC for editing and submission to the Board. Even though this is a long process it is intended to get adequate participation to improve quality, strength and effectiveness of SRM position statements.*

*LH5 - Following our committee meeting, several more discussions occurred to move the glossary effort along. There is support building but it is going to take time and will involve conversations with other professional interests and going through an organized peer review process.*