

Watershed / Riparian Committee  
1997 Minutes

■ Mel George opened the meeting at 08:00 with an introduction and members introduced themselves. He then asked that a time limit be given for each item on the agenda. He gave an overview of the Watershed Education Resource Exchange, and asked all to take time and view all the materials available. Thanked all who participated in preparing this activity.

AGENDA

Introductions, House Keeping (15)  
Watershed Education Resource Exchange - George (15)  
Monitoring Workshop for 1998- Skinner (30)  
SRM Riparian Grazing Position Statement (60)  
NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook - Shaver/Butler (20)  
Proper Functioning Condition Training - Elmore/Holtzman (20)  
Monitoring Handbook for Ranchers-Rasmussen/Marlow (Sunday afternoon  
w/Monitoring committee  
Assessing Riparian Health EPA- Rodger Dean

■ Q. Skinner presented the need to have a monitoring workshop as related to riparian zone management. He based this need upon the last two years of being asked to help present related material for extension workshops focused on mandatory monitoring of forest lands used by the ranching industry. After much discussion, it was decided that the 1998 meeting was not the place to conduct this workshop and, that it should be an item for the Omaha convention. This was because more people involved in mandatory or volunteer monitoring of riparian zones could attend or present pertinent material. Also, CRM and Proper Functioning Condition as related topics were to be on the agenda for Mexico.

■ SRM Riparian Grazing Position Statement was discussed at length and points to be given to the board were. a) use the existing definition, b) merge draft three with draft 1, c) change livestock grazing to herbivory, d) remove subjective terms like (Proper) and d) show riparian is a continuum with wetland.

■ A briefing was given about the progress of the NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook. The book was not finished but progress was substantial. All thought, when finished, it will be a helpful tool for land and watershed managers.

■ Wayne Elmore and Susan Holtzman gave us an overview of training for using Proper Functioning Condition of riparian zones and briefed us about the interagency use of this tool. Also gave us insight as to what would happen in Mexico with their workshop.

■ SRM being a co-sponsor for the Water Quality on Rangelands in Reno 1998 was discussed. Our committee said yes and this then went to Clayton Marlow via Sandy Wyman and, consequently we are now co-sponsoring this symposium. This promises to be a good meeting .