

SRM Watershed/Riparian Committee

Committee Restructuring Update

Old Business

National Research Council Riparian Report

- ♦ Review conducted by Wayne Leininger, Quentin Skinner, et al. Board submitted comments.
- ♦ Item in TBN (which led to comments from Roger Peterson): criticized our organization. Elmore responded to Peterson.
- ♦ **Did NRC respond to SRM's comments?** We would like feedback from the Board regarding our previous review.
- ♦ The gist of the report seems to be definition of riparian (ridge top to reidge top) and the desire for more regulation related to riparian - analogous to wetlands. **Elmore will follow-up with NRC as to what has happened or will happen with the report.** Tamzen reported that the report is being used extensively in wildlife and fisheries classes at OSU. To what extent will the report be used in Washington, D. C., and by whom? Will it be applied differently in the eastern US vs. western US. **Wheeler will follow-up with Deen Boe and Sam Ahlbrecht to alert them to our concerns.**
- ♦ What agency/entity has the responsibility for the legal definition of "riparian?"

AFS

We need to follow-up with AFS and their potential involvement with SRM, as a reciprocal to our participation in their meetings last year.

Committee Handbook

Sandy Wyman will e-mail the current version of the handbook to Wheeler, who in return will distribute it to the committee for review and comment. An electronically facilitated review process will be undertaken and the revised committee handbook accepted (or not) at the 2004 SRM meeting.

Committee Chairs

Committee co-chair with David Wheeler for 2003 will be Carol Engle. Tamzen Stringham will be co-chair with Carol in 2004.

Research Priorities

The Committee recommends to the Board that perhaps a joint meeting of some sort within the Science and Ecology Division should focus on identifying research needs and priorities.

SRM Video Library

The EPA Grant expires on 09/30/03. Is a list of videos available? **Wheeler to distribute to Committee for review**, with a deadline and contacts (staff and Wheeler).

Invasives in Riparian Areas, Symposium for SLC, 2004

The Committee decided to approach both the Invasive Species Committee and the Wildlife Habitat Committee and invite them to co-sponsor with us this symposium. Both committees responded enthusiastically that they would like to do that. **Wheeler has a list of names from all three committees and will follow-up with those individuals to plan the symposium.** The first cut of an outline follows. The symposium will likely be a full day. Consider inviting Wildlife Society to present. Other names mentioned include Jim Young (Nevada), Tom Witson (? Univ of Wyo, retired), Doug Johnson (weed mapper OSU), Mark Harris and Laney ??? (treatment with goats), Sherm Swanson, Ann Baruska (TNC), and Dave Pyke (ESA, range section).

- 1) State Problem
- 2) Describe Impacts
 - a) BLM comparison of weed effects vs. fire effects (Stellingwerf)
- 3) Describe Ecological Interactions
 - a) Changes over time, e.g., seed transport mechanisms (Elmore)
 - b) Relationship between water table depth and invasives (recruitment and establishment)
- 4) Demonstrate Management
 - a) Success stories
 - b) Biological control

Youth Riparian Education Materials

It was decided to table this topic until a later date, or until the demand for such materials became more of a priority.

Science and Ecology Division

I later heard Marty Vavra suggest to another committee that perhaps the division needs a new name - the notion that science and ecology are separate items perhaps needs to be eliminated.

Ernest Fish (ernest.fish@ttu.edu) joined us late in the meeting from the Remote Sensing Committee. He offered to be a liaison between the two committees and offered to assist us if we had any needs that overlapped with their work.

New Business

American Society of Civil Engineers Watershed Management Symposium, 2005

We have been invited to participate in their next symposium in Williamsburg, VA. **Wheeler will follow-up with Richard Hawkins regarding theme(s) and possibilities.** Skinner and Elmore both presented in Fort Collins, 2000. We will also explore putting an item in the TBN and soliciting a broader involvement than just the Watershed/Riparian committee. The outline from a brainstorming session on possible presentation topics follows. It was agreed that we would explore the idea of presenting 3-4 papers, preferably each with multiple authors to promote the integrated nature of the topic.

- ♦ Emphasize the differences between eastern and western US riparian (Skinner)
- ♦ Lay a foundation of basic hydrology and stream morphology characteristics (Elmore)
- ♦ Integrate riparian ecology, bioengineering, stream function, and engineering connectivity (Holtzman, Stringham, Swanson)