



Wyoming Section Society for Range Management

Annual Business Meeting
November 18, 2008
Cheyenne, Wyoming

The meeting was called to order by Misty

Ken Johnson, Executive Vice President addressed the membership. He worked for the NRCS for 33 years and just retired. He stated that in his later years most of his time was spent doing non-productive work. So he applied for the EVP as he believes in what the SRM does and stands for. He had three items to discuss:

1. Wants to promote what SRM does and how it affects private landowners. We need to get the information out and provide technical transfer. This is what our priority should be. The certifying program is critical. We should get our best professionals together, have an open forum, video tape it and then get the information out to the field. Any time we have meetings or forums this should be the way to get information out. By showing what we do may help get producers to the National and local meetings.
2. Young Professional Cadre. Need to get our younger professional members involved. Want to work on a cadre of about 15 members at a time to provide a training opportunity in how to write white papers, visit Capital Hill and find out what the legislation is working on and what is needed. This could have long term effects.
3. When the SRM Leadership Team went to Washington DC, we found out that we do have some clout. Legislators changed their schedule to accommodate and meet with individuals from the Team.

In closing, Ken is encouraged to see the amount of young professionals.

Ann Hild addressed the members. Her main issue was that someone from Wyoming needs to be nominated to be on the Board of Directors.

We need to look at not just signing up members but to promote ourselves to show the benefits of being a member. People want to join because we do things they want to be involved in. One issue we can and do support is the Climate Change discussions. There was even an article published in the New York Times that was in Rangelands. We need to be more vocal in what we do.

The SRM accreditation team was at the Univ. Wyoming to accredit the school. Next to Texas A&M, Univ. of Wyoming has the most Range Students enrolled.

The National SRM web site is changing. Check it out.

The Board of Directors wants to reach out and associate with other organizations. They have placed a high value on the importance of the Rangeland Cup competition and Kudos to the Wyoming Section for getting this started. We need to get Washington DC legislators out to show them what the issues are in the field. Should use local and regional workshops to get them involved.

The minutes from the previous annual business meeting was read. Rives moved to approve and Charlie made a second. Minutes approved.

The Treasure report was discussed. There was a discussion on how the working balance was determined. Marji moved to approve the Treasure report and Justin made a second. Report approved.

Old Business: The National Advisory Council accepted the relative process for site selection for the National meetings but did not accept the entire proposal. The Advisory Council to set up a sub-committee to come up with a group of locations that will meet SRM needs. Sections may make recommendations for review. Once a list is developed, Sections will be asked to assist in hosting. The following are locations for upcoming National meetings: 2009 in Albuquerque, NM, 2010 in Denver, CO, 2011 in Billings, MT, 2012 in Spokane, WA, and 2013 maybe in Oklahoma City, OK. The list is coming down to only a few locations that meet the needs of the SRM National meeting. Our organization is meeting room intensive and dependent on volunteers to make meetings happen.

Who has the Bronze? We think Phil still has it. Charlie will find out and make a decision on how to sell it.

Award Committee: had several good nominations and recognition will be at the Banquet. Phil Gonzales will be recognized at the National awards.

Nominations: Terry Booth stated we had a full ballot and results will be announced at the Banquet.

Fundraising: Phil has the Bronze and we may look at trying to sell it at the Crazy Auction in the future.

I&E: Patty Slack tried to get the display to several meetings but was unable to. Need to do a better job on getting the display out. It will be updated. It will use different themes to target different groups and will be tailored to the various functions it will be displayed at.

Newsletter: This was Donna's first year. She is still working on the electric format. The newsletter is the best communication source for our Section. **WE NEED TO MEET DEADLINES.** So we can get the newsletter out, the deadline for submitting articles will be the 2nd Friday of the second month in the quarter. Please get your articles to Donna by that date. She also wants to put the email address of the council members on the newsletter. All articles for now should be submitted in PDF format.

Section WEB site: Marji reported that we are getting close on having our web site ready. It will go through the Parent Society.

Student Activities: Rives White reported that they have been working fundraising activities as they are planning on having 13 Students attend the National Meeting in Albuquerque.

WYRED: Ben stated that they had 50 participants in KayCee. They did get a GLCI grant but need to look at other fundraising activities to help finance. The session was held in June and will be held in June in the future. They had good feedback on this past session. Several exciting events. Will try to get Univ. WY students involved. In 2009 it will be held in Greybull.

Old West: Only about 1/3 of the normal attendance showed up due to weather.

HSYF: There will be eight students giving papers at this meeting. Winner will attend HSYF in Albuquerque.

Young Professional: This is a group to bridge the gap to help new professionals in their field. Will meet in Albuquerque and have a luncheon panel. They are trying to develop a newsletter and will help with the job fair at the National meeting.

Budget: Need to have budgets submitted by the end of December.

New Business:

Patty Slack stated that she is just now figuring out what is happening and how to conduct business. She suggested having longer terms for the Council members or have some sort of executive assistant to the President to help with continuity. Need to get the Handbook out to the Council and put it on the Web site. Wants to have a listing of past council members along with presidents as a resource.

Patty provided information of the Range Schools that are upcoming. Blaine Horn is the new Coordinator.

Rives White, WY Range Club, and requested \$500 from the general operating fund and \$1,500 from their Student account to attend the National SRM meeting in Albuquerque. This will be discussed by the Budget committee and the Council.

Summer Shulz indicated that the WY Stock growers are requesting attendance at their meeting on Dec. 7 through 10 in Casper.

Discussion was held as to what support is SRM providing in the terms of data collection for Ecological Site Descriptions and our involvement.

There was a request that the Annual Business meeting be held during the day as part of the regular program. We might get better attendance. We also need to avoid overbooking our meeting with other agency meetings.

The Display Booth will be at the WY Stock growers meeting and Patty needs help to have people at the booth.

There was also a suggestion to have a speaking contest at the meeting next year for students. This will get more students to participate.

Meeting Adjourned

Bob Sprentall
Secretary/Treasure