

**Wyoming Section SRM  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2014 – Laramie, WY  
UW Laramie R&E Center Greenhouse – 30<sup>th</sup> & Harney**

**Attendance:**

Brian Meador – President  
Windy Kelley – President Elect (recorded meeting minutes)  
Rachel Meador – Southeast Council Rep  
Mae Smith – Southwest Council Rep  
Brian Sebade – Newsletter Editor  
Monte Lane – Young Professionals' Conclave  
Katelyn Schade – Northwest Council Rep  
Jaramie McLean – UW Range President

**Brian M. called the meeting to order at 8:24 AM**

**Non-Profit Status:**

Brian shared that WY-SRM is officially incorporated as an entity in Wyoming, but have not achieved federal non-profit status with the IRS. We need to complete and submit the paperwork as soon as possible. There is a \$750 filing fee. If our application is rejected it is our understanding we will have to pay the \$750 fee again. It was suggested we consider paying an accountant/attorney to review the paperwork prior to submitting.

Brain reported Marji will send him the information and paperwork to review and complete. He plans to share the paperwork with us prior to submitting. A question was asked about who is responsible for maintaining the quarterly reports for the non-profit status – the Treasurer.

***Action Items:***

**Mae:** contact Voices of the Valley about the process they followed to submit their non-profit paperwork

**Brain/Rachel:** ask if services exist to review paperwork on campus; if not, then other services available. Contact former student who is an attorney?

**WY – SRM Financials:**

Brian provided an update of the WY – SRM financials as of December 31, 2013.

- Checking \$1,579 and \$28,290.18 in savings
- Investments Edward Jones \$23,744.68
- October 1 Range School: \$5,502.91
- WyRed \$1,716.14
- High School Youth Forum \$5,555.16 (less Orlando travel for two youth)
- UW Range Club \$466.25
- ~\$48,000 total
- Working Budget ~\$16,629.41

## **WyRED:**

Mae provided an update on behalf of the Committee Chairs (Marji Patz and Ben Bonella)

Unita County Conservation District was approached about sponsoring WyRED 2014. They declined do to prior commitments and expressed interest for in the future.

Marji contacted Laramie County Conservation District about sponsoring WyRED 2014. The district is working with the Committee Chairs and Mae to identify dates and a location for the camp. Additionally, Laramie Valley Conservation District has expressed interest in co-sponsoring the event.

Mae explained that identifying dates that will work for everyone has been a challenge this year. Traditionally, WyRED is the first two weeks of June; however, some schools are extending their year into the first week of June, and this year the Ag Teacher Conference is the second week of June. The third and fourth weeks of June are being considered; however, several of the UW Extension Educators who help with WyRED will be at a training the third week, and Range School (WY SRM's other primary summer event) is the fourth week of June.

A number of the same people teach at both WyRED and Range School each year, so having the events the same week could limit the participation of some at one or the other events. The Committee Chairs, Mae, and the conservation districts are weighing their options and hope to make a decision soon.

The Council expressed concern about the potential of WY – SRM's main summer events being the same week. They discussed whether July would be an option for WyRED or not. There was a conversation about the condition of the plants in July, having sufficient time to advertise the camp, and providing the opportunity for educators who want to be involved with WyRED and Range School. Mae explained that the camp has never been held in July and that there is concern about the conflict with other camps and county fairs.

Potential venues were discussed. Hynds Lodge (no showers), Retreat of the Rockies (available the last week of June), the ARS High Plains Research Experiment Station, and the Belvoir Ranch (City of Cheyenne).

If Laramie Valley Conservation District does co-sponsor WyRED we could explore using UW dorms (include a tour of campus), the UW Camp in Centennial, Table in the Wilderness, the Ag Experiment Station, McGuire Ranch, Chimney Park Boy Scout Camp, and USFS campgrounds.

It was suggested more research of venues and dates should be done. It was recommended the WyRED team reserve Retreat of the Rockies (if deposit can be reimbursed), and talk with additional WyRED leaders about dates.

Mae share that Marji's goal is \$30 – 35/person/day for WyRED

Brian M. shared that Misty Hays has been working to update the WyRED manual for several years. The goal is to have it completed for review by the end of April.

***Action Items:***

**Brian:** email Marji and communicate the section council met and are concerned about having WY – SRM's two main events the same week. We would like to explore other options. Also, request a list of the WyRED leaders who usually participate (e.g., Misty Hays) (*completed*)

**Rachel:** will contact John Tanka for a list of FFA Advisors

**Mae:** explore other WyRED venue options. Mary Louis might have ideas.

**Range School:**

Windy provided an update about Range School 2014. The school will be June 24 – 27 in Kemmerer. She went over the school agenda highlighting changes based on feedback from last year's school, recent area programming, etc. For example, adding a 'pre-plant identification quiz' based on feedback from last year, and focusing on riparian monitoring this year. Additionally, Windy hopes to engage ranchers as speakers where appropriate in the agenda.

Windy has had conversations with Justin Caudill (WDA – WLCI). They have funding to bring in nationally known speakers to talk about low stress livestock handling. Windy will meet with Justin and the Levi Bennington (BLM Kemmerer) the week of March 17 to determine the feasibility of adding 1 or two speakers to the agenda and who the speakers might be. Windy will ask Jim W. for input about potential low stress livestock handling speakers. Windy hopes to finalize the agenda in the very near future.

The following people were recommended to Windy as potential speakers: Eric Thacker of Utah State University (specialty in habitat improvement for sage-grouse and grazing, and weed management); BLM Riparian Service Team; Ray Gullion with the NRCS Worland (westland specialist and competes in chuck wagon cook-offs); and Carl Bezanson (BLM Kemmerer allotment management planning).

**UW Range Club Update: (formal reporting update will be at the banquet)**

Jaramie McLean (UW Range Club President) started by providing an update about the club's current fundraising efforts. Their annual banquet will be this evening. The club has sold over 100 tickets so far. Additionally, they have sold approximately 100 raffle tickets raising more than \$600. Currently, the club is about \$370 short due in part to a venue service fee; however, they anticipate they will cover their short fall through the silent and live auctions tonight. Brian M. noted the club had about 50 people at last year's banquet, so the club has done very well increasing their attendance this year.

The club organized a panel discussion last night about professionalism. Forty to 50 people attended, including students, parents, and faculty. Students expressed they learned more than they anticipated and several young professionals reported they were inspired by the panel.

### **2014 WY – SRM Annual Conference:**

Windy provided a brief update. She checked into a joint meeting with the WACD; however, their meeting dates and location are already set. Their meeting will be in Sheridan, which is where WY – SRM was last year. Windy will talk with Slade Franklin with the WDA about a joint meeting with the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council (WWPC). They have already decided they will meet in Rock Springs, which is one of the areas Windy was considering hosting the conference. Brian noted if we partner with WWPC to offer them to be apart of student night out. WWPC enjoys interacting with students. We hope to have a venue that has the capacity to live stream the conference again, similar to last year.

Windy noted that Clay Wood has already contacted her and ready to start finding donations for the banquet fundraiser. He would like to focus on local businesses, and asked Windy to keep him up to date about the location of the conference.

It was suggested the opening or closing talk incorporate ‘leadership,’ and put call-out for committee chairs and overall committee engagement (i.e., volunteers to help with committees).

### ***Volunteers and Roles:***

- ✿ Brian M. volunteered to handle registration
- ✿ Mae volunteered to help brainstorm and set the agenda, and anywhere else, as needed
- ✿ Larry Bentley will help where he can and will make contact with the Wyoming Livestock Roundup
- ✿ Katelyn will provide information about what facilities are needed for student competitions, and other resources needed (e.g., judges, etc.)
  - Rachel M. and Monte Lane volunteered to help Katelyn organize student activities
- ✿ Rio was suggested as a potential to organize student night out

Brian led a conversation brainstorming additional student activities. The following is a bullet list of ideas that came from the conversation.

- ✿ Pro AM student and professional plant ID and ERME. Team members would take each test individually, and their scores would be combined and reported as a team score. A problem solving/team activity could be included to facilitate interaction among team members. Names would be randomly drawn out of a hat.
  - Option: draw names from hat prior to the conference and hold the event the first day of the conference. People could vote which team they think will win and/or sponsor a team to raise money for WY – SRM.

- Logistically could be a challenge, so we would need to ensure we have the capacity to implement.
- ✦ Scavenger hunt organized prior to the conference. Teams would be made up of professionals and students from different schools (e.g., a student from UW, Sheridan College, USU, and Chadron).
- ✦ Range Jeopardy (Jeff Beck and Justin Derner have materials we could use)
  - Range Jeopardy could be an independent activity OR the final for the top three teams of the Pro AM.

**Action Items:**

**Windy:** contact Slade Franklin and determine if a joint conference with WWPC is an option. If not, then move forward with our own conference.

**Committee Reports:**

Brian M. asked Committee Chairs to provide an update.

**Newsletter Committee** – *Brian Sebade*

- ✦ Email list needs to be updated
- ✦ Newsletter will be quarterly with additions going out January, April, July, and October (goal 15<sup>th</sup> of those months)
- ✦ Rachel noted she likes pictures in the newsletter

**Action Items:**

**Brian S.:** check with membership about older members using email OR do we need to mail them the newsletter?

**Brian S:** review and update the email list – work with membership

**Budget Committee** – *Blaine Horn (not present)*

No update

**Awards Committee** – *Michelle Buzalsky (not present)*

No update

**Fundraising Committee** – *Clay Wood (not present, but submitted update)*

- ✦ Submitted a report. Clay plans to work with local businesses for auction items for the 2014 WY – SRM Conference (waiting to hear where the conference will be)
- ✦ Plans to do a silent and live auction

**YPC Committee from Orlando** – *Monte Lane*

- ✦ Provided an update from the national meeting YPC efforts
- ✦ Hopes to organize a YPC event at the annual WY – SRM Conference (will coordinate with Windy as she plans the conference)

**High School Youth Forum** – *Pete Guernsey (not present)*

- ✦ Did not submit a report.
- ✦ Brian M. shared that two students attended and competed at the conference in Orlando. It was a great opportunity for both of them.

**Nominations Committee** – Terry Booth (not present)

No update

**Range School Committee** – Blaine Horn (not present)

- ✎ Windy provided an update earlier in the meeting (See above)

**Handbook and Bylaws Committee** – John Litle (not present)

- ✎ Brian noted we need to review proposed changes to the bylaws. The Committee agreed to do so electronically.

**Action Items:**

**Brian M.:** email the Committee the proposed Bylaw changes for review and comments

**Student Activities Committee** – Katelyn Schade

- ✎ Suggested outgoing UW Seniors help organize volunteers
- ✎ Noted that good lighting is needed at the annual conference for plant ID
- ✎ It was suggested the timing of the high school youth forum be different at the 2014 conference than the 2013

**Action Items:**

**Katelyn:** identify needs for the 2014 student activities and provide list to Windy

**Katelyn:** coordinate with Rachel and Monte (and other interested parties) to prepare existing and new student activities for the November conference

**Membership Committee** – Chuck Butterfield (not present)

- ✎ Submitted a report
  - As of February 5, 2014 the WY Section had 182 active members and 61 that had not renewed their membership. In January, Chuck made an effort to contact several members that needed to renew their membership, success rate was ~ 60%.
  - Efforts to bolster membership continue: contact lapsed members, contact students who have graduated, work with community colleges, develop student SRM conclave in spring/pre-SRM meeting to bring students together for competitions, trainings, and talks about professional development, etc.
  - Potential for providing incentives for recruiting new members at the section level?

**Action item:**

**Brian:** contact Chuck about providing a list of members by area for council representatives to contact

**Website Update:**

The Committee briefly discussed the website who is responsible for updates. It is a team effort – anyone is welcome to contact Amanda Stith ask her to update/make changes. Amanda can be reached at: [stith.amanda@gmail.com](mailto:stith.amanda@gmail.com)

It was recommended we add a map to the website of the council representatives' counties.

### **Investment Update:**

#### **Kerry Bailey (Edward Jones Investment Group – Chadron)**

Kerry provided a brief overview of WY – SRM's history with Edward Jones. In May it will have been 7 years since we first invested with them. Kerry asked where we want to go with our investments, and to what degree we want them involved. He noted their service can include contacting potential donors for endowments if we provide a list and purpose for the request – service would be no additional charge.

Kerry handed out a folder with materials he explained to the group.

Kerry explained we have C.D.s that came due and the money is sitting as cash right now. We are looking to invest money as the market is rising – simply a matter of timing. He recommended we invest in mutual funds and not C.D.s moving forward. We can anticipate an average of 7% return with the upward end being 8 – 12% moving forward.

Kerry explained to us that it would be helpful for him if we outline WY – SRM's overall goal(s)/vision for the money (e.g., scholarship fund, etc.)

A question was asked about bonds. Kerry explained they have a large inventory of bonds. However, short-term bonds are similar to CDs right now – he did not recommend bonds for us.

Brian asked if there is a downside of switching over all of our funds now (with what went due and what is coming due)? Terry recommended putting a 10-year plan together, looking at the 'A' shares to be more efficient than the 'C' shares for the long-term for new money. Looking at all of the variables, the market should increase 6 to 8%, minus any extenuating circumstances. The WY – SRM can access the funds without being taxed, and there are no charges if money is withdrawn.

#### ***Action items:***

**WY – SRM Council:** draft and share with Kerry a 10-year plan that includes our vision and goal(s) – specific to our investments (e.g., scholarship fund, etc.).

#### **Bylaw Edits:**

The Committee agreed to review the proposed bylaw edits via email.

#### ***Action items:***

**Brian:** email the proposed bylaw changes to the council for review and input

## **Other Agenda Items:**

Parent Society looking for sponsorship of student activities.

### ***Action item:***

**Brian/Windy:** talk with Kelly about the potential of UW Extension sponsoring a student activity at the parent level

### **Potential Newsletter Ideas:**

- 🐾 Young Professionals Conclave
- 🐾 WY – SRM Leadership – solicit nominations for upcoming Council &/or Committee Chair openings
- 🐾 Feature a plan (Joy Handley)
- 🐾 Highlight upcoming activities and highlight activities since last newsletter
- 🐾 2014 Annual Meeting Update
- 🐾 Feature a project a WY – SRM member has been a part of
- 🐾 Solicit volunteers to help with student activities (e.g., judges)

**Brian adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM**

### **Lunch Discussion:**

- Survey current members and former members (within last 5 years) about what they want out of their membership
- Offer a section sponsorship ‘membership’ level – can sponsor WY – SRM and receive benefits such as reduced registration fees, etc., but don’t have to become a full member