

## **Society for Range Management, Advisory Council (AC) Meeting, Monday 9-16-2019**

Identified as being on call: Andrew Brischke (AZ Section/AC Chair), Dandy Kothmann (TX Section/ AC Chair-Elect), Thad Berrett (WY Section), Ken Mayer (WAFWA), Veronica Urbanczyk (YPC President), Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott (S), Lia Biondo (S), Jess Peterson (EVP), Vicky Trujillo (S);

Not all call participants may have identified themselves when they joined the call so should send Andrew Brischke ([andrewbrischke@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbrischke@gmail.com) / [brischke@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:brischke@cals.arizona.edu)) an email to let him know they were on;

### **9:00 am Call to Order/Introductions:**

### **9:10 am National Meeting Room Discussion:**

- Worked better to have meeting room set up so all can see each other rather than classroom style;
- Will not be any coffee or refreshments due to cost; should have water available;
- Will need a speaker and internet for Zoom meeting; will make request later today;
- Meeting will be on Sunday from 8AM-5PM with an hour lunch; need to know when the AC will meet with the Board;

### **9:15 am Western Weed Action Plan ( Ken Mayer. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies/WAFWA):**

- Ken gave an overview and status update of the Action Plan;
  - Was a Western Weed Summit in Boise; purpose to take weed report and look at the current challenges to work on invasives in the west to further; develop action plan moving forward;
  - Small groups looked at what has been done to see if “we got it right” or if there is more work to be done;
  - Put together a Working Group (2007?) to come up with an invasives action plan;
  - This is the first time that ag and agencies are working together on a plan;
    - Collaboration takes time; want to make sure there is a good product;
  - Final product/action plan is short and concise; identified issues without pointing fingers at any particular agency;
    - Easily identifiable issues getting positive feedback from the agencies;
  - Ready to publish; don’t feel WAFWA is the best entity to publish;
  - Have resolutions from WAFWA and WASDA; NASDA has it on their agenda;
    - SRM and up to 8 other entities wrote letters of support,
    - Want to list the organizations that support so they can take it to DC for implementation;
- Encouraging SRM Sections to apply pressure to State Ag Depts;
  - Would like assistance from SRM Sections; ask that they talk to their local departments of ag to help get DC to support and implement the plan;
  - Want this to be a living document/action plan that evolves and adapts to the changing conditions;
- Ken will keep Mary Jo apprised of where things are so she can keep AC and the Sections informed;
  - There are a lot of Actions tied to this; SRM is excited to participate;
  - Mary Jo is point of contact; send any questions or concerns to her ([SRMOutreach@rangelands.org](mailto:SRMOutreach@rangelands.org));

### **9:30 am Ecological Site Description priority areas:**

- Letter of support has been updated; once finalized, AC can circulate;
  - DC Interagency Meeting resulted in further discussion;
  - SRM will work with involved agencies on MOU;
  - Will need a “working group” to do “on the ground” work;
    - Encourage HQ and Sections to work together;
    - Interested parties should contact Kelly Fogarty ([kelly@wssdc.com](mailto:kelly@wssdc.com)) or any staff member;
  - Sections should report back at the National Meeting with local ESD areas of concern;

### **9:45 am Young Professionals Conclave (YPC) - Sections to have a YPC delegate:**

- Veronica gave a general overview of the YPC intent;
  - YPC is making effort to reach out to all Section to have a YPC delegate attend Sections’ meetings with the goal of having each Section have their own YPC Representative and possibly a YPC Committee;
    - End goal to help increase membership and work towards retaining Student and Young Professional members;
    - Have had 10 committed YPC Liaisons across the country;
    - A lot of moving parts going on at the Section level; looking for recommendation for Section meetings to attend;
- Has been a noticeable decline of YP Members in some Sections that have one or more range Universities (UT/ID);
  - YPC Delegates planning to attend UT & ID Section meetings;
  - Section President would select the YPC Representative/Liaison for that Section;
  - YPC duties/goals would include assistance in retention of Student members after graduation;

- Suggestion made that the Range Club President either be the Liaison or recommend the Liaison; must be SR. Undergrad or Masters Student, or within the first 5 years of their career;

#### **10:00 am Better communication strategies between Parent Society and Sections:**

- Working to increase the synergy between Parent Society and Sections;
  - Would like to hear from Sections; what is working, what isn't working;
    - WAFWA agreement is an example of PS communicating with Section their support of an issue and inviting Sections to also support and share ideas;
  - Vicky would like to have all Sections include in their handbooks that they need to send the Parent Society the dates and location of their primary meetings (when their Board meets) so that the Parent Society Board members can plan to attend at least one Section meeting each year;
  - Would also like to have Sections include in their handbooks that they must send the Parent Society the list of their incoming officers each year so we know who to communicate with;
  - Send ideas for improving the Parent Society RangeFlashes to either Mary Jo ([SRMOutreach@rangelands.org](mailto:SRMOutreach@rangelands.org)) or Vicky ([VTrujillo@rangelands.org](mailto:VTrujillo@rangelands.org));

#### **10:30 am Policy Statements, Position Statements, and Resolutions for Sections:**

- Has been little activity in this area;
- Would like to see a supplemental Insurance that could cover all Sections;
  - Currently, Parent Society's insurance is only for the parent Society; since Sections must file their own taxes, they are considered individual entities so must have their own insurance;
  - Would like the Board to investigate options for a blanket coverage for all Sections;
    - Jess would need examples of organizations that have "blanket coverage" policy for sub-groups/organizations so he can investigate; Andrew gave the example of ?? Rugby;
  - Regardless of what is found, Sections should be encouraged to have liability insurance;
- Diversity & Inclusion documents were approved and are posted on the SRM Parent Society website;

#### **11:00 am Hosting quarterly AC meeting discussions:**

- Is there enough "work" to justify having periodic meetings/calls throughout the year; handbook only requires meeting once a year at the AM (SRM [bylaws](#), page 4; ARTICLE V: Advisory Council);
  - The consensus is that meeting more often by phone is helpful to all; Vicky will work with Andrew and Dandy to revise the AC Handbook verbiage (meet in person or by phone quarterly, or as necessary);
    - SRM can assist the AC with these meetings/calls;
  - The role of AC is huge in assisting to push forward initiatives and keeping Parent Society informed of Section concerns;
    - Important to keep the institutional memory from year to year; also important to keep the synergy moving forward;
  - SRM has a conference line that can be used by all Sections; contact Vicky or Mary Jo to schedule;
  - Sections can also get a Zoom account to use for shorter meetings;
    - The first 45 minutes on Zoom are free so Sections could utilize that for meetings that don't require more time than that;

#### **11:15 am Fact Sheet for incoming AC Chair, Co-Chair, Delegates:**

- Binder: Missed this; need Andrew/Mary Jo to fill in;
- AC Action Items list for Board Action;
  - Andrew and Vicky discussed the AC developing a template for AC Action items to be submitted to the Board at the AM that will become a "living document" to track recommendations, progress and outcomes;
  - Recommend it be spreadsheet or table format with columns to track progress throughout the year;

#### **OTHER:**

- Annual Meeting registration will be open soon;
- Parent Society election is open; ballots due by 11:59PM MT October 18<sup>th</sup>;
  - Vicky will send reminder emails to those who have not yet voted; vote early if you don't want to receive multiple reminders;