



Society for Range Management  
Arizona Section  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2003  
10:00am  
Plant Materials Center  
Tucson, AZ

*The overall goals of this meeting are to discuss how to:*

- *Attract new members into the AZ SRM section*
- *Facilitate objective #1 by providing worthwhile educational opportunities and products that add value to the "Arizona SRM membership experience"*

**Welcome/Call to Order**

Larry Howery (AZ Section President) called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Elected officers present included Larry Howery, Dean Fish, Emilio Carrillo, Bruce Munda, Willie Sommers, Missy Debnar, and Dan Bell, as well as ASU Student Chapter Member Derek Stauffer. Enough elected officers were present to form a quorum. Larry also called attention to the overall goals highlighted above.

**Approval of January 14 and 16, 2003 Meeting Minutes**

The Minutes of both the January 14, 2003 and January 16, 2003 winter meetings were reviewed. Missy Debnar moved to accept the minutes as written; Bruce Munda seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Dan Bell (AZ Section Secretary-Treasurer) presented the status of the section checking, savings, and the NRCWAY checking accounts. Dan stated that the financial activity for the period following the meeting in Laughlin mainly consisted of collecting late meeting registrations, auction item receipts, and donations for the Clark S. Martin Scholarship fund. Dan reported the auction brought in \$1,339.00. Dan also reported that nobody had any receipts for payment but that would probably change with the completion of the newsletter.

Balances for the various accounts as of February 28, 2003 are as follows:

AZ Section Checking:	\$ 6,328.60
AZ Section Savings:	\$ 7,135.47
NRCWAY Checking:	\$12,199.17

Dean Fish moved to accept the financial report as presented; Emilio Carrillo seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Dan presented the group with a proposal of the AZ Section Budget for 2003. Dan asked the group for input regarding the proposed budget. The following is the Budget that was agreed upon.



Arizona Section, SRM  
2003 Budget Track

	Proposed 2002	Actual 2002	Proposed 2003	Actual 2003
<b>Inflow</b>				
Winter Meeting Reg.	\$500.00	\$3,245.00	\$6,500.00	\$7020.00
Summer Meeting Reg.	\$5,000.00	\$5,830.00	\$2,000.00	
SRM Annual Dues	\$900.00	\$1014.00	\$1,500.00	
Auction	\$1,000.00	\$1,225.00	\$1,000.00	\$1339.00
Hats				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,400.00</b>	<b>\$11,314.00</b>	<b>\$11,000.00</b>	<b>\$8359.00</b>
<b>Outflow</b>				
Awards	-\$600.00	-\$381.17	-\$600.00	-\$507.40
Scholarships	-\$650.00	-\$600.00	-\$650.00	-\$600.00
County Committees				
Corp. Comm. Fees	-\$10.00	-\$10.00	-\$10.00	-\$10.00
Student Chapters	-\$1,000.00	-\$1000.00	-\$1,000.00	
HSYF Student	-\$800.00		-\$800.00	
Section Newsletter	-\$1,000.00	-\$513.96	-\$1,000.00	
Postage, Misc. Supplies	-\$300.00	-\$177.76	-\$300.00	
Student Mixer				
NRCWAY Donation	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Weed Symposium	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Sponsor				
SVMA Donation	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Winter Meeting	-\$2,000.00	-\$3,628.44	-\$6,000.00	-\$6663.91
Summer Meeting	-\$3,000.00	-\$3,557.48	-\$1,000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-\$9,360.00</b>	<b>-\$9968.81</b>	<b>-\$11,460.00</b>	<b>-\$7781.31</b>

**Old Business – Jeff Schalau**

Jeff was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following reports.

**a) Summer Meeting 2003**

I propose that the Arizona Section summer meeting be held at the V Bar V Experiment Station at the Mahan Park location on August 7 and 8, 2003. These dates are flexible, but I thought a Thursday and Friday would be best. August will likely have brought along some monsoonal moisture, so a National Forest Closure will not be as likely. The site is on patented land owned by the U of A. The site is on the edge of a large prairie bordered by Ponderosa pines near Clint's Well at about 7,000 ft elevation. It has a nice metal building where we could meet, a cabin that will be open for other meetings, and livestock handling facilities if needed. Tables and chairs are also available. We will need to rent porta potties, a generator (if we want to have slide or multimedia presentations), and a golf cart for Dean Fish to patrol the camp perimeter. Motel rooms are also available at the nearby Happy Jack Lodge (so George has no excuse for not attending). We also have a large tent if it rains. Larry is also familiar with the site and could probably answer some questions.

As for the agenda, Dave Schafer (V BAR V Resident Director) has agreed to give us an overview of the ranch's history, management, and current research projects. Destocking and Restocking in response to drought is another topic that we discussed for the summer meeting. Jim Sprinkle (Gila County Extension Agent) is organizing a workshop on this topic on March 25 in Camp Verde. I will be attending to see what is covered and how we may be able to build on that topic for our summer meeting agenda. George Ruyle has also mentioned that the Research Committee has some very interesting things happening that could be presented.



I have some questions:

1. Do we want to do a steak fry and will the SCCBP Committee assist me if we do?
2. Are these dates satisfactory and is there another conflicting event occurring at that time (when is the Arizona Cattle Growers Annual Summer Meeting)?
3. Have I forgotten anything?

Otherwise, I am open to your suggestions and my goal is to have our summer meeting be both fun and educational.

Dean Fish Chairman of the SCCBP Committee said the committee would assist Jeff in putting on a steak fry.

Dan Bell said he would check on ACGA Annual Convention Dates. Dan thought there might be a conflict and said he would contact Jeff when he had more information.

Larry Howery asked if we had a back up plan in case the forests are closed. Dean Fish said he would contact Jeff and generate some discussion on this matter.

#### **b) Website Development**

I have requested that the site be hosted by the U of A, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at no cost to the section. Since this request has just been submitted, I have not heard back but am optimistic that it will be approved. This has several advantages to the section (excellent support, statistical summaries of site activity, and it's free). The site could be transferred to another server if necessary, but this would have a cost and the support may not be as good. I will let the BOD know when I hear back from the college webmaster.

The domain names "azsrm.org" and "azrangelands.org" are both available. What is the BOD's preference? My personal preference is "azrangelands.org" because of the similarity to the parent society's domain name.

At this point, I envision the site containing useful information and important links to scientific information. It should be useful, yet easy to maintain. I need the BOD's assistance to remind me of all the elements that were discussed to be included on the site. I was able to remember the following:

Mission/Goals

Archives of Minutes and Meeting Agendas

Newsletters

By-Laws

Articles of Incorporation

Guidelines for Section Officers and Committee Chairs

Awards

Contact Information of BOD and Committee Chair??? This could be a privacy issue for some people.

Links:

[www.rangelands.org](http://www.rangelands.org)

JRM

AgNIC

Please give me some feedback on this: what is missing, what is the most critical information, and



remember this web stuff all takes a lot of time, so simple is good to start with.

The group agreed with Jeff's recommendation that "azrangelands.org" should be the domain name for the section website.

Willie Sommers suggested having links to the ASU Chapter and U of A Chapter Websites.

Larry Howery asked for volunteers to assist Jeff in the development of this website. Emilio Carrillo volunteered himself and Dean Fish's services for the cause of website development.

Larry Howery also asked if a new committee for the website was needed or could it be combined with the Information Committee. After brief discussion on this matter, it was decided that the website would fit well in the Information Committee.

### **New Business**

#### **a) Membership Drive – Larry Howery**

Larry stated that membership has been suffering a steady decline at both the parent and section level since 1995. Membership for the section in 2002 was 166, just 57% of the high water mark of 292 in 1994. And to make matters worse 70% of the current SRM membership was due to retire within 10 years.

Larry pointed out that membership in the Society for Range Management is the responsibility of the sections. Larry presented the group with a plan to increase membership within the section. Each member would be required to recruit at least one new member this year. As an incentive for recruitment the parent society will apply a \$5 credit to your membership dues for each new regular member you sponsor. For each unsuccessful recruitment attempt, Larry requested that we ask them for the top 2 reasons they do not wish to become a member, as well as what SRM could do to entice them to join in the future.

In addition, Larry stated that he would be working with Mike Hannemann to draft a letter to all Forest Service Range Cons informing them of the benefits available through membership in SRM. Some of the benefits include Certified Rangeland Manager Program and the availability of continuing education units at many of the meetings.

Dean Fish suggested that once the letters went out, section directors should follow up either personally or by assigning individuals with better contacts. Dan Bell agreed with this tactic and added that permittees that were currently members of SRM could be asked to contact the range cons they work with.

Bruce Munda mentioned that he may have a list of NRCS Range Cons that the section could send similar letters to.

Emilio Carrillo stated that he believed, other than Steve Williams there are no other State Land Range Cons that are members of SRM. Dan Bell stated that he would contact Steve Williams in an effort to get the State Land Range Cons signed up.

There was some discussion as to initiate the same type of campaign within the BLM. Keith Curry and Mark Pater were thought to be good contacts to possibly get this rolling.

Willie Sommers suggested that we get more ranchers involved in SRM. Dan Bell said he would contact ACGA to inquire about a possibility of a booth exchange between the Section and ACGA.



**b) Update on Advisory Council – Sandy Fabritz**

Sandy was unable to attend the board meeting but submitted the following reports.

As chair of the parent society's Advisory Council, Sandy stressed the importance of establishing a stronger AZ Section presence at these meetings. Dan Bell suggested that it should be mandatory for board members of the section to attend Advisory Council. Through a system of scheduling, make sure that there were always three individuals in attendance for every session of the Advisory Council. If a board member was unable to attend then that member would give proxy to a member within the section.

**c) Electronic Trailboss – Sandy Fabritz**

Sandy encouraged everyone to update their email with the parent society in an effort to get the Electronic Trailboss more widely distributed. This will also be useful when the section gets its electronic newsletter online.

**d) Water Settlement Act – Sandy Fabritz**

Sandy informed the group about the Gila River Indian Community Water Settlement Act proposed by Senator Kyle. Sandy stated that this act could have major implications on how water rights are divided up within the State. Sandy will keep us posted on any new developments.

**Board and Committee Reports**

**President - Larry Howery**

Larry shared correspondence from the SRM parent society, about a recently held meeting dealing with "crosswalk" rangeland inventory (and monitoring) technology across federal agency jurisdictions. Larry stated that this is critically important in making sound rangeland management decisions "on the ground". Larry reminded the group that "ecological sites" and "state and transition models" were the focus of a symposium at our summer meeting in Tucson a few years ago which is indicative of the forwarding thinking of the AZ section. Larry went on to say that this is a science-based issue that we should continue to support.

**President Elect – Jeff Schalau**

No further Report.

**Vice President - Dean Fish**

Dean Fish reported on Cooperative Extensions continuing efforts in range management education in Southern Arizona. Dean mentioned an upcoming program to be held at the U of A Meats Lab March 19 and 20, 2003, entitled Conception to Consumer. Dean informed the group about an upcoming Brush Management Workshop to be put on by the Santa Cruz NRCD in cooperation with the Babacomari Ranch and NRCS, (date to be announced). Dean also informed the group about the upcoming Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association Meeting to be held at Marana Stockyards on March 29, 2003. Topics for this meeting will include State Land Issues and the Budget, as well as presentations on RangeView and Farm Bill funding for range management projects.

**Director North – Keith Curry**

No report.

**Director North - Norm Lowe**

Norm was unable to attend the board meeting but submitted the following report.

I gave a plant physiology presentation to about 20 ranchers and 10 Forest Service people on Tuesday, assisting them with their stocking decisions on



the forest for this spring (an effort that U of A extension has been working with also).

I will host (via EcoResults! and the Quivira Coalition) a free public workshop on Range Monitoring taught by Kirk Gadzia in Williams, AZ on June 6-7.

**Director South – Emilio Carrillo**

Emilio Carrillo reported that the U of A Range Planning Class was doing this year's plan on the Rose Tree Ranch in Elgin. Emilio also mentioned the upcoming Gardner Middle School Field Day along the San Pedro River in San Manuel, AZ.

**Director South - Bruce Munda**

Bruce Munda reported that the Tech Transfer Committee at the parent society recently merged with the Information and Education Committee. Steve Powell and Bruce are co-chairs for this committee. Some of the tasks that have been identified by this committee include:

- Updating the SRM Website.
- More outreach through articles in Rangelands.
- Make CEU's more available.

Bruce informed the group on a number of workshops and summits to be held this spring:

- Coordinated Intermountain Restoration Projects in Boise.
- Intermountain Native Plant Summit in Boise, April 2-3, 2003.
- NRCS Advisory Committee Meeting for Plant Materials Center, March 25, 2003.

Bruce also mentioned that the Pima Evasive Species Group was issuing a letter asking for input on potential new species.

**Newsletter – Sandy Fabritz, Kim McReynolds, and Susan Pater**

Larry Howery reported that the newsletter is slated to go out very soon, if not already. He also stated that we should be extremely pleased with this edition. Larry mentioned that all of the officers are ex-officio members of the newsletter committee.

**Research Affairs - George Ruyle**

Dean Fish reported that George Ruyle was looking into recent Forest Service recommendations to discontinue grazing for 2 years on a Forest Service Allotment in Southern Arizona, as a result of the Ryan Fire last spring.

**Awards - Emilio Carrillo**

Emilio Carrillo reported that the committee received requests to nominate two people for parent society award recognition, one for the Chapline Stewardship Award and another for the Renner Award. Dean Fish moved that Emilio proceed with nominations for these individuals; Bruce Munda seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously. Dan Bell stated that he would forward nominations for previous award winners to Emilio to use as a guide.

Emilio mentioned that he would like to get the Student Chapters involved in the awards committee. Missy Debnar and Willie Sommers agreed to explore this within their respective chapters.

**Rancher Affairs – Keith Curry**

No report.

**Historian - Phil Ogden**

Phil was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report.



The only report that I have is that I did prepare an obituary for Danny Freeman and sent to Gary Frazier for publication in Rangelands and to Sandy for inclusion in the next Arizona Section Newsletter. In early April Brenda and I will be moving to our new home and I will move the Arizona Section historical files with us.

I may be out of touch by e-mail and telephone for a few days, but I hope to make the transition without too much difficulty. I will update you on new addresses and telephone numbers when I have them confirmed.

**Student/Youth - Susan Pater**

Bruce Munda reported that this committee had yet to meet.

**Scholarship - Mitch McClaran**

Mitch was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report.

The only thing that might be interesting is that we have received about \$1800 for Clark Martin's Memorial Scholarship fund. I guess we should start thinking about how to allocate the money.

**U of A Chapter - Willie Sommers**

Willie reported that the Chapter had recruited 6 new members. The chapter was currently working on updating their website and bulletin board in Bio-Sciences East. Willie stated that they would have a booth set up at the FFA Field Day, as well as one set up on the mall for Earth Day. Willie also informed the board about the Quivira Conference – Ranching in the Radical Center April 4 – 5, 2003, where he hoped to have student members present. Willie mentioned that Steve Archer would be giving a presentation to the Student Chapter regarding Vegetation Dynamics on March 25, 2003. Also, Willie unveiled a draft of the new logo, as well as a name change for the Student Chapter. The Chapter is now referred to as Tierra Seca and the logo features a departure from the use of the Trailboss. Willie informed the board that these changes do not change their affiliation with the AZ Section, but are meant to broaden the Chapter's exposure on campus.

**ASU Chapter - Missy Debnar**

Missy Debnar along with Derek Stauffer reported on the SRM Annual Meeting in Casper from the perspective of a student. They spoke about all of the events that students could partake in while at an annual meeting. They have also given this same presentation to ERSA Club at ASU and the East Maricopa NRC. Missy stated that the Chapter would be participating in Earth Day activities at SRP. Missy informed the board of the Design in the Desert Conference at the ASU Downtown Center March 22, 2003. Missy also mentioned the Land Management in a Changing Climate Workshop scheduled for April 25, 2003 at ASU East Campus.

**Membership - Mike Hannemann**

Larry Howery reported that Mike would like some direction and assistance in regards to maintaining a section membership list. The group felt that a membership list maintained by the section is a valuable tool for the section. Dan Bell said he would contact Mike and offer some assistance in getting the list updated.

**Information – Mark Pater**

Mark was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report.

The Information and Education Committee is working on conducting a survey on how the Section could provide valuable educational opportunities or otherwise meaningful products that provide value to our members and hopefully attract new members. I am "fine tuning" the survey

*Arizona Section  
Society for Range Management*

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questions and will continue the process when I finally complete my travels by the end of this week (hopefully). If you have any questions please let me know.

**Public Affairs - John Brock**

John was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report.

John submitted that if section folks would like to serve on an SRM committee, all they have to do is go to the meeting and walk into the committee session and sign the roster. John is also working to get a letter stating the AZ Section's support for the revision of the Desert Tortoise Management Plan.

Larry also mentioned an internal discussion of the Office of Personnel to change the title of GS Range Conservationist to Range Ecologist. This is likely to be a controversial topic.

**NRCWAY - Sandra Fabritz**

No new developments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.