



**2013 Board of Directors Meeting
April 9, 2013**

Minutes by Ashley Shepherd

**Arizona Section, SRM
2012/2013 Officers**

**Members in Attendance in
Yellow**

Mike Hemovich
President

Willie Sommers
President-Elect

Iric Burden
Vice President

**Alvin Whitehair, Shai
Schendel**
Directors- North

Dan Robinett, Steve Barker
Directors-South

**Ashley Shepherd/ Sarah
Noelle**
Executive Secretary

Ernie Gipson
Secretary-Treasurer

Kelly Bedson
ASU Chapter President

Alanna Riggs
U of A Chapter President

Doug Tolleson
Past President

Also in Attendance:
Mitch McClaran- Scholarship
Chair

1. Welcome/Call to Order @10:05 via conference call

2. Approval of the January 25, 2013 BOD minutes

Mike Hemovich: Any changes needed?

Willie Sommers: No.

Mike Hemovich: I'd like a motion to approve the minutes.

Dan Robinett: Motion to approve.

Ernie Gipson: Second.

Motion approved

3. Unfinished Business

a. Student participation in Section

▪ *Mike Hemovich:* We want to get more students involved and we want to hear from them. We want to do better by rather than having them just serve meals at meeting, and such. Mitch any words of advice?

▪ *Mitch McClaran:* First words of admiration, admire hard work everyone puts into the section. Words of advice make the section a little more accessible to students especially the timing of meetings. First, the timing of the winter meeting, it is usually to coincide with the first week of the semester which makes it hard for student to break away from classes. I remember in the past meetings used to be on Fridays and Saturdays which made it easier for student to attend. If you did more activities during the weekend you might get increased attendance from students. The summer meeting is a challenge for students because many of them are out of town or working on summer jobs. Scheduling issues influence whether or not students can attend as long as there are conflicts student presence may stay low.

▪ *Mike Hemovich:* We have two basic meetings a year winter and summer and looking at the role of SRM I'm wondering if we could/should put on one day workshops where we could get a greater young professional and students attended.

▪ *Doug Tolleson:* From an extension standpoint, I think it would be doable and a good idea. Get co-sponsorship and do more hands on and out in the field or even a classroom type workshop I think it will work well.

- *Mike Hemovich:* I'm thinking something held in Tucson, student participation then maybe go out to Santa Rita Experimental Range.
- *Willie Sommers:* Even something informal like a ranch tour would be beneficial for Tierra Seca where the SRM and Cooperative Extension could be part of it. Maybe have one to two activities a year towards students where we can talk to them about conservation on the ground.
- *Mike Hemovich:* Mitch do you think students would be interested in giving 10-15 min presentations about something they are working on or have done research on? Perhaps the young professional committee could do something similar or what if we asked them to sponsor an activity like this invite whoever; Game and Fish, NRCS, or other agencies.
- *Mitch McClaran:* I like the idea of coordinating young professionals and students to give the young professionals opportunity to show their work and have students see what they will be doing once they begin working. Any activity like this will best work in the fall. Spring semester is full of field trips and field classes and they are usually on a field trip $\frac{3}{4}$ of their weekends. Fall semester classes tend to be less field oriented. If you did time something like that then October to November would be good timing.

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- *Mike Hemovich:* Any other thoughts? That is one activity we could think about for the fall. Willie you will experience this year when planning the winter meeting, but do we have to have it our winter meeting before the national meeting or not? Maybe if we don't we could better accommodate the students. Mitch do you think the workshops would be more successful on the weekend?
- *Mitch McClaran:* Yes I do. It is hard for them to break out of classes during the week. If it was a Friday afternoon and all day Saturday that might also work. I think you will see greater interest in availability on the weekend.
- *Willie Sommers:* Mitch how many students are in Tierra Seca now?
- *Mitch McClaran:* Between 10-20.
- *Willie Sommers:* The target audience would be students interested in range and participating in the student chapters. Offer them Saturday workshop and field trip
- *Mitch McClaran:* It will also serve as a recruiting tool for them to recruit more Tierra Seca members which could then become part of the SRM as well.
- *Willie Sommers:* yes other students, wildlife and other related fields.
- *Mike Hemovich:* Doug, to get your input on this we know Willie is in charge of winter and summer meetings with Directors North and South assisting. We have a Young Professionals Committee and Activities Committee. Does this kind of workshop fall into Activities or Young Professionals Committee who could foster this event?
- *Doug Tolleson:* Activities Committee or Science Committee could help. The Rancher or Native American Committee may have a specific workshop they want to do. The model that works well for this, if a group wanted to do an activity they would put together local logistics then get with Cooperative Extension to send out programs. As I recall I think it would be under the Activities Committee partly then coordinate with whoever else wants to be involved.
- *Mike Hemovich:* Activities Committee purpose is to plan and schedule tours, field days, etc. President-Elect will serve as chairperson for the Activities Committee, not to put more on Willie's shoulders. Willie I think this is where we said one Directors North or South would help you with that.
- *Willie Sommers:* Yes if it after summer meeting, which will be a field meeting, a one day on Saturday would be doable to put together.
- *Mike Hemovich:* Maybe try and tailor it towards animal science or NRCS folks. Willie you always have our pace here, we are a little out of the way but keep it in mind. If everyone on the board thinks it is the way to go then we should move forward with this idea.
- *Willie Sommers:* At the Willow Spring Ranch the NRCS is working out there on conservation projects and I also know the lessee. That would enable ASU to attend because they could drive down the 78 and UA students could come up. It is a diverse ranch.
- *Steve Barker:* What about having a SRM sponsored event? What is the AZ Sections process of doing that? Encourage anyone who wants to do educational workshops to put them together but we need to figure out the process to follow for SRM to be involved.
- *Mike Hemovich:* Activities Committee is the umbrella.
- *Steve Barker:* What about some kind of procedure? For example if I wanted to put on a workshop how and have it sponsored by SRM would I go about doing so.
- *Mike Hemovich:* We need help putting together summer and winter meetings.
- *Mitch McClaran:* I will mention this conversation to Tierra Seca officers and have them put this on their agenda to see what they would be interested in for the fall. The 12th of October is the RISE symposium that some of them will be participating in that so that is something to coordinate around. I will address this with them and get back to you. Thanks for having me.

b. Committee activities

- *Mike Hemovich:* Doug has offered to get more activity going in the committee's.

4. Financial Report

- *Ernie Gipson:* I tried to break everything out to show all expenditures associated with winter meeting and summer meeting to come so we have a better picture of funds moving forward. If you have any questions let me know.
- *Mike Hemovich:* No questions, looks like the winter meeting came out \$3000 ahead.

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- *Ernie Gipson:* How should we subtract all outgoing money to students, etc.? Which meeting funds should we subtract from? Actual meeting expense showed \$6,000 but that doesn't include money we awarded.
- *Mike Hemovich:* What about the NRCWAY account?
- *Ernie Gipson:* They handle the accounts themselves I take financials they provide me and pass them along to the board.
- *Mike Hemovich:* There is good news in that last year NRCWAY made money unlike previous years. Kim says this is from people giving money- NRCDC contributed money.
- *Ernie Gipson:* We need to help them keep going.
- *Willie Sommers:* I attended the NRCDC meetings here in Phoenix. I thanked them for their contributions to NRCWAY. I spoke with them about the camp. Amber, our new manager, emailed out info on NRCWAY to encourage students within their districts to attend.
- *Iric Burden:* I have a question about NRCWAY, Ernie you said the accounts were separate but is NRCWAY under SRM 501C3?
- *Ernie Gipson:* I think it is.
- *Iric Burden:* If it is then from a legal standpoint we should be keeping track.
- *Mike Hemovich:* There is another account that is their trust fund that they withdraw from periodically.
- *Ernie Gipson:* I'm keeping track, the money is there but they spend it how they see fit.
- *Steve Barker:* The trust fund is a separate fund; Jack B set that up many years ago. It is organized under the section but the trust was intended to be separate from the section. Interests from that account can support NRCWAY. The checking account is under SRM.
- *Mike Hemovich:* They have provided Ernie with the details of the trust but just for information and Ernie sees every check deposit or withdrawn on their checking account.
- *Doug Tolleson:* We are going to have to do a good job of staying in close contact with Susan and Kim.
- *Not Sure:* Who is the head of the trust.
- *Doug Tolleson:* Don't recall who is chair, it might be Susan Pater.
- *Willie Sommers:* Ernie if you would refresh our memory, looking at balance sheets it has assets and liabilities and a Rancher's Committee entry for \$800. Was that sponsorship to SRM meeting?
- *Ernie Gipson:* I came up with that number myself and put an asterisk next to it so we could discuss. To move that to a liability I need the board's approval. You guys need to tell me and come to agreement if that is appropriate or not and how to treat it in the financials.
- *Doug Tolleson:* I think the bulk of that money came from the Verde River trip
- *Mike Hemovich:* Yes, Verde River.
- *Doug Tolleson:* We should be able to go back to minutes and records to get you a hard number for what was earned.
- *Mike Hemovich:* The bulk of that money came from Al Medina's tour before the meeting. It should be earmarked for the Rancher's Committee. We need to identify the money I will figure out how much exactly it was with Al or Terry.
- *Ernie Gipson:* Is there any stipulation for the money?
- *Mike Hemovich:* I would think that's up to them.
- *Doug Tolleson:* The spirit of the money was to be used for tours or conferences.
- *Not Sure possibly Dan Robinett:* The board needs to approve the expenditures.
- *Mike Hemovich:* I will talk to Al.
- *Ernie Gipson:* Ok.
- *Mike Hemovich:* Do we approve the financial report?
- *Willie Sommers:* I motion to approve.
- *Iric Burden:* I second.

5. New Business

a. Summer meeting

- *Mike Hemovich:* Willie, what are dates for the meeting? Can you give folks a rundown?
- *Willie Sommers:* The summer meeting will be focused on Babbitt Ranches, in particular C O Bar north of Flagstaff. I emailed Bill Cadorsco and I'm waiting to hear back from him to start going over

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details and make this happen. Last week I did a lot of research on the ranch. There is a group campground on the National Forest northeast of Flagstaff called O'Leary campground. Is anyone familiar with it?

- *Eric Burden:* Yes I am. You should make a reservation quickly.
- *Willie Sommers:* Yes, I need to do that. It would be a good place to stay that is near the ranch and have presentations at the campground. I'm also going to try and call Al or Alvin and speak with them about the potential to arrange a speaker from the Navajo Nation or a range tour to look at projects on adjacent Navajo land. Eric do you have contacts with Navajo?
- *Eric Burden:* No just Hopi which also ties into Babbitt Ranches.
- *Willie Sommers:* I'm looking to follow last year's format. The dates would be first week of August. I think it would be 7th, 8th, and 9th. It is tentative now for now; I need to get with Bill to make sure this fits with their needs. There are a lot of different topics and I've got some things to follow up on. I will leave it at that unless there are any questions.
- *Mike Hemovich:* At the winter meeting when we talked about excess horses people attending from the tribes were there and excited to be there. There were people that hadn't been members in years and renewed their membership. It is good to keep tribes involved and tie into tribal issues.
- *Willie Sommers:* I know Effie, who was a presenter at the winter meeting, she lives near there I can talk with her about involvement at the summer meeting.
- *Mike Hemovich:* Thanks Willie.

b. Clark Martin Scholarship winner

- *Mike Hemovich:* Kelsey Hawkes was the winner.
- *Willie Sommers:* She accepted a Range Management job with the State Land Department and will start in early June.

c. Role of SRM in training and education

- *Mike Hemovich:* Jim Sprinkle has lost funding for his "Reading the Range" program. I am concerned about what are we going to do in the future, at least in this area. Jim will put on a workshop in August for those that may have to continue with collecting the data on their own without Jim's help. The workshop will be a refresher on monitoring methods Jim used. The Forest Service wants to get a minimum amount of monitoring done. I know here monitoring is not getting done all the way. Does SRM have a role in education of monitoring? I know Cooperative Extension has put on workshops but what about SRM? Our area is taking a blow here. Does anyone have a comment?
- *Steve Barker:* We have had a role in the past, the AZ Section was part of a partnership that put together a monitoring handbook. There is no reason why the AZ Section shouldn't be holding workshops. We have to figure out where we can continue to encourage the agencies themselves to do the monitoring.
- *Mike Hemovich:* I agencies aren't able to provide funding or man power some of the range cons still get out and do monitoring but I started thinking about SRM because the permittees are going to have to take on a more expanded role because of a lack of agency manpower. Jim's workshop will focus on getting all of his permittees to be able to monitor on their own because he doesn't have funding to be on the ground as much.
- *Willie Sommers:* Is the monitoring book online?
- *Steve Barker:* It is not online.
- *Willie Sommers:* Maybe we could put it on our website to make sure it is available to our members.
- *Not sure, possibly Dan Robinett:* It is usually a fundraising opportunity
- *Eric Burden:* Probably 80% of the people in our membership have the book because these workshops have been going on for quite some time. Steve, have you heard more about what is going on with GLCI?
- *Steve Barker:* No, I have tried but haven't heard anything back. I will try and call.
- *Eric Burden:* Nonetheless this is a problem all the ranches I've been on less than 10% actual monitor themselves or how to. We can put out these books but that won't always solve the

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problem. Organizations could look at cost share program for monitoring, that might be a possibility as one tool for helping this process along.

- *Mike Hemovich:* I also talked with Doug about this problem. He said the extension is thinking about putting together a group of people who could travel and would be able to respond to ranchers or other people that might need help. I agree with Iric, it is a big issue. From a cattlemen's perspective here in Gila County we have 50% of our ranchers involved in monitoring now we are going to the other 50% explaining why we need to monitor. Don Luhrsen is helping here with efforts. We will be trying two things here: 1) continue to monitor and use Jim's "Reading the Range" Program and 2) for the other 50% of people have simpler form of data collection-utilization and trend. How do we address the problem of a lack of monitoring? Since there is a lack of funding and manpower what can the SRM do to help support? I see it as part of our educational role.
- *Steve Barker:* SRM is an educational group, we can get involved and promote more activities. We could have other workshops that are SRM sponsored and put on by other people not just Willie.
- *Mike Hemovich:* I'm going to look at Science and Activities Committees. We need to get committees more active. I agree with you Steve.

d. Magazine article on excess horses session at summer SRM

- *Mike Hemovich:* The article was neutral and unbiased but often emotions run high with sensitive subjects so comments are expected. Should the SRM respond to any comments? I raise this issue because of the Wildlife Society presenter from winter meeting who said they respond instantly. In this case not sure if the comments are worthy of a response we have let it go because article was neutral.
- *Willie Sommers:* I thought the article was factual and unbiased. There were 6 responses to her article.
- *Steve Barker:* I read it too, the article was good. If SRM is going to comment they should stick to correcting scientific facts but not take part in banter, it is not worth our time.

6. Letter from John Kava regarding upcoming newsletter

John says:

I will be in the field this morning, I will try to call in, but if I don't have reception. Here is what I wanted to convey to the group. Newsletter is printed 4 times a year. March, June, September, and November. The deadline for having your information/article submitted is the 20th of the prior month. That will be May 20th for the next newsletter. Content: President, Director North and South (next up are Shai and Steve Barker), Information on the summer meeting, NRCWAY info, A report on the Auction and other fundraising, request Nominations for Annual awards and honors. Some of the directors have had difficulty knowing what to put in their article. I suggest reporting on one or more of the Committees they are involved with! We have been putting a Calendar of events in the newsletter. Please submit interesting events to me for this. Your county cattle growers meetings, county fairs, other range/ranch related things. Please keep your articles compact. I don't want to limit anyone, but I try to keep the newsletter at or under 10 pages, for 1st class mailing purposes! 200-250 words are about 2-3 paragraphs. I will edit your writing for grammar and flow, if I feel it is needed. Finally, does the board want to add Social Media to the Newsletter Committee? This would consist of a Facebook page, Google, Twitter, etc. This would require someone to come on the committee and help keep these current. I also want to mention our website. The best thing about our website is it is current. So many other chapters do not have current information on their websites. They may look flashy and fancy, but without current information they are not worth the electrons they are made of.

- *Mike Hemovich:* Do we want to go towards facebook, twitter, or other social media outlets?
- *Iric Burden:* Yes, it ties into young professionals and students. Steve Barker uses twitter all the time.
- *Mike Hemovich:* You think it would be a benefit even though our website is up to date?
- *Steve Barker:* That's how you could provide information about meetings, etc.
- *Willie Sommers:* I don't think it's necessary. We have a website Jeff keeps it up to date, the newsletter and email blasts. I don't know if we want to take on additional responsibilities.
- *Mike Hemovich:* I would like to hear from John himself to see if he has anyone in mind to help him with this and how much a burden this might be. I will pass on to John that we have varying

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opinions and want more details. I will table discussion to next board meeting at NRCWAY camp June 27th when he will be there.

- *Steve Barker:* If you're not used to twitter and haven't seen what it does then you might not understand. I would have been of the same opinion 6 months ago.
- *Mike Hemovich:* John is probably bringing this up for a good reason, maybe at the next meeting someone can show us twitter and facebook. I sometimes get on facebook and but don't use twitter.
- *Steve Barker:* Iric, are you a facebook guy?
- *Iric Burden:* I am.
- *Steve Barker:* You could show what facebook does and I can show twitter.
- *Mike Hemovich:* Will you be able to make it to the meeting?
- *Steve Barker:* Yes, I may have a conflict with vacation but will say yes for now.
- *Iric Burden:* I will be there.

7. **Board Reports** – Nothing else to report

8. **Schedule next meeting** – June 27th at NRCWAY camp facility. It will be an afternoon meeting. There will be the option to stay the night if needed. Iric and Steve will show the board facebook and twitter.

Adjourned @ 11:36