



2014 Board of Directors Meeting
May 8, 2014
9:00 a.m.
Teleconference call 866-829-5730 (passcode = 8489660)

AGENDA

Arizona Section, SRM
2014/15 Officers

Willie Sommers
President

Mary Nichols
President-Elect

Chris Thiel
Vice President

Shai Schendel,
Kelsey Hawkes
Directors- North

John Hall,
Steve Barker
Directors-South

Ashley Shepherd
Secretary-Treasurer

Matthew Kilford
ASU Chapter President

Emily Pecilunas
U of A Chapter President

Mike Hemovich
Past President

1. Welcome/Call to Order by Willie at 9:03am

2. Approval of the 3/21/14 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve Mike moves
Kelsey seconds
All in favor

3. Financial Report

Willie: Chris got added on as an official signer to the bank accounts. Ashley is going today to sign up. I'd like to add Mary as well just so we have good coverage on the account. Mary, I'll send you an email with the information that is needed by Chase Bank if that's alright?

Mary: Yes.

Willie: I need some information from you and then I can take it to Chase bank, then you can go to a bank in Tucson and finish the process. I don't have current account balances at this time. There have been a few deposits recently.

Ashley: Did you figure out why I got the check from the SRM for \$175?

Willie: No I didn't.

Ashley: I will contact them to figure out what it was for.

Willie: I did make a deposit on April 2nd for \$4302.00 for the winter meeting online registration. I've been tracking deposits in a spreadsheet in excel to keep track of what I have been doing since January. I also have some things to take care of with Kim Reynolds on NRCWAY; I will follow up with her by the end of the week. Does anyone have questions?

Steve: Are you comfortable now with where we sit and what's going on?

Willie: Mostly, I am still sorting through some things. We made progress with adding people to the accounts.

Steve: I mean who has what accounts and what the balances are.

Kelsey: like NRCWAY.

Steve: I still sense there are some issues there.

Willie: I'm not as comfortable as I would like to be.

Steve: Maybe at the NRCWAY camp we can all sit down and talk about it. I think it's not good for you to hold back knowledge from the board. We can give you support as the board and if you need help we can all discuss what the issues are.

Willie: That would be good. I got a lot of information from Ernie and I just have the surface of this together. I will have more details after I talk to Kim about NRCWAY as I get more information I will share that with you guys.

4. Unfinished Business:

- Summer meeting plans

Willie: Doug couldn't be on the conference call today but he provided a written agenda to us. We have some speakers that are being endorsed by SRM; Larry Howery, Laura Lopez Hoffmann, Tessa Nicolet are confirmed. He is waiting to hear from Dave Breshears and Jim O'Haco. Does everyone like the topics that are listed on the agenda?

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Steve: I noticed that they are supposed to be SRM speakers but only Larry is an SRM member, so they are really UA speakers from what I can tell.

Willie: yeah, its essential FS and UA I certainly like Larry's talk that will be good for our organization. That will be good to promote who we are and what we do. Having a rancher on there is good too.

John: Is Jim O'Haco's portion going to be a field trip or is he just presenting?

Willie: No he would just be a speaker. The outline shows Thursday 8-5 there will be presentations at the Hampton Inn in Show Low. The second day, Friday there will be a field tour. I don't recall seeing an outline for Friday, and Mike I'm going to ask you. Have we seen an outline for the field trip yet?

Mike: No I haven't, but aren't we supposed to go up on May 22nd and look at the area? We will be looking at camping spots as well and perhaps have a drive over to location of the field trip. No nothing has been finalized yet.

John: I didn't know we were meeting on the May 22nd. In the future can you give us more of a notice, than just 2 weeks? I won't be able to make that.

Willie: That's a good point John. We had a few emails back and forth but they have primarily been with Mary, Chris, Mike, and me. My expectation is not that the entire board needs to attend on the 22nd, especially with President-Elect having the responsibility of putting together the meeting. Mary, Mike, and Chris is this a date that works for you?

Mary: Yes, I have it on my calendar.

Mike: I also have it on my calendar.

Chris: Yes, it works for me.

Willie: Steve or Shai would you be able to attend.

Shai: I won't be able to attend.

Steve: I can't either. But I think its fine for those of you planning the meeting to go.

Willie: Ok, I have been there once with Iric. From the agenda and status report Doug gave us it seems like the registration is going to be handled by UA Cooperative Extension. We could request through the parent society that they have online registration for us if need be. That's something we still need to flesh out with Doug and Steve Campbell. How is the registration going to work for the meeting? Mike has that come up?

Mike: I haven't heard. I think we still have a lot of details to work out here. I don't know if we need to work with Mary on this. For example, are we going to have the NRCWAY hamburger cookout one of the nights? The last I talked to Doug he didn't say anything about how we would break out the financial end of things. I think there are a lot of loose ends right now. The logistical part of this is still wide open. Several of us are going to have to get together and nail that down. Willie, the online registration has anything been done?

Willie: On our end with the national SRM website, no not yet.

Mike: We want our SRM member's registration to go to us.

Mary: It seems to me like Doug is a lynch pin to this whole conversation. Perhaps I can follow up with Doug to get some of these questions answered and discuss logistics. Do we all need to be on another conference call or can Mike, Doug and I can touch base with him and let the board know what we discuss?

Steve: I think that would be a way to do it. If they collect all the money and then give us a check afterward that's fine too. I think we should keep the registration fees for our members.

Chris: There are more add-ons from the SRM side of things as far as meals. We could do online registration the if there is some way we could kickback money to them and give the fee for their part of it back to them Yes, we should get the money from our members

Mike: Does the UA extension have online registration?

Steve: They must have some way for people to pay for their workshops

Mary: Is there a cost to set up registration with the national SRM?

Willie: It's about \$200 to set up online registration.

Mary: I'm happy to contact Doug and talk through this with him and the send out an email to let everyone know what we discussed. How has online registration been handled in the past?

Mike: Nick Dormer with national SRM sets it up for us online. They collect the money and then send it to us after the fact. I think we need to have some sort of online registration because as I recall from when I was President there are some agencies that can only pay online.

Steve: All government agencies have to pay online.

Mary: I was wondering if there was a way to bypass the SRM parent expense and do it ourselves and would that be acceptable?

Chris: What about a PayPal account?

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Steve: That could be something Ashley could look in to.

Mike: I agree with Mary, we should set up a conference call with Doug for early next week to nail down exactly what we want to do.

Willie: We also need to chat with Steve Campbell we also need to talk with him, he is spearheading this.

Mary: **Should we make the decision now that we should keep SRM registration separate from the UA?** Then have the question become how we do the SRM registration.

Steve: I would second that

Mary: I will contact Doug tomorrow and have another discussion next week.

Willie: Ok, let's leave that as the consensus that we want to have our members accounted for. There could be additional costs, for example meals in the evening or lunches. These are costs will be specific to SRM people attending the meeting.

Mike: I know Doug intends on looking at camping facilities on the 22nd, but will it be free or will there be a fee for campsites? We will need to take that fee into account. Some people will be up there for 3 nights. There will also be meals and lunches. I think that will have to work itself out as soon as possible with Doug, but yes that will affect the registration costs.

Mary: Is there a cost that we have that's a threshold?

Willie: Last summer's meeting we worked about \$125-150. I believe that's what is was the last couple of years for full registrations for the summer.

Steve: Most people would prefer to keep it under \$100.

Mary: ok

Chris: Especially with the photo workshop being additional \$125.

Kelsey: Are we receiving any money from the photo workshop?

Steve: I think that goes to AZ highways.

Willie I know Doug needed 50 registrants to break even on the photo workshop. Are you guys aware how to early register for that?

Mary: I early registered for the photography workshop but it required calling the V Bar V Ranch and giving my credit card over the phone. I wanted to talk with Doug about whether there would be another registration mechanism

Willie: I saw in the V Bar V newsletter they had an early registration form in there.

Mary: I would say as far as the registration for that workshop we have a similar issue. Who takes on the responsibility for registration and where does the money go?

Steve: How much are they going to charge for the Cooperative Extension workshop on Thursday?

Willie: Doug said around \$50.

Steve: So \$50 for Thursday, is Friday just SRM right?

Willie: Friday is a field trip that is included in part of the \$50. We are going to do spate from this is have a general membership meeting and other evening activities as well.

Steve: Do you know when the tour starts on Friday?

Willie: No I'm not sure.

Steve: I'm afraid that again everyone will go to the Extension and possibly we won't have time for a membership meeting or there won't be a large turnout.

Kelsey: Don't we normally do the membership meeting on Wednesday evening?

Steve: Yes, but sometimes people don't show up if you've already had a long day.

Willie: Let's talk about that quickly. Traditionally we had it on Wednesday evening before the conference starts and after everyone arrives and has settled in. Do we want to have that meeting take place Thursday night instead where we have maximum number of those that will be with us?

Kelsey: Should we pair the hamburger cookout with general membership meeting?

Mike: Usually the meetings do kick off with general membership meeting be we normally have only half a day on Friday. With the photography workshop Saturday we are really stretching things out by also having something on Wednesday night. I like the idea for having it Thursday. Since we don't know when the field tour ends or begins maybe we could have the board meeting then.

Ashley: I don't remember there being a board meeting last year after the summer meeting.

Mike: there is nothing that says we have to have to have a board meeting but sometimes we do just because it's one of the few times we are all face to face in the year. I recall having a meeting last year either.

Ashley: I'm not opposed to meeting I just don't remember having one last year.

Steve: It doesn't have to be very long, maybe Friday morning with breakfast

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Willie: I think it's a good idea to have general membership meeting Thursday night. With the indoor session Thursday starting at 8am some people may drive up that morning. On Friday some people might go home after the field tour if they aren't going to the photo workshop. So Thursday night will be the main time as a section to get together. Another thing to mention is role of student chapters. Matt and Emily have both emailed me to say they are willing to help out with the meeting in some way. Another tradition is the plant ID contest that is done by YPC last year Vanessa put it together. It might be something they still want to do. We could lean on student chapters for that

Kelsey: I don't think students should help with that because they will want to participate so maybe they could help out with the hamburger cook out instead.

Willie: Is that ok with everyone?

Mike: You may want to touch base with Kim and Jeff because they are usually in charge of the NRCWAY cookout. What's happening with breakfast and lunch? The students could help with that like in the past.

Steve: I was going to suggest that as well.

Mike: At least for our people we need to have breakfast.

Steve: What about lunch for the field day? That could be something we could cover as well. For our breakfast and lunch on the field day we could have students could help with that.

Willie: Ok we just need to figure out where the base for our camping will be.

Steve: hopefully somewhere close to where the meeting will be so people don't have to drive an hour.

Mike: In the past we always based everything at the camping area and those people in the hotels came to the campground, but it seems like it will be the opposite this year.

Willie: Mary, I'm wondering if we should talk to Steve Campbell today and find out more about the field tour and what he is thinking

Mary: I'd be happy to call him.

Willie: Did Doug send out his contact information?

Mary: I'm sure I can find it.

Willie: Ok we could also talk to him about camping since he is familiar with Navajo County.

Steve: Chuck Backis has a ranch about 5 miles out of town

Willie: Ok good to know. I think we have a little more info on the summer meeting but we have a ways to go. If need be we can talk about this again.

Kelsey: I feel like we didn't come to any solutions or agreement on whether or not we are ok with the speakers Doug has provided.

Steve: I approve of Larry because he is our member. I thought we were going to reach out to more of our members for speakers not just UA people but I think it's a little late now.

Mike: I don't have the list.

Willie: Dave Breshears-role of P-J communities and juniper invasion, Tessa Nicollet-role of fire in SW ecosystems, Laura Lopez Hoffman- rangeland production of ecosystem services, Jim O'Haco-benefits of ecosystem restoration to ranching, and Larry Howery-role of SRM as a professional society in facilitating education and collaboration. Doug mentioned that he doesn't have confirmation with Dave or Jim; he has only contacted them and is awaiting a response. If one of those 2 drops out there will be an opportunity to select someone else.

Mary: Do we have any suggestions for potential speakers if any of those weren't able to come?

Mike: On the rancher side of things I know Jim will be a good speaker. They have done extensive restoration work on his ranch. But you could always turn to the Babbit Ranch again with juniper removal.

Steve: Have you done any removal on your ranch Mike?

Mike: Yes we have.

Steve: Would you be a potential backup?

Mike: Yes or Chuck.

Willie: I like the idea of Chuck Backis and Mike Hemovich as backups. Mary can you communicate that idea to Doug when you speak with him.

Mary: Yes.

Steve: Mary is there anyone that knows about hydrology changes with tree removal?

Mary: I would have to think about it. I primarily know people who deal with riparian issues related to water use and different vegetation communities, but not sure about P-J issues. Let me think about that.

Willie: Was it Jeff Stone that worked on your ranch Mike for your summer meeting?

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Mike: Yes and I enjoyed him so much. I tried to get him to do follow up, it wasn't particularly about juniper removal per se but we did a project on a site with juniper and that had been treated for juniper. Who has taken over for Jeff, was it Victor? I know Jeff is retired but that it doesn't mean he isn't tired

Mary: Yes, it was Victor but I don't know if he would be right for speaking on the topic. I know Jeff hasn't been around since he left but I could contact him as a potential back up.

Steve: Another person to put on your list is Rachel Williams with Game & Fish. She is really interested in juniper removal. I think she is going to be doing a masters project on this topic. She could provide wildlife perspective.

Mike: Yes, she came to our ranch to discuss it. I think she'd be excellent.

Willie: ok I think we have covered everything we can today with the information we have.

Mary: Can I go back to the idea of getting together on a call with Doug. Who needs to be involved in a call with Doug? Everyone or is a subset acceptably?

Steve: You Mary are the main planner and Willie since he has been involved, possibly Mike. I think a subset is ok.

Ashley: Would you like me to be on the call and take notes to give to the rest of the board?

Mary: Yes, that would be great.

Ashley: Wednesday's are usually my set field day.

Mary: I'm not available Tuesday. Monday Thursday or Friday

Mike: Those days work for me.

Willie: Hopefully it will be Monday or Thursday, Friday is no good for me.

- IRS tax id number

Willie: I have not made any headway since starting the application.

Mary: Is there something you need help with?

Willie: As acting treasurer I do have some of the information at my fingertips here but it's a 13 page form.

Steve: It sounds like Willie you need to let someone volunteer to do it.

Ashley: Is that something I should do since I am becoming treasurer?

Willie: Yeah maybe, I need a couple of different eyes to be on this thing and help push it along. That'd be great Ashley if you could help square this away. It's a lot of yes and no questions.

John: I can help also because of proximity.

Steve: Let Ashley and John take the lead on it and they can get whatever information they need from you.

Willie: We need to attach a copy of bylaws and we need to insert cooperation paperwork.

Ashley: I filed that last year and we are in good standing. It's something we have to file every June.

Willie: Ok I will let you guys take a look at what I have filled out so far. I will email that to you.

5. New Business:

- Field trip on May 22nd to summer meeting area

Willie: Mary, Mike, Willie, Chris, and Doug will attend. We can hash out those details sometime next week through email.

- Open floor

Mike: Have we heard anything from the Utah section regarding 2017?

Willie: No, we haven't actually. I need to follow up with the Utah president to see how they are progressing.

Mike: I have his contact info I will get it to you Willie.

Steve: Have we decided if we are going in jointly to host with them?

Willie: **Where we left off last time is we were waiting to hear more information back from them. I can follow up and then we could talk about that at the June meeting.**

6. Board Reports

President

President-Elect

Vice President

Directors North

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Directors South
Treasurer
Past- President

7. Committee Reports:

Awards – Mike: Jamie has that chair, but in my experience the past several years everyone needs to be involved in that including the membership. She does a great job in writing that up when they select. But as far as her committee goes I think it's only 2 people. Willie, touch base with her and see if she has a committee going. I'd like to see that more widespread and get more people involved.

Kelsey: I've been in contact with Jamie and I joined her committee. She is going to get an accouchement for awards in the next newsletter. She thinks the deadline will be in August.

Steve: I can also help

Mike: Did the plaques come in?

Willie: Yes, I will be giving those out the next time we see each other. I did mail one to Ernie.

Newsletter – Willie: We should be gearing up for a newsletter. I think it comes out in August or June

Mike: John probably needs information soon for the next one, June sounds right.

Willie: I can talk with him

Chris: Willie, I can follow up with John he is right next door. So June is when we have the next newsletter?

Willie: Yes.

Membership-- Shai: I wanted to give an update on membership currently at 146 members. When we were talking about the payment method for the meeting, is PayPal something we are going to look into?

Mary: We can look into PayPal.

John: Just from past experience having multiple users on one account is difficult; for once Ashley is not treasurer in the future.

Steve: Oh interesting.

Willie: Thanks for those numbers Shai

Mike: What's the trend? Are we decreasing, increasing or staying even?

Shai: I think we have been fluctuating for a while. It has decreased. We were almost at 200 in 2009 but we have gone down since then.

Willie: That's what I recall too. We hovered around 200 members.

Mary: Is there a way we can look to see what type of member has decreased? Is it once community or the other that dominates that loss?

Shai: I can look at that. Each month they send an updated spreadsheet with active and expired members. I can look at that and see what's happening.

Steve: I've been late on paying my dues before and I used to get a little flyer from the section saying my membership had expired and reminding me to renew. Contact from the section saying that we see you have dropped might be good. It was also a good reminder to me to renew my membership.

Shai: I have done that in the past. We had a push for a while when Al was president to write personal letters to expired members.

Willie: Do you have a form letter that you sent out to people? We could consider doing that again.

Shai: I can email that out.

Steve: I don't know how we could do this exactly Is there some way to post a list of lost member and have current members talk to them if they see them, maybe on Facebook.

Mary: Another suggestion is send an invitation to the upcoming summer meeting to those lost members to put it back on their radar.

Willie: That's a good idea. I've thought about that in the past.

Shai: Once we get the details for the summer meeting I can send that out.

Willie: Shai can you send to the board the expiring member letter and maybe update that through email.

Mike: That effort covers all of the members that have dropped out. We also need to focus on gaining new members. We could encourage our students to stick with us after graduation and join again.

Steve: In those invitations that are sent out, we should also include an application for membership.

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Historian/Archives & Activities-- Willie: Steve Barker's workshop went really well and was a good activity. We actually got out in the field and in a short drive we got to see different ecological sites. I hope we can continue a fall and spring tour.

Young Professionals

Scholarship

Rancher Affairs -- Mike: At the annual Cattle Growers Association meeting the SRM has an hour minimum to put on a presentation. It was well attended last time. We do this to attract ranchers to SRM. I talked to Terry the other night and he doesn't have a topic or theme for this year's meeting in July. Last year we focused on T&E species but I'm drawing a blank for this year's topic. Anna Aha has gone out of her way to give us this time slot. If anyone has a good topic to present to ranchers please let me know.

Willie: I'm glad you brought this to my attention, Anna had emailed Terry and I about getting the SRM program in the Cattle Growers newsletter. Does anyone have anything that comes to mind?

Steve: The only thing that pops to my mind is thing that Iric started, a discussion on grazing rotations- do they work or not, would be a good topic to discuss there.

Mike: I did think of that. I would like that topic. I know we talked with Mary as that being a possible theme for the winter meeting. Depending on what we want to do for the winter meeting I was thinking that perhaps that could be a teaser of what we could cover in depth meeting and get more ranchers to come to the winter meeting.

Willie: Yeah we have talked about that. The one thing is that the winter meeting is going to be "Mary's baby" so to speak. Where with the help of a committee she has an opportunity to present something that is of interest to her, utilized her unique contacts and that sort of thing and Mary had mentioned that's not her specialty.

Mary: I'm open to the idea; I just know that if we were to decide on that as a topic I would require a higher level of assistance than I would for another topic.

Steve: Mary It needs to be your lead and your call. We could introduce that meeting at the Cattle Growers and continue that topic later down the road.

Mary: I like that idea of having continuity between Cattle Growers Association and our meeting.

Willie: In the past topics at the winter meetings have been a little of something for everyone, having 2 or 3 different topics. Maybe with the winter meeting we could have something on grazing in addition to 2 other topics with speakers attached to them.

Mike: We could have people talk about different systems and how they work. Matt Barnes would be a good person to have. He did a study on predation and rotational grazing systems.

Willie: We might have to pay to get him here.

Mike: I think that's do-able. There are many rotational grazing systems out there. We could let different people talk about their experiences with them.

Willie: Anna said that she wants to promote the SRM sponsored hour in Cattle Growers newsletter. The deadline to get that information to her is 5/15. Do we want to go ahead with having that topic?

Mike: I will talk with Terry again. I think grazing systems is a good topic for the Cattle Growers meeting but it could always wait for it to be one of our meeting topics.

Steve: Let's have Mike and Terry plan a grazing rotation topic for the Cattle Growers meeting. I can help with that Mike.

Mary: Where and when is the Cattle Growers Assoc. meeting?

Mike: July 17-19 at Wild Horse Pass in Phoenix.

Willie: I can help with that as well. It's only an hour so we could have 3-4 speakers.

Native Range

Public Relations, Recreation & Outreach

Youth/NRCWAY---Steve: I got a NRCWAY announcement in the mail that was sent out by UA Extension the other day. It's nice they covered the postage but I think if this SRM service and workshop it should come from us. It makes it look like it is an extension workshop. We should to cover the postage.

Mary: Now that you mention it, it's a minor thing, but I wonder if the shirts should have the SRM logo.

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Steve: I think we should keep the society proud of things we have done over the years and that is certainly something we have been able to hang our hat on.

Willie: I will ask Kim About that. I need to talk with her about treasurer things so I will bring that up with her.

Steve: There is a NRCWAY checking account with money in it. To me it seems like we could use that account to send out announcements or fliers

Shai: I was at a board meeting last month and how they can't donate because it was considered a scholarship so they couldn't donate. What have boards done in the past with donations, do you know how have they classified it to be able to make donations to NRCWAY?

Steve: The conservations districts would donate money to the SRM, which is why we needed a tax exempt status, and then SRM would put that money into the NRCWAY account. That account would be used to provide funds for the camp. I wasn't aware that it was being called a scholarship.

Willie: If they were going to support and individual student then it's considered a scholarship but I would think if it's money going to the whole camp then it's a donation. Which conservation district?

Shai: Coconino

Willie: I will ask Amber here. I can follow up with you. At least from our perspective on how that works.

Steve: If you could let all of us know what the rules are for state funds that would be good. That way if we are talking to districts we can let them know how they can donate.

Willie: Yes I will.

8. Schedule next meeting

Note: we will meet at 1:00 pm on Thursday, June 26th at the NRCWAY Camp. Please plan on attending our meeting and, if possible, staying the night to watch the student presentations on Friday.

Motion to adjourn- Steve

Chris seconds

Meeting ends 10:47am