



**2011 Board of Directors Meeting**  
**August 16, 2011**  
**2 p.m.**  
**Video conference - Ranger District offices**

**AGENDA**

**Arizona Section, SRM**  
**2011 Officers**

**Don Luhrsen**  
*President*

**Doug Tolleson**  
*President-Elect*

**Mike Hemovich**  
*Vice President*

**Clare Hydock, Jamie Wages**  
*Directors- North*

**Richard Collins, Frank Hayes**  
*Directors-South*

**Erin Mathews**  
*Executive Secretary*

**Ernie Gipson**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Corey Ertl**  
*ASU Chapter President*

**Kelsey Hawkes**  
*U of A Chapter President*

**Al Medina**  
*Past President*

**1. Welcome/Call to Order** – Don Luhrsen call meeting to order 2:02. Members in attendance: Don Luhrsen, Doug Tolleson, Mike Hemovich, Jamie Wages, Dick Collins, Frank Hayes, Erin Mathews, Ernie Gipson and Al Medina.

**2. Approval of the August 3-4<sup>th</sup> Summer General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Al has an amendment to the minutes – page 4 committee reports newsletter – Al has not been following up on the non-electronic folk (the postal membership) for the newsletter which is something that needs to be talked about on how to reach these folk.

Motion to approve the minutes – Jamie Wages  
Seconded - Mike Hemovich  
All in favor, minutes approved

**3. Financial Report** – Ernie Gipson

- Ernie: the presentation that he made at the meeting was not correct because he didn't know that some of the money in the account wasn't actually revenue and instead was borrowed money from a trust fund, so he revised it. He gave the revision to Erin this morning which is a work in progress. He has gone back to 2009 to get better figures to determine the cash flow. The profit loss statements that were given out are actually cash flow statements. To get it more accurate he needs to go back several years. He made a revelation that we need to separate out the NRCWAY account and the banking from the main SRM entity to extrapolate which is making money and such – he will have by the next meeting. The cash flow from 2009 showed negative cash flow of \$9,398.19 which is probably attributed to NRCWAY, but he is not sure. Next meeting will have a profit loss statement for just the summer meeting. And prior to winter meeting he will have a profit loss statement just for that and for any other meeting we have so we can have a better handle on that.

- Don Luhrsen: Doug Tolleson has been communicating to him about things, but wondered is it true that we don't know about the summer meeting yet?
- Ernie Gipson: Confirmed that we don't know yet.
- Doug Tolleson: Stated that we are approximately \$2,000 in the black based on the rough numbers that we have.
- Al Medina asked Ernie about the account balances shown in the minutes. He asked if the \$10,000 is an accurate amount for that account
- Ernie Gipson stated that, that is in fact what they are at.
- Al Medina stated that the \$9000, plus the cash flow amounts, is the cost we incurred for the winter meeting. He stated that we need a minimum of \$9,000 to put on the winter meeting.
- Ernie Gipson realized that and he saw that we needed ~\$9,300 last year for the winter meeting.
- Al Medina stated that the negative value is weighed against the actual checking balance so we seek to have a balance of \$9000 or \$10000 balance to tell to the winter meeting committee so they know what

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- they have to work with – that number is important. Al asked if we owe \$9000 and we have \$10000 do we only have \$1000?
- Ernie Gipson clarified that it has already been paid out. We have plenty of cash on hand, we just had negative profit (a loss)
  - Doug Tolleson made a motion to accept Ernie's comments.
  - Ernie Gipson stated that he made an error in the general membership meeting, but he will have it all straightened out.
  - Mike Hemovich seconded the motion
  - All in favor – report approved
  - [Ernie will have balance sheet completed by next meeting](#)
  - Frank Hayes stated that Al brought up a good point that we need to clarify if there is a minimum of \$9000 available for the winter meeting. He wants to know if it is available for Doug Tolleson to move forward with the meeting.
  - Ernie Gipson stated that there is plenty of cash. He stated that we just can't sustain the activities that we have the past years. We have plenty of cash to plan a meeting even if it costs more than last year. We have roughly \$33,000 dollars cash after the summer meeting
  - Al Medina stated that he wanted to correct that statement. The only money we have available is from the x5487 checking account – the other money from the other account is NRCWAY, which we don't touch, and then the savings account which is the IRAs and such. The only money available for operating funds is x5487 which shows some \$10,000. There should be around \$2,500 in there that is stowed in there from the scholarship fund account that we have – so we have an operating budget of \$7,500 dollars. This is important because it costs an average of \$9-10,000 to put on the winter meeting. With this said, we can't say that we have a lot of money in there because the money in there is not all for us to use, unless we have an emergency to tap into the savings.
  - Doug Tolleson said that he will address this in his report if we want to hold these thoughts till then.
  - Ernie Gipson wanted clarification that this is also different than the trust fund that NRCWAY has.
  - Al Medina answered that yes, the trust fund is a stock bond scenario.
  - Ernie Gipson stated that in a couple of weeks he will have this all broken out and he will know how much money is available and which accounts have gone into the black and/or red.
  - Don Luhrsens stated that Ernie sat down with Byron and sorted out some stuff to get some continuity to everything.
  - Al Medina said to Ernie that he believes it is a value that he has volunteered for this position. He stated that it would be helpful to sit down with the past presidents. They tried to do that with Kent. He said congratulations to Ernie for taking on this task, that it is an important challenge – so thanks to Ernie.
  - Ernie Gipson stated that the accounts are almost all in Quicken.
  - Don Luhrsens appreciated the input. We have gone through 3 treasures in 1.5 years which is quite a juggling act.

#### 4. Unfinished Business

##### NRCWAY

- Don Luhrsens stated that we talked about NRCWAY at the summer meeting. Kim McReynolds indicated that she would be on the call today, but she hasn't made it. There was a concern with what to do with NRCWAY. Last summer in Springerville at the general membership meeting there was a motion to not send the high school students to national, and instead pay for them to come to the state winter meeting.
- Al Medina stated that Don was correct in this. He said that the second part of this is that in lieu of sending them to the national meeting, we should opt to bring the entire group that went to the NRCWAY to the summer and winter meeting. There were 15-30 students at NRCWAY. That number of students would benefit more from going to the local meetings opposed to one or two high school to go to the national meeting
- Don Luhrsens stated that we did in fact sponsor two students to go to Billings. He is not sure where the ball got dropped with this.

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- Doug Tolleson stated that there could be a problem with the fact that the guidelines say that we will support at least one student there, so we possibly made a motion that went against our guidelines, and that is where the conflict is coming from. We need all the parties involved to be present for this discussion to make constructive decisions and to go forward.
- Al Medina stated that the guidelines were not adopted yet at the summer meeting. Al said that he had said he would finish the guidelines as recommended by the general membership. He wasn't sure if he made any adjustments. He stated that if we have a difference between the guidelines and the decisions it can easily be fixed.
- Frank Hayes stated that Kim McReynolds strongly suggested having a student attend the meeting because it would be a very good opportunity to network.
- Al Medina stated that he personally thinks that funding of any of these student activities is a good opportunity. He thinks the conflict comes is that there is a downward trend in our operating budget. He thinks that eventually the group is going to run out of operating funds to put on any meetings. In lieu of funding these things we need to decide how we are going to manage our funds because it is dwindling. We gave NRCWAY 70-80% to fund their activities which was beyond what we have traditionally done (usually 20-25%)
- Ernie Gipson stated that this goes back to the fact that there are 5-10 transactions that went back to those accounts. He stated that we need to show where the money is coming from and we need to put them in separate accounts if we don't want the funds married.
- Al Medina agreed that we should have a separate account for the scholarship fund so that we have good clarity on the designated moneys and their purposes. He thinks there is a great value to future boards to see what the accounts are and what they are to be used for and their respective obligations.
- Mike Hemovich asked what the decision is. If we going to send the kids to our meetings or to national.
- Don Luhrsen stated that we need Kim and Doug at the table for that decision.
- Doug Tolleson stated that we had a fundraiser at our summer meeting for the travel accounts. They seemed to like that and got around \$600 to put towards travel for a student to go to the national meeting. The committee discussed that this is a way for them to help the section with the funds. We need separate accounts so we know what they are used for and we also need to cut some of the funds, maybe travel. This is so that the section doesn't have to fit the bill for all of these things. We need to take a hard look at what they are charging for the camp and try to break things out even more. They are trying to keep the cost low, but there are a lot of things that need to be resolved and to do this we need all of the players together at once.
- Al Medina stated that at the winter meeting we hold an auction and a percent of that auction \$15-1800 gets transferred to NRCWAY and the rest stays in the operating budget (x5487). The question during the general membership was specific to x5487 NOT to account x7637 (the NRCWAY account). They thought we need more money in our operating budget. They only made a decision on the x5487 money and were not saying what NRCWAY is going to do with their own x7637 account (they can fund what they want).
- Ernie Gipson stated that he thought we should table this discussion until he gets the books balanced out. He doesn't think that we should be transferring money from one account. The transfers make him wonder about the actual amounts.
- Al Medina stated that this topic has been tabled four or more times and that we just need to make a decision, so then Ernie can move forward to reconcile the account.
- Frank Hayes stated that if Al wants to move forward with a decision – then we need to frame up the decision. Doug Tolleson says that we should wait till we have all the players but questioned what exactly we are deciding on. Is the decision to send students to the meeting? Al says NRCWAY has their own account but yet we have had funds transferred back and forth. NRCWAY has their own account that enables them to promote their students and Doug says that there are also fundraisers so Frank wanted to know what decision we are exactly making. He questioned if it was to finish a decision that was made earlier.
- Doug Tolleson stated that he thinks that Ernie should square out the books first because he wants to know that there is a strong financial base so that we can then make a sound decision. Doug thinks that we should hold off till then, to make an informed decision versus just making a decision.

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- Mike stated that he is new to the board and NRCWAY and he wondered who has the spending authority. They have their own pool of money, and their own account so couldn't they send 10 people to national if they wanted to? He wanted to know how separate these accounts are.
- Al Medina stated that they are relatively independent. The general membership decided that the general operating budget should not spend money to send the students because NRCWAY has money to do that. We also gave them half of the auction money. They operate independently from us. He isn't sure the board can rescind a general membership decision, so it can become a item for the next general membership meeting.
- Doug Tolleson said that he was not saying that the board would go over a decision from the general membership. He stated that maybe we can take a vote over phone, or email or such. It was never Doug's intent to go over a decision that the general membership made.
- Al Medina stated that he wanted to provide more clarity to new members in that it was not a decision prohibiting transfer of money from the auction and/or from the operating budget – but they didn't want the students to come and ask for more money (travel and such) from our operating budget. We are still sponsoring their activities, but they are in charge of how they are going to spend their money.
- Doug Tolleson stated that it is easy to say that they have plenty of money but with that, there must be a reason why they have asked for some of this
- Ernie Gipson stated that he wants to know where the money is going and that the accounts are balanced.
- Don Luhrsen stated that he has heard everyone's comments. Every year NRCWAY has come and asked for more money for students. Doug is right that we need to know more of what they are spending money on and such. Don said that he will follow-up with Kim McReynolds, George Ruyle (who manages the fund for the NRCWAY trust fund) and Doug. Don will set up the meeting himself.
- Al Medina stated that George said he isn't actually managing the funds. Kent and him could never find out who is except Susan Pieter and Kim McReynolds. The membership of the NRCWAY board has been in question. George asked to not be the overseer of the funds and has left it in the hands of the board maybe 6 years ago.
- Frank Hayes said that he asked Kim McReynolds specifically at the general meeting about the fact that there were two people to be replaced on the board and that they need to confirm who is on the board and what their role is. He questioned how we know that the funds are being managed. If we as the board need to replace those members we need to figure out when that will happen. He questioned if this would happen at the winter meeting?
- Mike Hemovich said that when we did the ranchers survey there were several questions regarding NRCWAY and if they would like to sponsor candidates. Mike wondered if Kim ever got the data from that survey because a lot of them were never contacted.
- Richard Collins stated that he and Dean Fish did that survey and they sent the BOD a copy of the powerpoint. He didn't know if we followed up with Kim for the name and addresses and that there were some that said that they could be contacted – Richard stated that he will be sure that Kim gets these. He is not sure what bearing this had on if students were there or not.
- Al Medina stated that in trying to fund the student activities they asked Kim if she would make presentations to assist in getting information out to people about NRCWAY, especially to the NRCDs who were at one time the core support. Al stated that we need to find out other activities to support them. When Al started he didn't know anything about NRCWAY so he couldn't sell it to anyone else. He went to NRCD chairmen to support these programs. The NRCD in turn responded that they didn't know who they were which says that we have an information problem.
- Doug Tolleson stated that this is a complete valid observation. He stated that people who would be interested but yet they don't know what it is.
- Don Luhrsen stated that we had several people speak up at the general membership meeting to discuss if we are going to use trust fund money to purchase Mingus Springs
- Richard Collins stated that the alumni association would be the purchaser.
- Doug Tolleson stated that it would be a UofA property and someone would be hired to manage the facility which would be a way to hold NRCWAY there. A group of 20 some students is small and if it is going to be a profit or money making operation, then a group for 200 plus would kick out the small groups.
- Richard Collins stated there wouldn't be any liability if the alumni association would be the purchaser.
- Don Luhrsen asked Doug to capture that for everyone in an email.

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- Al Medina stated that when this came up as a possibility before that Mingus would close he went to the Flagstaff Camp Colton where there is a lot of campers/activities. They said that they would be receptive and welcome the group to Flagstaff.

### **New account for UA/ASU range scholarship fund/trust? SKIPPED**

**Guidelines for Native Range Committee** Al Medina is working on the guidelines for the Native Range Committee so that the board can accept them

### **Cattle Growers Letter**

- Don Luhrsen stated that Frank Hayes and him have had some communication back and forth on where Frank wants to go with this, and with Mike. It is a letter to Corbin Newman to support the Cattle Growers letter
- Frank Hayes asked if everyone got to see Richard Collins' notes
- Richard Collins stated that everyone did not because they didn't go to everyone; they were just his personal thoughts. He thinks that SRM needs to make their own statement to the regional forester which would support the general principles in the cattle growers' proposal. He is bothered that they are looking at the past and not looking at the positive elements which are all contributing factors. He agrees with the sustainable timber harvest and such and thinks we should do as cattle growers do in their document in saying that we need to more clearances, to move forward on burning. We need to look at positive things like in Alpine which were saved with the thinning that was done around it. He went as far to say that the forester should consider replacing people in positions where they are not getting clearances down. He has been where they have waited 8-9 years for NEPA whereas on the Coronado, where they had a change in supervisors office (Rich Gehardt) they have now gotten ~1000 NEPA clearances completed. Need to figure out the personnel problem on forests where they are not getting done. Cattle growers pointed out that we need to get started and said that it is a NEPA problem more than anything else. Why aren't we able to do sustainable logging and more thinning?
- Don Luhrsen had a discussion about this over the phone. The regional forester is trying to change some things. Our letter should probably approach pre and post livestock management and the need to utilize livestock grazing under adaptive management. To use the livestock grazing as studies while providing employment in the local area.
- Al Medina stated that the section should take a non-political stance and should address issues of resource management, things that the section can provide answers to in outreach setting such as a meeting. It is ok to address some issues because of fire but we need to stay objective and science minded and stay away from political viewpoints.
- Frank Hayes stated that he agrees. He thinks that the Cattle Growers bring up good points but we aren't going to be able to rehabilitate all of the acres with the amount of livestock that we have. We can demonstrate the livestock as a rehabilitation tool but it is short sided in application for next year's concerns. He reiterated what Richard pointed out that in terms of the section we need to focus efforts on livestock operators that have been severely affected and get some long term answers. Possibly with grass reserves or take a look at where these people need infrastructure work and to make sure that it isn't held up by NEPA. Political pressure has been lifted in the past. For example we can now remove a hazard tree now which is a surprising thing that has happened. He thinks the Cattle Growers don't want to do away with NEPA, or are expecting that grazing livestock will be the only answer to restoration. We don't have enough livestock, waters or fence to make the restoration with livestock happen. We need to look at the areas which were significantly impacted. Fence can add up money wise and that is where our efforts need to be for current operations. We need to have a landscape perspective on solving these issues.
- Al Medina stated that perhaps the letter should address the opportunity to use the section as a medium of dialogue of these subjects that we are discussing. To use the section as a vehicle to bring contentious issues to the table for discussion. To take a look at the opportunities and what can or cannot be done.
- Don Luhrsen stated that they are just asking for a letter of support for their Cattle Growers letter. The bottom line is that they are talking about things that need to be done. There are some long term issues – if we are going to move people around it can't be a short term thing because of the cost of doing business.

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He stated that he and Mike would start drafting a letter and send it out for review but he wants a quick turn around on it.

- Mike Hemovich stated that at the Cattle Growers committee meeting they just want us to endorse the letter from David Cook to Corbin. It is addressing the immediate assistance needed. At the next level, and at a larger scope, they addressed the health of AZ Forests. These needs are those which are contained in the 10 page SAFE document where they we are starting to talk about what really needs to be done. The immediate task is just to endorse the letter to Corbin; to endorse the four points. He thinks SRM can weigh in on the forest environment, but thinks that this is over and above what they are asking for. The relaxation of NEPA procedures is contained in the larger document. The immediate need is just that they want support for Cooks letter.
- Frank Hayes stated long term rehabilitation carries past the immediate need. That there is an immediate need for long term planning and permit planning. That it is critical that we make the effort now. He sees the opportunity to support the overall objectives of Cattle Growers objectives, but wants to also include the sections views of the larger issues. This way we don't just rubber stamp approve their letter without adding our notes about the future.
- Don Luhrsen stated that there is a motion on the table if we go forward with this letter.
- Doug Tolleson motioned to draft a letter and circulate for comments and approval before we make final.
- Mike Hemovich and Don Luhrsen will draft the letter. The BOD will send any input to Don.
- Richard Collins seconded motion and he said that he would send his comments to everyone.
- Ernie Gipson asked if it is really our responsibility to address non-science things outside of our society.
- Don Luhrsen stated that all of the bullets are things that our organization supports. This is just a letter to say that Cattle Growers are moving down the right path.
- Richard Collins stated that we need to use this opportunity to highlight the things that Frank was taking about.
- Al Medina stated that the region thinks very highly of the section meetings. Dave Stewart doesn't ever miss the meetings which we discuss controversial issues which is possibly a place to bring these issues to the table. The SRM at the national level is focused on what the sections are doing for leadership. We have an exceptional opportunity to stand up. Other sections aren't addressing these issues. They are staying away from the controversy that we are talking about.
- Richard Hayes asked if is September 13<sup>th</sup> is early enough for Cattle Growers letter?
- Don Luhrsen stated that he will try to get this out by Friday (draft) and get comments before the following Friday (the 26th of August)

### Meetings with Head of Agencies for Support of Society/Meeting Attendance?

- Don Luhrsen has made a commitment to contact the heads of BLM, NRCS and Forest Supervisors to get them interested in what SRM can provide. This includes professional training and the peer review and other things that SRM can do for their range employees.
- Al Medina stated that one of the important issues with membership is that we have not been promoting the benefits of SRM. He encourage us to go to Willie Sommers to find historical information to take a look at things such as what meeting topics have been, how many CEU units have been provided etc. This will show how we have been promoting the education of our managers out in the field. This information would give some kind of substance to our message.

### 5. New Business

Winter Meeting SKIPPED

Posting Draft meeting notes on website – Erin SKIPPED

### Printing SRM Brochure?

- Don Luhrsen stated that this is something that Al recommended.
- Al Median stated that this is a brochure that was put together by national as an outreach document. We have outreach activities such as in Yavapai County which is an opportunity to outreach to the public in

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general. It gives us the opportunity to highlight who we are as a national organization and as a state organization. If they don't know who we are, it goes a long way demonstrate what we do

- Mike Hemovich asked why the national SRM doesn't print it since it is their brochure.
- Al Medina stated that it was a decision was made due to budget. National wasn't going to print it because of costs, so in turn we are stuck with the cost. We should perhaps spend about \$100 to get some printed. He thinks it is money well spent to see how well the brochures are received.
- Motion to print those brochures.
- Doug Tolleson motioned to spend \$50 for booth at the Yavapai County Cattle Growers sale and \$100 for the printing of the brochures
- Frank Hayes Seconded the motion
- All in favor

## Next meeting will be September 13<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm Video Conference

Richard Collins will be traveling but he will try to hook up by phone  
Frank Hayes will most likely not be able to make it

**Newsletter** John Kava is working on the newsletter so people need to get things in to him. Two directors at least need to do that.

## **Summer meeting**

Doug Tolleson gave a summary of the summer meeting:

- 84 paid attendees
- 110 people attended at some point (speakers etc.)

## **Winter meeting**

- Doug Tolleson is still looking to have it on campus where there are some drawbacks, but the main issue for the section (the meeting space) would be free which is a huge advantage. We might have parking issues or lack of a convenient hotel but the free meeting space is going to be huge deal for us. Next week he is going to start putting effort into getting costs and dates down. The ball is rolling on this and he will have items to present on it.
- Mike Hemovich volunteered to help with the winter meeting committee. He gave thanks to Erin Mathews for the minutes she took at the Summer Meeting.

## **6. Board Reports** SKIPPED

President – Don Luhrsen  
President Elect – Doug Tolleson  
Vice President – Mike Hemovich  
Director North – Clare Hydock, Jamie Wages  
Director South – Richard Collins, Frank Hayes  
Past President – Al Medina  
ASU Chapter – Tony Lopez  
U of A Chapter – Cameron Warner

## **7. Committee Reports** SKIPPED

Newsletter – John Kava  
Awards – James Heitholt  
Membership – Shai Schendel  
Historian – Willie Sommers  
Youth/NRCWAY – Kim McReynolds  
Scholarship – Mitch McClaran  
Activities – Al Medina  
Public Relations, Recreation and Outreach –  
Science Committee –  
Young Professionals – Jamie Wages  
Rangeland Practices – Terry Wheeler

Jamie Wages motioned to dismiss  
Motion Seconded.  
Meeting dismissed 3:40pm