



**2012 Board of Directors Meeting
September 6, 2012**

Minutes by Erin Mathews

**Arizona Section, SRM
2012 Officers**

**Members in Attendance in
Yellow**

Doug Tolleson
President

Mike Hemovich
President-Elect

Willie Sommers
Vice President

Alvin Whitehair, Jamie Wages
Directors- North

Dan Robinette, Frank Hayes
Directors-South

Erin Mathews
Executive Secretary

Ernie Gipson
Secretary-Treasurer

Rachael Cernetic
ASU Chapter President

Kelsey Hawkes
U of A Chapter President

Don Luhrsen
Past President

1. Welcome/Call to Order

11:08 Call to Order

2. Approval of the April, 2012 BOD Meeting Minutes

Doug- are there any question on the approving the minutes?

Doug – I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

Frank – I make a motion to approve.

Jamie - I second the motion.

All in Favor

Erin – Do you want me to add in the NRCWAY minutes – amend them to the April minutes?

Doug – Does anyone see any problem to just amend those to the April meeting?

All in favor

3. Financial Report

Doug - Till we get with Ernie, we can't do a full report, but he did report a full report at the summer meeting. We will hold off on the financial report and get a report from Ernie at the next one.

4. Unfinished Business

▪ **My mistake, I'll explain...**

Doug – We had Ernie nominated for an achievement award that was supposed to be presented at the winter meeting but it didn't and then it should have been presented at the summer meeting, but it was forgotten again. Luckily we have an awards chair (Jamie Wages) and we will work with her to make sure that we get this to Ernie at the next Winter Meeting. He has done such hard work on getting the entire budget together, so we will definitely get this done.

Jamie – Should we present it to him at the winter meeting, or outside of it?

Doug – If we have a BOD meeting before the winter meeting, we can get it in his hands, and then recognize him at the winter meeting. If we can get this ordered, then we can get this going.

Willie – Jamie as the new awards committee chair, are you going to be the chair of the young professionals as well?

Jamie – yes I will.

Willie - I was just checking since you have that you also have that other responsibility.

Doug – I think that we need to recognize him at the winter meeting

Don – The ranchers group will still need to be a part of this.

Willie – As I see it, we have two choices, order it and give to him at the winter meeting in front of everyone, or give it to him before the meeting in person by a board member at our next board meeting, or make a visit to his office.

Doug – Does anyone have strong feelings about this?

Mike – I agree that we need to give it to him as soon as possible, but our BOD meetings are usually teleconferences, so we might not have another meeting in person to give it to him. I would like to see him get it in front of a crowd.

Jamie – I agree.

Willie – I agree. We should order the award ASAP and present it in front of the entire section which is not long away.

Doug – I don't have a problem with that, I just want to make sure he will get the award and recognized.

--All members in attendance agree that this is how we are going to handle it.

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▪ **Winter Meeting/ Native Range Workshop**

Mike – What I have learned on having the meetings is that the first order is the venue and the dates, and I did some canvassing on the dates. There was no negative feedback on January 23-25th which will put us right before the national meeting. As far as the location goes, I got bids from Globe, Mesa and a bid from the Prescott Resort (where the Cattle Growers have their Convention. As it turned out, the prices at Prescott were the best. They offered a room rate of \$60 a night where as Mesa was \$75 and Apache Gold (Globe) was \$73. Overall Prescott was cheaper. With the conference rooms that we will be using and the additional equipment that we will need, Prescott comes in with flat rate of \$500 (which is for the rooms & equipment). The other venues you had to decide day by day and select what equipment you need. There was a \$1,400 difference based on the typical 2 full days, so it was cheaper, and the facilities are excellent up there, so I am going ahead with that since I didn't get any negative responses. The one thing we will have to watch is weather. I stayed out of Flag and the far north areas because of that reason. Prescott is 5300-5400 feet and they could have some snow, but it isn't something that will shut down the roads.

Mike - As far as themes – the winter meeting is more of an academic meeting where we aren't touring. I would like to try something different, and not to select a certain theme and fit subjects into that theme. I sent an email out for suggestions to the entire membership. One of the groups I want to address is the ranchers and the permittees. Al Medina is very interested in taking a portion of the meeting for Native Range issues (e.g. excess horse issues or other topics). Regarding the standard format on having a Wednesday evening, all day Thursday and half day Friday - is there a sound reason that we have been doing that? At some point I could see just having two full days. This could save hotel costs etc. At this winter meeting, Al is going to do what he wants in the program. The meeting might be bigger in participants and subject matter. I would like to find the critical topics (that is why I am asking the membership) and then I will find the best speakers to discuss those topics. I need more topics. I am thinking of the collaborative groups, such as Richard Collins at the Mesa Meeting. I would think it would be interesting to hear from some of the groups in Arizona and the recommendations that I have gotten have been along those lines, that being regarding how we get the agencies and groups together to accomplish things. I would be interested in hearing from these different groups. Someone recommended the Good, Bad and the Ugly – NEPA. This would be to show me good and show some bad ones.

Frank – I think you should show some bad as well.

Mike – Where do I ask for that kind of information? Where is the repository for that information? I know people that have dealt with them in the past (e.g. Carolyn Eppler and Dave Stewart might have some). If someone knows some examples of both of these let me know. So this is what I am doing; working on the agenda. This is the approach that I am going to take, to have topics people want, and have the best speakers for those topics. I am looking forward to debate, discussion, and some controversial issues e.g. the Center for Biological Diversity or others to put them on a panel to talk to them. I got an email from Alvin referencing titles. There is no deadline for these ideas, so anytime anyone has thoughts let me know; those that would fit in the broad framework.

Willie- Something I have been interested in is if there is additional time at the winter meeting for something on grass fed beef. There was an article in AZ Republic on the Double Check ranch – where they are raising and marketing grass fed beef. This seems to be an immersing ranch product, so it would be interesting to learn about – some of the ways they are doing this. I have an interest in this which could be a good side bar.

Jamie – Maybe you could talk about all of the niche markets – the new and upcoming markets to sell beef. For the Good, Bad and Ugly I would talk to Chris Theil who is the NEPA coordinator for the Prescott National Forest.

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Mike – I didn't even think of Chris – but that is an excellent idea. As far as grass fed beef, and niche market, I have been to workshops with UofA Ag economics and have heard presentations on this. This is an excellent choice – and easy to fill with speakers.

Willie – Grass fed beef means in part that livestock will be spending longer periods of their life on the rangeland, with longer grazing periods – it would be interesting to know how is that going to affect the ranch operation.

Doug – About the logistics questions. The idea to go to two full days – that is just how we always did it – travel in the evenings, and then early on Friday to travel, but the idea of saving hotel money would be good in our tight budgets – I am sure open to squeezing it into two days such as starting Wed – Thurs or whatever works. Have you thought about forming a committee to help you? There is a possibility of an all day native workshop that would tag on to the winter meeting as a part of it such as having a Range 101 meeting, with native range issues discussed.

Mike – as far as the committee idea – absolutely – I should have been using the directors for the summer meeting. Dan Robinette did a great portion of Thursday morning but since I was living in Young, I handled it all. But with the winter meeting, I would like people to be facilitators and to have people to bounce ideas off. I definitely want to form a committee immediately to help with the winter meeting. As far as the native range – the last conversation that I had with Al a few days ago, he said he was looking at an all day workshop for native range issues – and rancher issues. I have discussed what topics. That leads into the two day – if we had a longer meeting that might make us spend the full two nights there with Friday dedicated to meetings and all of Wed. What about a 3 day meeting – will we attract more people? Or will it be more costly – I am torn with cost or the best dynamic meeting.

Doug - Could do buffet costs so people can choose. For example, \$150 for three days, and you could do each day for e.g. \$50. It just makes it harder for the meeting planner and budgeting because you are trying to predict how many people. Having 3 jam packed days will break up the registration, and you just need to structure the topics that it works that way – it could work.

Mike – if we did that, we could start mid morning Wed, and people could go to the meeting. With the hotel prices low, the issue will be the food costs. Wed evening we had dinner on our own at the Mesa meeting so people saved money on their meals. I don't think anyone, except Al took a partial for the summer meeting – everyone else took a full, but I can break that up.

Willie – I agree with what Doug said to break it up into sessions because you will have different topics, and the topics will attract more people – it sounds like that is where you are going – native range and collaboration topics.

Alvin – I have a concern - you can make it for many days, but from perspective of tribes – they usually don't have the luxury of spending more than 2 days there because of budget – that is why I wanted it in Flag, because that is where the majority of the tribes are. We will work with it if it is in Prescott. If word doesn't get out, then it doesn't help much.

Doug – we might have to have a teleconference a few weeks here, because there might be a possibility of having a Range 101 course in Flagstaff, which could be the day before or after meeting – doesn't have to be in the same location. There are some things that we need to figure out ahead of time. This is something that the four of us need to discuss.

Jamie- I have a question – have we thought of doing something other than just two meetings? Why not do a native range in the spring or fall so you can do more CEU for people, e.g. if they can't go to the summer meeting.

Willie- Like having a ranch tour day.

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Doug – we have thought about doing that, and it is definitely a possibility.

Jamie – the native range thing might turn out to be a big thing, and maybe we should combine them.

Doug – this is a discussion we need to have quickly - if we want to combine them. Jeff Schalau needs to put in input – 2-3 groups that want to do this; we need to get everyone's input instead of duplicating these.

Alvin – that will work, we just need to really meet on the logistics – and the biggest thing is to get the word out.

Doug – action item – [he will email, Mike, Al, Jeff and Alvin – to set up a conference call.](#)

Mike – This is an excellent idea to do as soon as possible – I have heard of including Jeff Schalau as well. Al is trying to increase the size of the winter meeting, but I know they have thoughts on the other meetings. Alvin – are there any mechanisms e.g. with membership list, or other ways to get the work out to these offices.

Alvin – Newspapers on the reservations, radio stations. With email, some forget these. Radio stations are very good.

Erin – what about getting the word out to the SWCDs?

Alvin – With my time with the BIA I saw that with the tribal districts, the only people that show up are the people that want something out of it, immediately – the ones that don't have a problem don't show up.

Willie – Mike, it might be good to create a master contact list for key contacts e.g. on the Navajo nation, the Hualapai tribe, so that we know who the range managers are, who the interested parties are because we are embarking on a long relationship with the tribes. We can do the papers which are valuable for ranchers, but we can get a contact list of people that are key players of range management.

Alvin – we can try that method, but my with my experience I have given my opinion on what we need to do, but we can also try your ideas.

Jamie – would be good to do ads in the prominent newspapers especially in key locations.

Alvin – Everyone in reservation, the primarily way of finding out about things is newspaper or the radio.

Erin – I know radio ads have been very successful with our agency.

Doug – Let's hold there. There are some side conversations that need to go on to help planning for this and the native range committee to flush out these details to get these mechanisms in place to report progress at the next BOD meeting.

Alvin – Thank you everyone for putting out their ideas because we still don't have a strong native range program, so thank you everyone that has an interest.

5. New Business

- Request for travel support for Wink Crigler to national SRM meeting

Doug – We have received a request for Wink to go to a symposium for woman as change agents in the range – it is an all day symposium at the national SRM meeting – woman from parts of the world or US - people that

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have worked in Australia, Africa, Mexico, and Mongolia. It is a prestigious group – the people in charge asked if we could support Wink to go. I have also talked to George Ruyle and he is supposed to give me a budget, but he hasn't yet. It will be probably \$1000. I am not sure if we will be ready to vote till we get more information. I throw out the idea that we do this funds permitting. I am going to be talking George to see if another group will be going in on it with us.

All- Great idea

Doug –Till we get the financial report for the youth forum and such, lets tentatively say that we would like to give support, since we don't have a dollar amount yet. I will also see if other groups will also be involved.

- Awards chair, committee, actions

Doug - Jamie as the new Awards chair I have a couple names of people to help you. Do you have any comments/reports?

Jamie – I was able to get stuff from Katie Cline, after the newsletter deadline – John will get some word out in the newsletter, but we will have to do an email to get some feedback on the awards this year.

Doug – when you get something to announce, I can do it as an email blast.

Jamie – when do they usually go out?

Doug – Probably this time of year because the winter meeting is coming, especially for the rancher presentation – we want to get it done in plenty of time.

Don – the committee members usually go out and tour the different locations, so that takes time

Mike – question on awards. When looking at bylaws on the section guidelines – do we do each of these every year? We have Range Manager, Professional and technical guidance and misc award – can someone explain?

Don – Those are the ones that go out to the different ranchers that are nominated, so then the committee then gives the vote on who is should be to the board

Jamie – Katie is going to be very helpful with all of it.

Don – there is also the separate range manager award. One is who gets the big sign. Range manager gets the plaque. The professional and tech guidance is the one that has only been around for two years. There was nothing to award to any agency people, so we created that award.

Jamie-when I send out the email blast, I will describe what each one is so people nominating can know.

Don – John Kava has a mailing list.

Doug – if we need to send out a short letter because I think that the hard copy mailing list is very short now, so if we need to reach more members then we can put whatever is going in an email blast in an mailer to send out.

Jamie – Sounds good. When we send out the outstanding service award or professional technical award, do I have to bring that to the board and not the other ones?

Don – we did one for the outstanding service award – but this has not been an annual thing.

Jamie – the misc awards would go to the board?

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Don – Yes.

Jamie – Just tell me who is on the committee so I can contact them – as well as their contact info.

Doug – I can do that. I need to look in to that.

- Election, new officers, committee chairs

Don – I only still only have one volunteer to run for VP – Iric Burden, so I am still waiting on more nominations.

Doug – we can also follow up with this on the email blast – a little blurb to say which positions we still need to fill.

Don – I talked to John about that so that is in the newsletter that we need nominations- it would be nice to have the ballot in the sept newsletter.

Doug – WE need to do some personal recruiting as individuals.

Don – I would encourage people to do that, talk to people on the phone to see who is interested.

Doug - James Holden said he would volunteer in some way – Mike that might be someone that can help you. He isn't as far from Prescott. I can get you his information.

Willie – I looked at the committees and there is no one in public relations committee, so I thought James might be good at that because he deals with a lot of recreation and works for a public land management agency. Jim Sprinkle created that committee, and it hasn't taken off yet.

Don – is he north or south of the 60 – if he is north, he could be a north director

Willie – that would work as well

Doug – you want to talk to him?

Willie – I will do that.

Don – Also get Mike and Doug his contact info.

Doug – we will cover these two items at the next meeting:

- Student group involvement at section meetings (UofA students do a lot of the meal work, but can't participate as much as they want to)
- Insurance for NRCWAY camp

6. Officer/Director/Committee Reports

President - Elect

Mike – at the upcoming winter meeting do we want to schedule meeting time for the committees?

Jamie – I think this is a great idea.

Doug – we need to have committee meetings- we need to make an effort for these.

Willie- this could be a mass email out to everyone about that opportunity.

Vice President

Willie – planning on talking with Bill Cordasco with the Babbitt ranches to express my interest to have summer meeting in Flag, and to tour the Babbitt ranches. I will be contacting him very soon and I will go from there.

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The land department will be hiring a new range manager out of my office. I am looking to notify ASU and UofA about the job opening.

Doug – As you start making those contacts – if Iric Burden is the nominee – I would visit with him since he is in Flag and because he has been doing some monitoring out there.

Willie- I will utilize his knowledge.

Director North

Alvin – Nothing else.

Jamie – We had a successful summer meeting - the plant ID contest went well. If there is anything that the young professionals could do at the winter meeting, let me know.

Director South

Dan – I have nothing else. I included a report in the newsletter.

Frank – I have been canvassing, since my directorship is over this winter – looking at possible candidates – have asked NRCS personnel, but their agency doesn't support their membership.

Doug – Make sure that we are on the same page if you are going to talk to the leadership at the NRCS.

Frank – I want to give Mike some topics – such as the Quivira Young Entrepreneurship program which is something to make people aware of. They haven't come into AZ a lot. Wink has come to their meetings. The Eagle Creek membership hasn't been that active (they are also a group that might be willing to support Wink's travel).

Mike – thanks for the offer on the ideas. I had Quivira on my list as well as the borderlands group GLCI.

Jamie – Vanessa Prileson is actually a member of the coalition – so she could be a local contact.

Mike – Thanks.

Executive Secretary

Erin – I will be having an opening in my office for a Rangeland Management Specialist.

Doug – you can do a posting on the National SRM site which is not that expensive. Contact me for ASU, UofA contacts. Eddie Alford – ASU contact (ask me for that). We (UofA extension) will also have an opening.

Past President

Don – Nothing to add

7. Schedule next BOD meeting, adjourn

Willie – Was there flood damage to the NRCWAY camp?

Doug – 2-3 storms that sat at Mingus, apparently the road is completely washed out on the private land which will take heavy equipment to repair. The pond overflowed and the dock was washed up but the dam didn't breach – there was also water in the nurse's cabin and such. There will need to be some rebuilding – the insurance will cover most of everything. The road is the wild card – the damage wasn't on the forest, but the private. There could be some donors or some other ways to get that money.

Doug - Do we need to meet before the 1st of November?

Works for everyone.

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November 1st @ 10am
Don will set up a video conference.

Motion to adjourn.
Jamie motion.
Mike second.
Adjourn 12:19pm.