



2014 General Membership Meeting
January 8, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Tucson, Arizona

AGENDA

Arizona Section, SRM
2014/15 Officers

Willie Sommers
President

President-Elect

Chris Thiel
Vice President

Kelsey Hawkes, Shai Schendel
Directors- North

John Hall, Steve Barker
Directors-South

Ashley Shepherd
Executive Secretary

Ernie Gipson
Treasurer

Kelly Bedson
ASU Chapter President

Alanna Riggs
U of A Chapter President

Mike Hemovich
Past- President

1. Welcome/Call to Order 7:20 Mike Hemovich

2. Approval of the Summer Meeting Minutes

Bob Benne: Motion to approve

Doug Tolleson: Second

Mike: Minutes approved

3. Financial Report

Ernie Gispon: I have a hand out that is final report. The first page is cash revenues and then the expenses. From our summer meeting we profited \$6,000. The second page shows how I reconciled our checking account. We do our operations out of that the beginning balance was \$8,000 the ending was \$12,000. The ending pages are the statements from Chase bank, starting on page 4. I had to subtract a check for \$1,600 for this meeting. If you go to the very last page it shows a check I have yet to deposit.

Willie Sommers: Is the \$1,945 from the registration fees?

Ernie: Yes it is but it could also contain dues they don't give me a break down when the parent society sends me the check. They also subtract \$200 to collect the registration online. I did not bring the NRCWAY account statement. I know it showed a positive cash flow again, close to \$2000. So we are doing pretty well.

Any questions?

Kim McReynolds: The chaperone airfare is for me what is the airfare for 290?

Ernie: Didn't we pay for 2 tickets?

Kim: The section paid for one and NRCWAY paid for one.

Ernie: I transferred money into the account.

Kim: They are 2 different accounts. Maybe we can sit down and look at that

Ernie: Ok we can look at it. I'm moving next month to Oregon for a new job so we

will be looking for a new treasurer.

4. Unfinished Business:

• **Arizona Section Hosting a National Meeting**

Mike Hemovich: I would like to update you on the ongoing question of the 2017 National SRM meeting. We were asked if we would like to present a program to be held in Nebraska and we as the Board of Directors decided not to. The latest development is Utah will bid for 2017 national meeting and they would like to have it in St. George. That is a different situation that cohosting a meeting in Nebraska since it is similar area. They have asked us if we would like to cohost. We are unsure if the national SRM will want to have a meeting in St. George because it could be difficult to get to since everyone would have to fly into Las Vegas. At the national meeting next month we will see if the bid is accepted. If St. George does get the bid we will have to discuss whether we will be willing to share the work load with Utah to cohost the meeting. I think it would be a financial benefit. We will know a lot more in a month, are there any thoughts on that?

Terry Wheeler: I think it wouldn't be a bad idea to have it in St. George. We've had many range workshops up there in the past. There is a good working relationship between UA and Coconino County and people on the strip.

Jeff Schalau: It is a big city for a rural area.

Terry: There is a large highway going up through there now.

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Willie: Is SRM national going to have us on their agenda?

Mike: I'm sure they will.

Andrew Brischke: If the phoenix is too expensive, why did they accept Orlando?

Mike: I doubted the national SRM take on Phoenix and I know Doug (Tolleson) has made inquiries into Tucson to see if they would be ready as far as facilities. National SRM won't have a hotel host a meeting unless the hotel will accept government per diem rates and Phoenix won't lower prices. There was thought of changing the date to get out of the high cost time but that was nixed by national for several reasons.

Jim Sprinkle: What facility are they thinking about in St. George

Jeff: Dixie Center, it's very large.

Mike: I think Tucson will be good for us but they use over 40 breakout rooms so it's hard to find a facility that has that many smaller rooms.

Andrew: During the gem show it'd be hard to get rooms.

Kelsey Hawkes: When was the last time a meeting was held in Arizona?

Willie: 1995 in Phoenix and 1974 in Tucson.

Terry: I think there was a meeting in 1954 or 1955 also.

Mike: After the National meeting we will know more and can continue the discussion if we want to help out the Utah section.

- **UA Intern Program**

Mike: I wanted to get UA students to intern on ranches whether a full semester or a shorter period and that student would receive university credit. All that worked out. Mitch McClaran and AZ Cattle Growers helped to make it happen. They are going to start the first interns at the headquarters for the Cattle Growers.

- **ListServe/Social Media**

Mike: Several people have asked where to get information about the section if you aren't a member.

Willie: Can I get a show of hands for people that get emails. Ok good when I've been sending out notices I wasn't sure who was getting emails. Our website does post the newsletters too so a non-member could get information that way.

Jeff: One way to reach a wider group is County and other Cattle Growers sites or listserves. If we can post our stuff on theirs and vice versa. I think electronic media will help us. I think that's one way to multiply members. We can get them to like us have

Ashley: I have set up a Facebook page for the section. If there are any job listing, field tours, etc. I can post them on Facebook to get the word out. My email is AshleyS3@email.arizona.edu.

Willie: We might also consider other partnering with other societies.

Jeff: Maybe AZ Game and Fish.

Larry: We could also bring it up at the advisory council meetings; we could get all the sections like each other on Facebook.

- **Summer Meeting**

Mike: Iric took a job in Florida so we no longer have a President-Elect. He had some good ideas about what to do for the summer meeting. I know Doug, Willie and I have talked to Iric and one of the things we wanted to have a meeting about was grazing systems. I think he had some interesting thoughts about open grazing.

Doug Tolleson: A wildlife session was talked about as well. He had been thinking about trying to look at range and wildlife issues.

Willie: When I was with him on the Babbit Ranch before the summer meeting, he told me the inventory he was doing on the blue grama pastures didn't show any difference between rest/rotation pastures vs areas that didn't have pastures. That is one of the other things he wanted to discuss. He also wanted to hear from ranchers out there and see what systems they are using and how they work for them.

Mike: About 5 years ago at the Cattle Grower meeting Holecheck gave a talk on the studies he had been doing on the open grazing concept. Most of us think they will hammer certain areas and target certain species but he found something along the lines of what Willie was saying, there was no difference

Terry: I think up there people have been moving animals with guys on a wagon moving the cattle around instead of using fences since the areas are large. It's the same effect as having fences because you can control where you want them to be a lot better.

Mike: It's an interesting and controversial subject.

Ray Tanner: Someone is doing research on GPS collars; if they go out of the boundary it gives them a shock.

Mike: Ernie and I had talked about the invisible fences.

Ernie: There is research on it and at ASU.

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Willie: One other point about the summer meeting; Matt Barnes, who is a former AZ section member, is working in Montana he contacted me and was interested in some of our topics. He was President of the Colorado section and they just had a huge meeting about grazing systems. He wrote a paper in *Rangelands* about strategic grazing. Right now he is on a ranch in Montana and has done studies that show grazing systems reduce predation. Its limited 2 year studied but it sounds interesting and he has papers on both of these subjects.

Mike: Matt Barnes has experience with grazing and wolves which is a big issue in AZ. If he can talk at the Cattle Growers meeting I think it'd be good.

Jim: Where are you thinking of having the summer meeting?

Willie: Iric wanted it to be in Flagstaff.

Mike: It's nice to go to southern or northern Arizona.

Jim: It has been a while since we have done a summer meeting in this part of the state.

Mike: We came here for a winter meeting and did the Santa Rita Experimental Range tour.

Willie: Chiricahua's would be a nice place.

Mike: That is something we will be figuring out.

5. New Business

• Day Tour Concept

Mike: Every year we have a summer and winter meeting, I like them but maybe we could change the format a little. This summer Willie had day trip to the Willow Springs Ranch. We are also trying to get Directors north and south engaged more. I think it would be a good idea to have the directors to put on a one day meeting and choose a topic in their area. Then we don't have the cost of hotels and meals. What are your thoughts on that? Willie, what comments did you receive from people that went to your field trip? I've tried to focus on students and get input on them and I would still like to see more input from them on poster presentations and Willie geared that day tour towards the students.

Willie: It went pretty well. We did a caravan tour through the Willow Springs Ranch to look at Game and Fish wildlife catchments and areas with high OHV use. The UA student chapter was well represented; they have 4-5 students. It gave Kelsey and I a chance to talk about State Trust land so that was the benefit for me. I think people had a good time. I tried to keep it brief; we were done by 3pm so people could get home at a reasonable hour. I really like the concept its good to get on the ground whether it's a ranch tour or a project tour.

Mike: It's good because it's a low cost. You could take a topic, like ESDs and go to an area to look at them.

Kelsey: I think for targeting students. It gives us something to do in between meetings and shows us the on paper things we learn in school in a practical way.

Mike: And having it on Saturday's means students won't be in class.

Willie: Yes, that's why I did it on a Saturday.

Ray Tanner: I'd like to see a field trip at both meetings. It seems like they are mostly done at the summer meeting. There have to be things to see at the winter meetings too as far as projects.

Mike: I noticed some sections don't call some of their meetings "meetings" they just call them a tour.

Ray: Getting out in the field is an important part of management.

Mike: If we continue to hold the winter meeting on our same schedule we should strive to make it out in the field for at least half a day.

Jim Sprinkle: I have a few topics I'm interested in: archeology and geology. If we could be in an area that could be more than one geologic type and discuss differences.

Mike: Archeology is a big topic where I am because we need clearance before you can clear juniper.

Ray: I agree with Jim.

Mike: Any other new business or thoughts?

6. Board Reports

Doug: I have a couple of different things to discuss. A few possibilities for the summer meeting and it seems like pre-meeting UA extension workshops are a good thing, we have had a good turnout. I'm thinking we should make it a tradition unless there is a good reason not to. I've been talking to Arizona Highways magazine about doing a plant and landscape photography workshop. There will be a cost to attend. I'm hoping

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we will get to spend the whole day in the field with professional photographers that can help us take better pictures for our plant ID and also help our photos for monitoring. They would help with composition and focus to make them more repeatable. You can let me know in the next couple of days if you would like that. I want to keep these workshops going. Second thing related to has to do with national meetings. I think we will get a lot of information in Orlando. If the meeting has contracted down due to less participation since there has been a decrease in government funding and government employees being able to attend the meetings, then St. George may work very well. I am no longer Past President but I am not the liaison between SRM and animal sciences. At the national level we have been talking about doing a trading of symposium. The idea we are working on is have a whole day symposium on range topics that would be on a national interest level and have SRM and animal science community work together. They would be represented at our meeting and we would be represented at their meeting. Let me know what you think about it in the next couple of days and we can go from there. Lastly, we have had some good research projects for Tierra Seca (UA Student Chapter) to earn money to go to Orlando and national meetings.

Mike: Doug what do you think the turnout was today at the UA workshop?

Doug: About 90 people.

Mike: Hopefully we can draw some people from today that aren't familiar with SRM. That is why I gave a small talk about SRM afterwards. I like the idea of the photography class, a lot of ranchers don't have a photography background to take monitoring photos or unknown plant photos.

Steve Barker: There has been a change in NRCS ecological site leadership. There was an MOU signed and the handbook was agreed on and the new handbook is supposed to come out. They had assembled a team to work on ESD in Oklahoma but that team was disbanded and moved to Las Cruces. I think that it will be good for us in Arizona because it will give us a chance to make some movement on ecological site work. There will be an upcoming workshop on rainfall simulation at Walnut Gulch.

7. Committee Reports:

Public Relations, Recreation & Outreach

Mike: James Holden is our new Public Relations Chair. For several years we have felt the need for sponsors and donors for public outreach. We want James to reach out to the public for fundraising and sponsorships. We hope he will also keep a list of people who have donated. We welcome James into that position; it's something we need to do. When we go to the Cattle Growers the walls are full of sponsors and they are given a chance to get up and talk for a bit. We need to enhance that for the section and I hope James can help with that.

Youth/NRCWAY-

Kim McReynolds: The week of June 23rd we will have the NRCWAY Camp. We have 2 people from the high school youth forum going to Florida. They are both outstanding students. Nicole was our outstanding student at the camp last year and Caleb was the runner up.

Mike: What is the maximum number of students at camp?

Kim: The max with counselors is 45. We were up 2 years ago but last year we had a bunch of people drop out after the applied and accepted. This year they will have to do a non-refundable deposit to apply.

Mike: How do you get the word out about camp?

Kim: There are flyers sent to every middle school. We also send flyers to FFA advisors around the state.

Mike: Thank you everyone for the discussion and comments, they will be taken to heart. I look forward to the talks tomorrow it will be really interesting.

Jeff: Motion to adjourn

Doug: Seconds

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.