



**2012 Summer Membership Meeting  
August 8, 2012**

Minutes by Erin Mathews

**Arizona Section, SRM  
2012 Officers**

**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**

Call to order 4:30pm – Doug Tolleson

Doug Tolleson: Is there someone who will write a blog about the meeting? Someone that will be here for all three days? Last year we put it on the SRM webpage...it doesn't have to be the younger part of the group. Are there any volunteers? What we did, what you got out of it?

[Rick Taylor volunteered to do it.](#)

Doug Tolleson: We have a plant ID contest set up in the back. Andrew will give us the ground rules and will show off the buckle. It is open to everyone, professionals, students etc. We want it to grow and get more prestigious. We can spread the word at the national meetings with the buckle. We want it to mean something.

**2. Approval of the January, 2012 Membership Meeting Minutes**

Doug Tolleson: Has everyone seen the hard copy or the email of the minutes from the January meeting? Has anyone not gotten a chance to look at those? The email blast that went out had those in them. I will take a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Don Luhrsen: Moved

Ray Tanner: Second

All in Favor

**3. Financial Report**

Ernie Gipson: The financial statements are done for our parent company - we do one for the summer and one for the winter meetings. You should have a copy from the front. At the summer meeting we talked about the winter meeting which is our more expensive meeting. We lost \$1,562.81 with the winter meeting. We made \$2-3000 from the summer meeting before. Even though we lost \$1,562.81 we still gave money to ASU wildlife fund (\$1,000), and the Tera Seca (\$1,000) and to the NRCWAY students to go to Spokane and the \$500 to NRCWAY. The loss is to a good cause. The profit and loss statements: \$18,726.92 of revenue and we lost \$1,562.81. We have already got \$275 for this summer meeting and we had two other expenses (\$1500 and \$1040) which are catch up funds that we owed NRCWAY because we didn't disperse all the money from the raffle, but it is all reconciled now. Our Clark Martin Fund stayed the same. It is a money market fund that earns very little interest but it is very secure. NRCWAY income statement – Susan Pater and Kim McRenolds presented – they did very well – they had a net income. In years prior students and donations were lacking, but this year they did very good. The NRCWAY Vanguard trust did well – there was a net income of \$3,988.75 and there is a total of \$44,387.87 in that fund.

Doug Tolleson: do we need to vote to accept those? I will accept a motion to accept.

John Fowler: Moved to accept.

Carol Engle: Second.

All in favor

Doug Tolleson: I have a couple of comments. With the loss from the winter meeting, we still are out \$750 from our sponsors from that meeting, so that will improve the numbers. And we are charging the student dispersments to those meetings. That is how we use the moneys from those meetings.



#### 4. Unfinished Business

- Officers meeting with agency leaders

Doug Tolleson: Elected officers have been going around meeting the head of the different agencies, sometimes with emails for the different groups. We have been tying that in with talking about fund raising/membership/training. Every one of us that are in the executive chain dived up the different agency groups that we work with to meet with the State or Regional leaders to:

- 1) Get their feelings on what they think about SRM, what value they see in their people being members
- 2) Talking to those leaders and telling them our impressions of why we are part of the society and why it makes our profession better and the natural resources better in turn – sustainable resources

The two that I had was NRCS and BIA. BIA I am still in the process of making those connections, so nothing to report on that yet – trying to figure out who I need to talk to, to get to the right person to say that we want their people involved in this. For the NRCS I had a person to person meeting with Keisha Tatum – the State Conservationist in Phoenix. She and I met at a NRCD meeting in Camp Verde – I wanted to hear from her how familiar she was with SRM, and her impressions. I let her talk first – she is not very familiar. She has had good impressions. She worked on rangelands in Florida. She is generally supportive of the professional societies. I talked to her about the parallel history of the SCS and the SRM, we started out of the dust bowl. There have been many range scientists that have made it a discipline of its own with the dust bowl in both the professional society and the NRCS. From that discussion we talked about some of the difficulties in participating. What we will need to do in the future, is to get from the NRCS the list of training needs that they develop; things that they need training on. As they develop that list and make that available to SRM, we can rebrand the meeting as workshop training and give them an opportunity to budget that in, and put that in the agenda of whatever they need on their development plan. This makes the meeting items more valuable so they can put it into their work plans. We also talked about the officers; she said she was generally supportive of that, but would have to work that through the leadership chains. We are about 6 months out because of the training needs; we need to assess that further.

Don Luhrsen: I talked with Ray Suazo. In our communication, the bottom line was that we need to talk to his people, not really sure how to go. Trying to get the people to give us ideas of what we can do for them. I have been trying to figure out who to talk to.

Viola Hillman: She will talk to Don Luhrsen as she is one of the managers

Don Luhrsen: Range cons are range cons no matter who they work for.

Willie Sommers – Talked to the Forest Service – and their employee involvement. Visited with Dave Stewart – the range manager for AZ and NM, and Dave is a member of both state sections. Overall there is high support for employee involvement in SRM. Strong support is encouraged for each employee. There is different funding at each district office and if there is training money available they look at if they have time to take off of their jobs and/or if they put in the request or not. Dave's office – employees can go, he helps them anyway he can. Asked about Forest Service involvement and he is happy with what the section is doing. Forest Service has been serving on the board which is good. The future suggestion is keep doing what you are doing, with the high quality meetings in the winter and summer. Probably depends on where we have the meetings on if people can go. I know that fire is a big deal, with fire duty.

Jim Sprinkle: How do we compare with NM?

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Dave Stewart: The NM section is still recovering as is AZ. The quality of the meetings in AZ in the recent years has been great.

Doug Tolleson: to summarize – participation in AZ has been good, and the value of the meetings have been very good the last 10-12 years.

Mike Hemovich: I talked with Andy Garceta with Cattle Growers. He used to be a member of SRM but he is now stretched to the limits. The future leadership for the Cattle Growers is very versed in SRM matters. A couple of years ago we formed a ranchers committee with SRM, so we have that going and through Terry Wheeler's efforts, they have a meeting at the large Cattle Growers meeting. In the 1980s the membership was 50% ranchers, but it looks like it might come back. How can the groups benefit each other – some ideas – can we hold SRM summer meeting before or after the Cattle Growers, so we are sharing the same facilities and information, but that might be difficult if someone will want to spend 2 more days at our meeting after the cattle growers. UofA extension has an excellent program at the convention – why couldn't SRM have a 1-2 hours session since we have rangeland expertise. UofA usually focus on cattle. I haven't heard a lot about rangeland. That would put us there to give us the exposure, to open eyes of producers of what we do which I think we would see a surge in our membership. They are very versed in SRM and they think very highly of us, so might be the time to put our foot in the door. I am going to see what I can do with that to increase membership

Doug Tolleson: we are also going to work on Game and Fish – we put more of them on the agenda to reach out to them. Efforts to reach out to cattlemen. Efforts to reach out to university as the winter meeting was across the street. I will try to take that and work on it in years to come both to academia and Game and Fish – what they can do for us and what we can do for them. We didn't have certain people assigned to those, but I will probably volunteer to talk to the academia. And find someone to reach out to Game and Fish. Is there anyone we have left out?

- Native Range Committee activities

Doug Tolleson: Al – is actually at a native range meeting and is on his way. He asked for 15-20 minutes at lunch tomorrow.

- Fund raising/membership/training

Doug Tolleson: this ties into reaching out to these other organizations. Everyone is going through a downturn of leadership of fundraising – budgets are tight if you are a private individual or an agency. Time and money to do travel is very tight. We are in a tight budget time. We are going to just have to weather that. We will have to look at our society, we make the trip because we are going to get some value from it – I want to foster that. I want to call upon the members that out in the field if you hear someone talk about what they need from our meetings to quiz them and get information back to the board so that we know if there is an issue to address; we need that opportunity to meet those needs. The challenge has been issued to everyone. Feed back to our leadership and tell us what people want to hear about at our meetings. From a membership standpoint, we need to recruit – replicate ourselves once and we can double the membership. National page states who they were recruited by. We need to keep the meetings low cost as possible (not the nicest hotels). It needs to be cost effective but good quality. Get to the meat and potatoes of what people can use. Challenge from now to the winter meeting.

- Winter Meeting

Mike Hemovich: Come Friday when this is over, I start thinking about the winter meeting. This meeting was due to your help. I used Willie's Rangelands under the Rim. The second part of the title - the merging of science with mgt. On the allotments out here we look to the science in a great way – we realize that is the only way to succeed and progress. Tomorrow morning is where science merges with mgt. We start here at 8am. The part where you came in is when I canvassed the membership

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and you said that you wanted to hear from Game and Fish and how big game is managed. Previous summer meetings haven't have had Game and Fish represented. This district covers all of the different aspects. This session I asked you for ideas and you came through. So with the winter meeting, a more academic based meeting, we will possibly have it in Phoenix or Tucson so it is central. Nothing is pinned down – just a concept. There are lots of cooperative efforts going on where land managers and UofA Extension come together with the rancher. What does the grazing land initiative do – what is the Quivera group and what can they offer? This might be what it is about. I want to hear about what they are doing to give us new ideas. We all cooperate to do our work. We cooperate with our District Ranger, and I would like to see that the focus of the groups. The dates – we like to have it prior to the national meeting the first week of February. So probably the 3-4 week in January is when we will have our meeting – gives the new VP a chance to go. We had it in Tucson last year and Mesa the year before so I am thinking possibly Mesa – the hotel wants us back and they had good facilities. Any thoughts on subjects and location please let me know in the next couple of days.

Doug Tolleson: when we have meetings in Tucson or Phoenix, do you like to have the field trip? Give us feedback.

Terry Wheeler: I like to see the field trip not at the end of the session, but work it into the front of the meeting – possibly part of a morning – Tucson there are close spots to get to with good ranches. People are ready to leave by the end of the meeting but maybe more willing in the beginning.

- Applied Science Task Force Report

Doug Tolleson: Not much more to add to that – that is the group that came to me at the National Meeting to look at the Rangelands journal and other opportunities to report on more applied case study type information. There is a feeling that we are not getting that out of Rangelands – so a group was formed to make suggestions. That was sent in an email blast. In 2 weeks I will need to make a summary of what we said in AZ and they will be put together with the other states involved. Let me know what you would like to see. Something that came out of that is that there might be a quicker fix. We have looked at the UofA range website providing opportunity for folks to share their case studies – it wouldn't be in a journal, but there are results. Applied science that you would like to get out – can be above and beyond of what we do with Rangelands. Let me know if you have any strong feelings on those items so I can get that out.

### 5. Officer/Director/Committee Reports

#### VP / Historian – Willie Sommers

Willie Sommers: I am already thinking about next summer's meeting. I have given that some thought and an idea I had was to go to the Babbitt ranches outside of Flagstaff – there are 3 ranches that make it up outside of Flag. I have been out of the loop on what they have done, but I know that they have focused on Junipers for Proghorn Antelope. We can tie in the history, as it has been around since ~1904. Babbitt was one of the early presidents of the SRM section. Going to find out more on what they are doing on that ranch and how they are dealing with drought – that is what I am leaning to at this point and I wanted to put it out there.

Willie Sommers: Nothing new for the Historian report.

#### North Directors Report - Jamie Wages

Nothing to report

#### Dan Robinett – South Directors Report

The range cons for the NRCS are not allowed to come to these meetings on official time, and I was always allowed to come on government time and you paid all of the costs. There are a lot of good range cons in the NRCS that should be involved. NRCS needs to see that this is a good training opportunity to show that it is worth their time. We need to do some more work with the State Con and I will volunteer for the AZ Game and

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Fish – I have been working as a consultant to get game and fish in the field up to speed. Good rainfall – get your hopes up!

Willie Sommers: A possible Idea to suggest to the managers that if you have a new range con, who is new to AZ, that it would be good to have people introduced to the other agencies.

Doug Tolleson: We talked about the technical knowledge as well as the fact that you are sitting in the room with people that are also doing range management in the state. That is a good point, and we have talked about that.

Terry Wheeler: The ironic thing is that this organization was developed by the people that aren't allowed to come. Now they are working with private land owners and they need to get their clients involved in this group as they do.

Doug Tolleson: As long as we go the direction of calling it a training.

Terry Wheeler: We might have the power as supervisors of the NRCDs as well.

Doug Tolleson: Just like a drought – do we manage the same as a drought – same thing with membership, and we can work our way out of it.

Erin Mathews: I think that we will be able to work through the issues with the NRCS – it is just due to new management right now.

**UofA President** – Kelsey Hawkes – An update of the UofA Chapter since January. We had our team take 5<sup>th</sup> place overall at the national meeting (out of 9) one came in 4<sup>th</sup> place on the ID team. We have done some ranch trips and trying to get out of the meeting, so if anyone has suggestions of things that the club can do, we would appreciate the experience.

Rick Reitz – how far are you willing to go?

Kelsey Hawkes – Commitment seems to drop the farther that we go – we would like to go to the V Bar V Ranch, so if we have enough time to plan ahead we would like options.

Doug Tolleson – they are doing breakfast and lunch. These are the people you would like to be hiring.

Kelsey – We brought some of our pork sausage.

### **Don Luhrsen – Past President**

I need to find nominees to fill our officer ranks. Willie was gracious enough to step up to the VP position last year. This is the opportunity to follow the President Elect to see how the meetings are put together and work with the students and you aren't actually responsible for anything. I have one person willing to be nominated, but I would like more choices. If you have a desire to help this organization, don't hesitate to contact me. We have two director spots open as well. Phoenix is the dividing line. I would like to encourage everyone. I had the opportunity to fill behind Jim and I have really enjoyed the opportunity to get together with people and share information. I will be around all week. I would like to have two names on the ballots.

### **6. New Business**

Jim Sprinkle: representing the Tonto NRCD to deliver the books of NEPA for ranchers – we would like everyone to take one with them. Ranchers and agency folks to take one home - it was a 4 year effort. We had several people involved. We had many reviewers look at this. It even went to Washington DC, so I hope it is accurate. Wrote it with the focus that if I was a permittee how would I go through the NEPA process – it would be a mystery. From an agency perspective to show what you should be doing with the permittee

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through the process. Courtesy of the Tonto NRCD. One reviewer was Dave Stewart – I want to thank him for his efforts. We wanted to make it a better quality. Thank Tommie Martin and Terry Wheeler.

Doug Tolleson: We have several people that it is your first time at a section SRM meeting. Our old members need to shake their hand as they will be running the show eventually. Thank you for all coming.

Andrew Brischke: Plant ID – the rules are on the back. Self explanatory – don't touch the plants as they are old mounts. You can use books or whatever you brought with you. Answer sheets on the back. It is over Friday morning.

Mike Hemovich: Think of auction items for the winter meeting. <Reviewed summer meeting logistics>

**7. Adjourn**

Mike Hemovich: Move to Adjourn

Willie Sommers: Second to Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45