



**2011 General Session Summer Meeting**  
**Aug 3, 2011**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**V Bar V Ranch – Mahan Park, AZ**

**MINUTES: Taken by Erin Mathews**

**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*

**Cory Ertl**  
*ASU Chapter President*

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

**Al Medina**  
*Past President*

**1. Welcome/Call to Order – Don called meeting to order 6:20pm**

- Welcome - Verde Tour people are running late
- Introductions of officers

**2. Approval of the March 22 BOD Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to approved & seconded – minutes approved

**3. Financial Report**

- Introduction of Ernie Gipson as the new treasurer, taking over for Kent Ellet
- Ernie's Treasurer report:

We are in the black, went back to May 2009, there is plenty of money. Books have been kept manually and are good. Ernie has put the information into Quicken. Our financial statement needs fine tuning but it is pretty accurate following the cash flow. He thinks it still needs a little more work. We have three accounts, one is NRCWAY (that Kim McReynolds works with) and the general accounts that he keeps accounts for

Overall Profit/Loss since '09 = **(\$9,398.19)**

Account Totals as of 8-3-2011

xxx5487 Checking = \$10,133.14

xxx7637 Checking = \$14,308.53

xxx9526 Savings = \$7,360.45

- Rob Grumbles moved to pass the financials
- Motion seconded by Terisha Driggs

**4. Unfinished Business**

- **Winter Meeting Budget**
  - Don Luhrsen asked if we have begun looking at the winter meeting budget.
  - Doug Tolleson reported that there is nothing to report yet.
- **SRM Accts – reconciled?**
  - Don Luhrsen noted that Ernie is reconciling the accounts
- **New acct for UA/ASU range scholarship fund/trust?**
  - Don Luhrsen posed the question if anyone knows where we are at with this. Antonio Lopez and Cameron Warner were the last recipients – we will discuss that at the next board meeting
- **Native range committee – Appoint chairperson and revision of GUIDES to include NRC**
  - Don Luhrsen: Al Medina pushed this strong when he was president. Alvin Whitehair who has been attending the meetings and has put together stuff at the winter meeting has been selected to take on the chair of this committee
  - Doug Tolleson – this is not an official committee yet, so we don't need a motion to accept Alvin, but if the committee grows, we will have to add that

# Arizona Section Society for Range Management

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- Don Luhrsen: recognized that Alvin has stepped up to serve on the committee. Al Media has been working on the guidelines for the committee. [That is a topic for our next board meeting.](#)
- **Membership - are we reaching our members?**
  - Don Luhrsen noted that we have an issue with a loss of membership. Last report showed that we are down 75 members and we are not that big to begin with.
  - Shai Schendel noted that we are currently at 150 members (As of August)
  - Don Luhrsen noted that we have had a high of 229.
  - Shai Schendel stated that 144 members is our running average.
  - Don Luhrsen asked if there was any trouble apply and paying for the membership.
  - Jim Sprinkle stated that there were still problems with the website in March and April and there was a problem getting the Rangelands publication
  - Don Luhrsen stated that he has used it, and it went very smooth
  - Alvin Whitehair had problems as well getting the Rangelands publication ordered
  - Don Luhrsen asked if there was a way to use a credit card and he was in fact able to breeze through the website using one. Don wants to get a discussion on why membership is declining. He noted that Al Medina has discussed this as well. In general the potential problems include decreasing budgets from the federal agencies and people don't want to fund their own ways. On the other hand we are seeing more ranchers come in which is dependent on what issues are on the table
  - Rob Grumble stated that the agencies are not getting support from the leadership to step up or be a member – the guys that he knew that attend would pay their own dues but would expect their agencies to approve the meeting for professional improvement. He stated that some employees can't even use official time in some cases and they instead have to use annual leave. Even though attendance is part of their professionalism, they need support from their agencies. He brought up looking at the state leaders with BLM, NRCS and/or State Land. He stated that we need to look at what SRM is not providing would be prohibiting them support their employees. He works with BLM and NRCS and has noted that most new range cons are not members, so we are losing out on those people. Not having those range cons apart of SRM means that we are not bringing new thoughts to their clients and/or providing them with professional development which he considers to be a red flag. He posed the question of what kind of incentives can we provide to get agency people to be members. One incentive could be at least if they can get official time. He noted that there were three range cons in Kingman that won't get official time to attend SRM.
  - Willie Sommers noted that his agency (AZ State Land) paid for his registration and he was on work time. He noted that he is fortunate in that he does have the support from his agency
  - Shai Schendel is getting full support from the NRCS where as Erin Mathews within the same agency was not being financially supported to attend
  - Don Luhrsen said that support for Forest Service employees is spotty.
  - Don Luhrsen asked if there is actually a new lead for the NRCS in Arizona
  - Jim Sprinkle suggested that the officers meet with the new NRCS State Conservationist to get some support
  - Alvin Whitehair said that not only did he have to pay his own way, but he also had to take annual leave. The BIA looks at SRM as a completely separate from a work related activity. The BIA is looking at a massive turnover in the next three years. There is a potential for getting a lot of new recruits so that we can get increased membership.
  - Ernie Gipson stated that in looking at our financials it seems like we are sitting on a good bunch of cash and that our cash flow has been good over the last few years for a non-profit agency. He posed that maybe we can support more non-profits and potentially make some investments.
  - A question was posted on how this meeting was advertised. Doug Tolleson stated that it was advertised by the video at the winter meeting, in the Range Flashes, on V Bar V website, on the AZ SRM website 60-90 days before the meeting, and in email boxes. Doug tried to keep it on everyone's mind with pretty aggressive advertising. There was also cattleman's advertising, his email list including both folks inside and outside SRM.

# Arizona Section Society for Range Management

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- Don Luhrsen suggested that we set up meetings with the heads of the agencies especially the range agencies, so that they understand that this part of professional development and that this is where you go to learn from your peers.

## 5. **New Business**

### • **NRCWAY**

- Don Luhrsen stated that we should table this discussion that instead it can come up next board meeting.
- Vanessa Prileson asked if NRCWAY provides the campers a way to come to this meeting. She already knew that they get paid to go to national.
- Doug Tolleson stated that that has been in place for 2 reasons, more visibility for NRCWAY students and because they have a place on program for the high school presenters - a combo effort for NRCWAY and for Range Rocks. We offered to sponsor them – so we kind of had that – it is something that we could go forward with, and put more sponsorship to the meeting We have started the ball rolling, but we don't have the complete support yet
- John Kava stated that Camp Verde and Mingus Springs are actually already back in school. Their school is starting earlier now. He made a note that there were posters for NRCWAY in the registration cabin – posters of their final projects
- Willie Sommers stated that he wasn't there the whole week, but the camp wasn't full. Stated that the camp could be up to 35 kids, but they only had around 21 students, so there could have been more students. He stated that this is something to keep in mind when the flier for NRCWAY comes out to try to get that word out to the schools and/or teachers that you know of, that it is a really good camp. He stated that it is a lot of value for only \$150 for all of the activities that they do.
- Rob Grumbles stated that the conservation districts used to be supportive for the camp and would put forward a lot of money towards it. He requested if anyone made a presentation at the national meeting in the last couple of years? Rob thinks we should present to see if we can get them back on the sponsorship/scholarship and to solicit students. Suggested that maybe should go to the association of conservation districts meeting to make a presentation on NRCWAY to get them back in the fold.
- Kim McReynolds stated that conservation district support has in fact fallen off. She said that the state budget has given them less money so that is the problem as well. They are also not recruiting students for the camp anymore like they used to.
- Jim Sprinkle was at a district meeting in his area when they were asked if they wanted to support the camp. The district wanted to support one of their own.
- Shai Schendel stated that it was a very good idea. At the Coconino district meeting when they get the information they did not show a lot of interest. They were not aware of the program and what it provides so we need to get more support.
- Rob Grumbles stated that they used to be big players. Each conservation district sponsored 2 kids but we have seen that fall off recently.
- John Kava said that he goes to the Verde NRCD meetings and went right after NRCWAY and briefed them on what the kids had done, their topics and how many of them there were. The NRCD was blown away and didn't realize actually what went on. A lot of districts asked how best to support NRCWAY, either through scholarships or donations. A lot of the districts might not be aware of the program anymore.
- The group asked if we have any video footage for NRCWAY
- Kim McReynolds said that we do a side show video that will actually be playing during the meeting. She said that they actually take footage each year and put films together

### • **Winter meeting theme and location – nominations**

- Doug Tolleson said that the initial plan for the winter meeting is looking at Tucson – on campus. They are trying to have it co-sponsored by the School of Natural Resources or by an on school entity so then we could have meeting space for free which would be very good for bottom line. The national meeting is going to be a week earlier than it is usually so the winter meeting will be bumping into that time. A possibility is maybe to do the meeting later in the year, possibly a few weeks after national meeting.
- Rob Grumbles questioned how that affects the officers due to the fact that officers need to be in place before they go to the national meeting - unless we have that early election.
- Doug Tolleson stated that if that is too big of a hurdle, then we can have it earlier in January so we don't have that lag time.
- Rob Grumbles also questioned where people were going to park if it is on campus.
- Doug Tolleson stated that there is a parking garage close to student center. He has been to some meetings where they make parking available. Another hurdle would also be to get a good hotel and to consider the bottom line. Work is already being done pursuing this Tucson option so he asked if there is really good reason to not go this way, he will switch gears. He wants to make it easy for students to

## Arizona Section Society for Range Management

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- come to meetings and see who we are and wants to get faculty involved to give them an opportunity to get to know us as well, but if too many hurdles look for a new location.
- Carol Engle stated that we had just talked about building membership so she thinks that having it on campus would be great.
  - Doug Tolleson stated that the last few days of Jan/Feb is when the national meeting is. He posed the question to the group of who would go to both the national and AZ section meeting:
    - 12 people said they would go to both
  - Doug Tolleson asked if the emails are working, and if they are an efficient way to contact everyone. He said that there are some bugs – going off to people not on the list – but if it is good, he will keep doing that. If we can't get parking and/or the rooms for free, then that would be a problem. The ranchers committee has come up with an entire morning agenda for the meeting. If we have the faculty also for the agenda then we already have a day done. Doug asked if there was interest in field trip at the winter meeting. There is some stuff we could go see – Santa Rita for example, or some of the fires.
    - Show of hands – almost the whole group is interest in the field trip
  - Jeff Schalaus said that we need to check when the gem and mineral show is because it gets very expensive to do anything in Tucson during that time
  - Doug Tolleson said that is just what I need input on – the more input the better. That he would definitely take some volunteers – get some local involvement. He does go to campus occasionally, so he can do some SRM business as well during those times.
  - **Sponsorships of outreach activities**
    - Don Luhrsen stated that the last few meetings we have started to get sponsors. For this meeting Cargill animal nutrition is here representing the mineral supplement program.
    - Doug Tolleson said to look at program which has sponsors listed. He said that when you see them to make sure you thank them and tell them how much you appreciate it – it is what kept the registration less. Having sponsors are going to allow us to do more things such as rancher outreach etc.

### 6. Committee Reports

#### **Newsletter**

- Don Luhrsen: Al Medina has not been following up with the non-electronic folk, but the newsletter has been going out. John Kava has volunteered to take it over. Don is going to hand over everything. He reminded the directors that they need to write an article twice a year 200 words or less, the vice president 2-3 times a year and the president sends a message each newsletter. Anyone can contribute to the newsletter such as anything that you capture from the meeting, etc.
- Doug Tolleson stated that because we work together on the newsletter he is also going to ask for more editors and contributions to the VBarV newsletter. He is thinking of things such as with a range critter of the week. There will be more opportunities to contribute to that newsletter as well

#### **Awards**

- James Hitholt is not at meeting. No report.

#### **Historian**

- Willie Sommers: Report for section. He checked into records and looked back to the previous summer meetings – we have had meetings in this area 4 times in the past – most recently in 2003 at the V Bar V about drought management and sustainable resources. In '82 there was the national summer meeting in Flagstaff for a Bar T Bar tour – and we are going out there in the next few days. In the 50s there was a tour of the Beaver Creek watershed. In '54 there was a tour of some reseeded spots in the Happy Jack area. There was a juniper cable demonstration which was an approach used in the 50s for restoration. There was also a talk about economics for big game. Some of these topics have come full circle and are still relevant focus now is just on a different juniper treatment. Willie has gone through the files and made tables from the start of the organization of where the meetings are and what the topics were. He also has all the award recipients for the section and all the presidents for the AZ SRM section (some which were recognized at the winter meeting). He has also made a list of the charter members – the section was formed in the 50s with the members of the UofA student chapter. He is working on a newsletter article which he will get to John Kava about the section in the 50s which highlights stuff that was done. There are some people he wants to interview. He has a volunteer to

## Arizona Section Society for Range Management

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do one interview and plans to do another either in person or in the mail. At the meeting there was a member from the Kansas section who knew the first president of the UofA chapter so he plans on getting more info from him to put in the file.

### **Activities**

- Doug Tolleson: He is open to suggestions. For this meeting there was the Verde tour. At Al Medina's request we are using the money from the Verde tour to do more activities, those being more rancher oriented activities. Doug stated that there can be open to discussion on the activities to do whatever the interest may be. This will also potentially address the membership issue if we have other things to do in local areas. As we have successful meetings, with good financials, we will have more opportunities which will be another good reason to be a part of the SRM.

### **Membership**

- Shai Schendel: When you send out the newsletter or any bulk emails – the parent society has our updated membership list and has that all organized. When newsletter was sent out she checked the national list. Misty Hayes has been named as the SRM director – a liaison for our parent society and our renewals of our membership, but she is not sure how that will all come about. Shai stated that there are 75 expired members which make up 33% of total membership. In August there will be a business office outreach campaign to address this issue. Membership history was at its highest with 292 members in 1994 and in 2010 there was an average of 194 members. Now the average in 2011 is 144 members with 150 currently.

### **NRCWAY**

- Kim McReynolds: This week the camp was the last week of June which is a week earlier than usual due to when July the 4 falls. They started going to Mingus Springs in 2005. This year John, Jeff, Andrew, Susan and Mary Nichols were there all week along with some other speakers and 21 students. They would like to have 35 students, but they had a great week and the kids really enjoyed it. They will have a slide video of what happened. There are two campers with us at the summer meeting: Savanna who was a counselor and Garret Fish who was an award winner of the counselor choice (the counselors pick a student who meet certain criteria such as being good at participating). Amanda Lee was the outstanding camper who is their high school delegate, who lives in Buckeye. They should also have two more campers as well. They have been losing money at camp every year. Two years ago they took money out of NRCWAY trust – and we have not paid that back because they have been running camp off of that, so it is one of the things that the board really needs to make some decisions on what do.
- Don Luhrsen stated that NRCWAY is #1 on the agenda for the next BOD meeting.
- Kim McReynolds stated that the trust account was set up long time ago in the early 80s so that they could get enough money in the trust to pay for the campers, but it hasn't worked that way. There is some \$40,000 in the trust and they have taken out money from that. The registration has increased from \$100 to \$125 and they provide full scholarships for students (for 4 students).
- Ernie Gipson stated that the trust is a mix of mutual funds and stocks. It currently has \$40,000 and hasn't been gaining money
- Kim McReynolds stated that George Ruyle manages these funds (he is on the board of directors for this trust) but she is not sure who is going to be put up next. Mingus springs camp is up for sale so we are not guaranteed our spot. The owner of the camp has been working with the UofA and 4H and is now selling camp at 40% of cost because he wants to have environmental education at the site. All of the buildings and the acreage (71 some acres) is for sale. She is not sure who makes the decision but if we want to guarantee our spot we need to make a decision. It might be possible to take trust money to buy the camp. Our camp is so small we might get bumped by someone else with a larger camp group. If the camp sale doesn't go through, then the money we put down would be reimbursed.
- Ernie Gipson asked if it would be helpful to create separate books for NRCWAY.
- Kim McReynolds stated that they are in fact separate. There is a NRCWAY checking account.
- Doug Tolleson stated that the BODs have been doing meetings mostly through video conference so he as if we have NRCWAY on agenda if Kim would be able to attend.

## Arizona Section Society for Range Management

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- Kim McReynolds said that she would. She also said that Maricopa county also wants camp for the same week as we do. We can secure our spot with the money but because of sale we can't put down any dates. She stated that there is less and less number of camp locations to go to and the nice thing about Mingus is that with other sites we needed vans to go everywhere. Vans are not something the agencies have anymore. With Mingus on the other hand we can walk everywhere we need to go.

### **Young Professionals**

- Jamie Wages: She said thanks to everyone that answered her mass email about which activity they would like to do, but unfortunately we couldn't do the float down the river like everyone wanted to because of time conflicts. The plan is to do the hike but there are currently only 2 people registered. If there are more people that want to go she would like them to let her know. Perhaps they will just do something more informal than an organized hike. She has been spending time also with Andrew Brischke who took on the task of the plant ID contest. The contest is open to everyone not just students. The two prizes for the contest include a belt buckle and a hand lens. The plant contest is just a fun thing to do. The plants are in the registration building and the contest would be over tomorrow at dinner time at which time she will score all of the forms. At the end of the meeting on Friday the winner will be announced. She gave thanks to everyone who has helped. She is going to do an article for the National and AZ Section newsletter on how the plant id contest went. She stated that we should have a get together to discuss ideas of what we want to do for the winter meeting. She wants to make sure what we want to do at the meetings.
- Doug Tolleson stated that if we want to do the plant ID at the winter meeting it could be used as a warm-up for the national meeting which would be another factor of doing the meeting early.

### **Ranchers Committee**

- Terrie Wheeler is not at the meeting. Mike Hemovich stood in for the report. Mike stated that the Verde trip was really good and he learned a lot about riparian areas. 1.5 years ago there was a push to increase rancher participation in SRM. In the 1980s during a 2 year period they lost 200 ranchers from the organization. In Springerville a committee was formed with 7-10 people. At the Winter meeting there was about 20 and at the Cattle grower's convention there was about 40 people in the room including most of the leadership of the cattle growers. They handed out a lot of applications at this venue. Terry Wheeler presented at the AZ Cattle Growers meeting regarding the recent fires. Terry's presentation talked about how cattle can help the forest. His presentation talked about the mine tailings and the use of cattle on those tailings. The theme of the convention was the health of the forest with cattle as the focus to achieve that health. The ranchers want to fix the forest with cows and chainsaws. It was a good meeting with a good local representation of the SRM.

Meeting dismissed for dinner.

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Meeting reconvened 8/4/11 at 8:00am

### **Scholarship Committee**

- Mitch McClaran stated that they are on track to give scholarships at the next annual meeting. The students are grateful for the support, and it helps pay for books, so thanks for support. They give \$350. They used to give \$320 and buy them a membership to the society but that is difficult because the society can't handle 3<sup>rd</sup> party paying for the society. They give 2 scholarships, one UofA and one ASU.

## **7. Board Reports**

### **U of A Chapter**

- Kelsey Hawkes the student president of UofA thanked everyone for enjoying the breakfast. The sausage actually came from the UofA meat lab. There are new officers with UofA. They have lots of things planned including the winter meeting in Spokane, revegetation projects and some range activities out on the Santa Rita range to get experience out there.

# Arizona Section Society for Range Management

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## **ASU Chapter**

- Cory Ertl the ASU student president thanked everyone for attending. He thanked the society for their support to go to the last winter meeting in Billings. The university matched the society's funds. They are hoping for continued support to attend the winter meeting to Spokane. They did the plant ID contest in Billings which they did well at, and they are looking forward to next. Past students who have graduated: Antonio Lopez who now works for the USFS at Cave Creek, Jeff Sturling who is a step student for the USFS Tonto. They have field trips planned, getting out and doing some field work and hopefully getting more people interested in range management.

## **President Elect**

- Doug Tolleson stated that we were well into a successful meeting. He is working on the winter meeting and there was a good discussion regarding it last night, so he might rethink some of his plans. He is trying to have winter meeting down in Tucson on campus but he is looking to see if it should be before or after the national meeting so he needs to work out the logistics. The emails seem to be working to information out to everyone. He is willing to take volunteers for winter meeting.

## **Vice President**

- Mike Hemovich talked about Terry Wheeler and the ranchers committee and that Terry couldn't be at the meeting. There is a push to get more ranchers involved in SRM and at each meeting they are growing in numbers. At the AZ Cattle Growers SRM got a room and had about 45 ranchers came in, so we will hopefully see input from them, and have them join our section. The main thing at the meeting was the response to the fires in the state. They focused on the role of cattle to restore the forest. Wheeler gave a presentation on the mine tailings which has been instrumental to growing grass on those slopes. The emphasis on restoration was big at the meeting. The governor was there. We should see a push to get money and materials to the forest so we can restore the perimeter fencing to get the cattle in there. SAFE – Save Arizona Forest Environment – probably working closely with forest service and permittees to get the forest back into shape. *Cows and Chainsaws* are the idea to work with agencies to get forests back into shape.

## **Directors North**

- Clare Hydock discussed that in result of the fires the Forests were asked if there were any vacant allotments. Kaibab did have some but the transportation costs to get the cattle there were too high so moving them there didn't pan out. It is an option next year if their permittees decide to stock. There has been a lot of rain and in turn lots of grass. USFS is in a hiring pause which she doesn't know what that means for us. Regional Foresters will be making the decisions so she is not sure how that will affect filling positions. This is her outgoing year and she is looking for people to fill the position. She volunteered to help with the winter meeting.
- Jamie Wages spoke about a personal reflection on having her house burn down with her pets. She wanted to get people's attention that it isn't good if you have nothing protected and/or no idea of what is in your house. She shared that it is important to know what is in your house and to get your pets covered under your insurance. Her personal experience happened in June while the fires were going on so she feels for people losing their homes. She stated that it is important to support people in these situations who lost everything and to do community outreach for these people. She stated that this is a community and we should get together to support people. It is good to do non-profit outreach and to get involved in different organizations in your community. When you lose everything you realize how good it is to give back to others and do outreach.

## **Directors South**

- Richard Collins stated that they have had 1" of rain in December and then no rain until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. They are doing good now with about 6 inches, more so in the red rock country. He had an interesting experience with George Ruyle with a Conservation Ranching course at the School of Natural Resources in which he was the token rancher. They questioned if conservation ranching is an oxymoron and had students sign up for it. Richard thought it was a lot of fun. They started looking at Aldo Leopold land ethic and looked at conservation farming and ranching. They got into the nitty gritty

## Arizona Section Society for Range Management

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of ranching, with Dennis Moroney and others. It included the AZ Sonoran Conservation plan where ranches were purchased and are being leased back. Students broke into groups and tried to find a niche for all of the ranches. At the end of the course the question was posed if there could be *conservation ranching*. The students, grad students who were all from all sorts of backgrounds came back with the feeling that you could have conservation values and still run a ranch which shows a mind changing thing occurring at universities.

- Frank Hayes stated that Clare already said the summer was quite busy for fire people. He got pulled out of the last meeting for fire call out – and has stayed busy with it since Jan. He talked to Terry Wheeler with the coordination process, which has had coordination groups. He mentioned the Herford group which is looking at T&E species and working on a coordination short course. Upper Eagle Watershed Associated tied in with Blue Ridge and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August they are having a meeting. They are looking at application of livestock on burned areas and or other areas that need certain treatments. There is a lot of discussion about large landscape affects of fire and how do we approach those significant changes.

Don Luhrsen stated that at Lunch time he wants to get the BOD directors together to formulate an agenda and date for the next BOD meeting.

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Meeting with BOD 8/4/11 at 12pm

Ray Tanner present to present a letter from the Cattle Growers addressed to Corbin Newman regarding Wallowa Fire.

### Agenda Items discussed for next BOD:

1) Corbin Newman letter

2) NRCWAY

3) Winter meeting – Doug will be looking into UofA

4) Checking Account – Ernie will send out updated finance report

Next meeting will be a video conference/phone conference on 8/16 at 2pm