

SRM-IMS Summer Tour 2009-07-19

Philipsburg, MT

President Mike Alexander called meeting to order at 9 am

Mike thanked Tracy and the Montana members for an excellent tour

Minutes from the fall meeting were approved as published on the website.

Old Business:

- Reminder that the Bed and Breakfast registration is now available

New Business:

- **Treasurers report(Barry Adams):** Finances remain sound with cash balance at about \$8400 US, Kudos to Tracey Mosley for delivering a summer tour that provided a modest profit, Barry is still seeking a new candidate to assume role of Treasurer this fall when his 5 year term ends.
- **Parent Society (Jeff Mosley):** SRM has withdrawn from CAST, not getting money out of it. New coalition, Wildlife Society, Forest Society and Fisheries , al have offices in DC. On Ag side US, Coalition for Conservation through ranching. Led by WWF and Public Lands Council. Any member of the group can bring ideas. With concensus, idea will move forward.; SRM wants to accomplish more in the are of public education. Western Sky strategies has been hired for 6 months to be the DC presence. Directors are back there twice per year. ; One struggle is to change membership software. It has exposed problems in the office. Ken Johnson is approaching first year and is doing a good job and has committed to stay and be steading force. Anne Tanaka has fixed the software. Membership records shold be restored now. There is now a monthly report. Phone call from Denver, from BOD member then from section. List from 2008 of who did not renew. SRM numbers are going up. SRM publication costs are increasing. Dues have not been rased. Endowment fund is used to cushion these costs. The downturn in the investment market has been impacted, need to meet shortfall in new ways. Membership services will now be cafeteria style with costs adding as members select different levels of service. Denver office is working well and moral is good. Need to address cost of service shortfall for Life Members. Those present supported additional cost recovery. Budget process is being simplified and made transparent. Members expressed appreciation for Jeff's ongoing leadership and providing us a ring side seat to Parent Society matters and progress.
- **Website(Merrita Fraker-Marble):** Thanks were extended to Merrita for the excellent work on the migration and maintenance of the website. Merrita outlined some possible improvements and new capabilities like web registration and photo archive. Will likely enlist the help of Anne Tanaka to update the style and function of the site.

- **Information and Education(Merrita):** Still looking for new recipes for the reprinting of the Trail Boss cook book.
- **Youth:** Montana Range days and Montana Range Camp were both a success again this year and Tracy Kupchenko reported on the new range youth activities in southern Alberta, including a successful Range Daze event near Cardston with 13 youth attending. The section has provided funds for both Montana and Alberta camps in 2009. It looks like the extra funding made available will be utilized in supporting summer camps/range days and to support the High School Youth Forum.
- **History (Donna Lawrence):** Work will begin on archival photos on our website. Donna invites members to bring photos to the fall meeting and she will scan them during the weekend. There is particular interest in getting photos of older members and special events from the past.
- **Alberta Inst. Of Agrologists:** Bob Wesley has agreed to take on the paper work to establish a Rangeland Network within AIA which would allow us to link our professional development activities with AIA and provide financial benefits to the section.
- **Awards:** Reminder to consider nominations in time for the fall meeting. Some additional refinements to the Alicia Hargrave Award were put forward and Tracey Kupchenko will work with Barry Irving to finalize.
- **Annual Meeting 2011 (Lou Hagner):** Lou mentioned that there may be an opportunity to include a session of Lentic – Stillwater riparian systems and also a session dealing with non grazing related wetland issues (e.g. industrial development related)
- **Fall Meeting – SRM-IMS 2009:** Mike Alexander announced that the fall meeting is planned for Pincher Creek, October 23-24 and will feature a 1.5 day Symposium on Bears, Wolves and Rural Communities: A Rangeland Perspective.
- **Young Professionals Conclave (Jill Burkhardt):** Jill provide an update on YPC activities. Having monthly meetings, posting a newsletter, planning a website all to improve networking.
- **Nominations:** **Montana** Brian Thrift for 2nd VP (Mosley/Powell), Tanya Thrift for Director (Mosley/Burkhart); **Alberta** Tracy Kupchenko for Director (J. Burkhardt/D. Sherritt), Darin Sherritt for Director (J. Vandervalk/K.Burkhardt)
- **Plant ID Contest:** First place - Grant Godbolt; Second place – Jake Powell.
- **Meeting Adjourned at 11 am.**