

**Society for Range Management – Annual Fall Meeting – Pincher Creek, AB
October 23**

Minutes:

Outgoing IMS President Mike Alexander called the meeting to order at 1 pm. Minutes from the summer tour were approved as published in the previous newsletter. Moved: Jack Vandervalk, Second: Bob Wesley).

Reports:

Finance: Barry Adams presented the audited financial report for 2008-2009 and moved the adoption of the report (second by Jack Vandervalk). Auditors were Donna Lawrence, Barrhead, AB and Merritta Fraker-Marble, Bozeman, MT. The section's finances remain sound; activities were run on a cost recovery basis. The section made progress in directing additional finances to youth activities in the past year. Barry was pleased to announce that Jill Burkhardt of Gwynne, AB would take over as the Section Treasurer in the near future. Auditors for 2009-2010 (Brian Thrift, MT and Barry Adams, AB).

Election Results: New section officers elected to serve in 2009-2010 include – 2nd Vic President, Brian Thrift, Dillon, MT, MT Director Tanya Thrift, Dillon, MT; AB Director Tracy Kupchenko, Medicine Hat, AB.

Website: Merrita Fraker-Marble reviewed the planned upgrade of the website based on a service quote from Anne Tanaka. Members reviewed some options but basically gave Merritta their blessing to proceed with her good judgement. We will attempt to post all presentations where we have wavers from the authors. The photo library proposed by Donna Lawrence will appear on the website as well. Additional ideas and advice are most welcome.

Newsletter: Jody Best has volunteered to take over the newsletter.

Youth Forum Update: Presently MT does not have a suitable Youth Forum candidate available due to student scheduling conflicts. Bob Wesley reported that an Alberta candidate was available. Candidate selected from Alberta Range Daze, a Grade 11 student, from family ranching operation. Bob plans to do some fund raising to make it work.

AIA Rangeland Network: Tracy reviewed the AIA network – How to. Need a list of bylaws, officers, put forth a business plan to be reviewed by the AIA council, reviewing objectives? Link could be provided to AIA main page to our Section. A network may have particular value as more and more professionals are being encouraged (compelled) to be members.

Old Business:

Foothills Restoration Forum: Marilyn Neville brought greetings from the FRF and invited SRM members to attend their annual fall meeting to take place Nov. 25 2009 at Chain Lakes. The FRF may share in the sponsorship of the 2010 IMS Summer Tour

Membership Survey Results

The section members extended their thanks to Clayton Marlow and the students that completed the membership survey as reported in the fall of 2009 newsletter.

A long period of discussion and soul searching followed the review of the membership survey – focusing on the key question of “What do we want?” as an IMS section. The survey results provided a very logical pathway to improve service to our members. However there was a strong, underlying concern about the

potential demands that we place upon our officers to achieve some of the ambitious goals that the survey might suggest. Are we burning out our interested members after a stint as an executive member?

The consensus of the meeting was that we should promote further discussion of the following points:

- Let's try to provide good service to our core group first and then we can remain as a strong platform to extend our message to others.
- Since the Annual Parent Society meeting is also well attended, do we need three meetings a year, given the geographic distances we span with the section?
- Could we focus one meeting in particular that could be very high quality and also be the annual business meeting.
- Summer tour seems to have particular value to address connection to range, social relationships.
 - Summer tours provide a quality of "fellowship" that members cherish. Building local people into the program has great value for the insight they can provide on their home turf.
 - Summer tours provide the quality exposure of what SRM is about – explore geographic diversity, experience resource first hand, welcome outsiders into a very unique experience.
 - Summer tours make us unique (family, fun, learning).
- In essence, the summer meeting is focused on members and the fall meeting could focused on non-members.
- Let's go away from Pincher Creek meeting and consider a change in our programming, perhaps requiring a change of our by-laws. If we shifted to two meetings per year, instead of three, we could focus more on one good summer tour, that would include the annual business meeting, elections and awards, all moved to the summer event.
- With this solid support of the section core through an enhanced summer tour, we can then look at freeing up executive time and resources to consider other technical sessions. Regional issues, AIA network concept, continuing education, events that can be more driven by state and provincial players that focus more directly on the objectives highlighted in the Membership Survey results.

This is a philosophical question to be discussed further at the next meetings.

Action: Further discussion on re-jigging our section focus on the summer meeting and possible change in our bylaws to accommodate this.

Meeting Adjourned at 4 pm