

Intermountain Section – Society for Range Management – Annual Summer Tour
July 15-17, 2010 – Chain Lakes Provincial Park

Section Meeting Minutes:

IMS President Tracey Mosley called the meeting to order at 8:30 am, July 17, 2010.

Minutes: Minutes from the fall meeting were approved as published in the previous newsletter. *Moved: Lou Hagener; Second: Merrita Fraker-Marble*

Financial Report: Donna Lawrence presented the current US and CDN account balances as prepared by Jill Burkhardt.

Questions –

Do we still have the reserve fund accounts? Yes.

Are auditors in place to review the financial report prior to the fall meeting? Yes, Brian Thrift and Barry Adams have been assigned this duty.

Jill will be providing them with a complete financial report for auditing prior to the fall meeting. Financial report was approved as presented. *Moved: Jim Christiansen; Second: George Hirschenberger*

Correspondence: Heidi Olbert wrote thanking IMS for their continued sponsorship of Montana Youth Range Camp. This year's highest scoring Green Hand (12-14 years old) was won by Kayleigh Abbott of Bozeman, MT.

Committee Reports:

Membership (Clayton Marlow) – no report

Range Youth (Cindy Selensky – MT; Vacant- AB)

Montana – 3 potential candidates for HSYF. The MT student selected will likely make a presentation at the IMS fall meeting.

Alberta – Tracy Kupchenko reported that 17 kids have signed up for Youth Range Daze at Cypress Hills. In 2009 13 kids attended Range Daze, including Maddy Knodel the winner of the IMS sponsored buckle. Maddy presented at the HSYF in Denver and placed 4th out of 27 participants.

Awards (Barry Irving- AB; Jon Siddoway – MT) – Barry reported that he finalized the specifics of the Alicia Hargrave Memorial Award with the family. Barry is looking for award nominations and will send out an email announcement prior to the September newsletter to expand input for nominations. Merrita reported that descriptions of each award and the nomination requirements will be included on the website soon.

History (Donna Lawrence) – Donna is still seeking photographs to compliment the written history. Please send photos to Donna so she can scan them and send back to you. Fred Randle has put together some information for Donna to get this project initiated. The photos will be available on the website and care will be taken to ensure that the photos do not affect the functionality the website.

Nominations (George Hirschenberger- MT) – nominations for 2nd VP – AB, and AB and MT Director are now open. *Moved: George Hirschenberger; Second: Merry Vandervalk.* An announcement seeking nominations will be sent to IMS membership prior to the September newsletter (likely along with award

nomination announcement). Jake Powell and Darren Sherritt have agreed to let their names stand for Director-MT and Director- AB respectively.

Information and Education (vacant)

Public Affairs (vacant)

Discussion ensued regarding the need for these committees as they have been vacant for a while. It was noted that the Parent Society has staff and process to handle advocacy and outreach through their Ex.VP and Washington liaison and website staff. Public Affair issues are timely issues and a permanent committee may not be necessary. IMS executive would likely call upon IMS membership who are the experts in the field who are already agency staff that dealing with issues professionally. *Moved: Lou Hagener; Second Merry Vandervalk that these committees remain in place and used as needed at the discretion of the IMS executive.*

Other Reports:

Parent Society (Aleta Rudeen – Director of Outreach and Leadership Development).

Aleta introduced herself and explained that she is a resource for SRM members. Please contact Aleta with any concerns or comments. She is currently working on the many projects, including: The Center for Professional Development, ESD Workshops, SRM Internship Program and the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. Upcoming Annual Meetings include: Billings 2010, Spokane 2011, Oklahoma 2012 and Orlando 2013.

Jeff Mosley – Executive VP is being provided by Western Sky Strategies on contract for the time being. They are covering off Ex. VP and Washington Liason as well as trouble shooting.

Budget – SRM membership is down from 5500 but has stabilized at approximately 3500. This Board of Directors is committed to looking for efficiencies within our

existing operating procedures to make up for approximately \$55,000. This Board is not willing to borrow from endowment funds etc to make up these shortfalls.

Outsourcing membership database, publications (newsletter, rangeland news and JEM) has realized some cost savings. Changing auditing firms and credit card processors has also reduced costs.

Dues structure – the changes to the dues structure that were proposed have not taken place yet. It will likely be implemented when the membership database is outsourced this September.

Redd Foundation Scholarship – funding for outreach – funding to assist ranchers with travel expenses to attend SRM meetings (interim guidelines on criteria for funding are being refined). Funding is also available to SRM members willing to take SRM booth to various meetings (cost-sharing between IMS and parent society). Contact Aleta for further assistance.

Website (Merrita Fraker-Marble) – conversion of website to new format is completed. On-line registration for summer tour went well. Merrita will continue to improve and build the website and is always looking for input and content.

Newsletter (Jody Best) – Tracy Kupchenko reported that Jody encourages submissions from the membership for all the newsletters. She is particularly interested in receiving “My favourite places” submissions from MT and favourite quotes from everyone. These are to become permanent features of our newsletters.

Old Business:

IMS Section Meetings – some further discussion regarding the purpose of our section meetings and the number meetings/year sustainable by the membership. It was agreed that the summer meeting would focus on IMS membership and continue in its current format which includes a field tour and section meeting. The fall meeting,

where possible, will be a technical session open to the public and include a banquet and awards presentations. It may or may not include an abbreviated IMS business meeting. It was reiterated that all of the IMS executive participate in the planning and execution of these meetings.

IMS Fall Meeting – will be held November 19 in Great Falls. Details to follow.

IMS – AIA Network in Alberta – Barry Irving and Cathy Erickson will look into forming a network. Benefits for establishing this network include: promoting IMS to the professional agrolgist community in AB, accessing funds for meetings, and having IMS-SRM events recognized as professional development.

New Business:

Vacancies – Youth Chair- AB, 2nd Year Director – AB and Young Professionals – MT rep are all vacant. Tracy Kupechenko agreed to take on Youth Chair-AB responsibilities. Second year AB director can remain vacant until filled by elections this fall. *Moved: Barry Irving; Second: Jake Powell.* MT members will search out a Young Prof replacement and will announce that replacement at the fall meeting.

IMS Facebook Page – Brian Thrift suggested that an IMS facebook page would be a good way for IMS to stay in touch. The parent society and Idaho sections have pages that are very useful. Jake Powell and Brian Thrift will look into this for IMS.

Phillipsburg Area – Wolf/Livestock Interaction issue – Tracy Mosely received information from a group of MT folks interested in tackling this issue. They would operate by grant funding and require an unbiased convening entity to support their efforts. Would IMS-SRM consider taking on this role? This would be an opportunity to support work relating to a rangeland issue. Is an IMS-SRM position statement

sufficient? Is this issue something an Information/Education committee should undertake? Tracy will provide information as this initiative develops.

IMS hosting a Annual Meeting – Brian Thrift reported that he attended the Advisory Committee meeting in Denver. At the meeting a list of potential host cities was presented that included both Edmonton and Calgary. The Denver staff have done some scouting and created this list of potential cities based on several criteria including: international air service, hotel, restaurant and convention centre facilities etc. They are now asking if IMS would consider hosting an upcoming meeting (ie., 2015, 2016, 2017) and therefore remain on their list of potential sites. IMS primary responsibilities would include: development of the program and enlisting volunteers; the parent society oversees the logistical contracts, financing, registration etc. Benefits to the host section in the past have included approximately \$15,000 and a percentage of the profits. *Motion: Tracy Kupchenko; Second Christine Dahl that IMS should allow Edmonton and Calgary to be considered as future annual meeting locations.*

SRM Cookbook – Merrita Fraker-Marble reminded everyone that recipes for the latest edition of the SRM cookbook can be submitted on-line. IMS is one of three sections that has not submitted any recipes.

Plant Identification Contests – Merry Vandervalk reminded everyone that our plant identification contests should have a rancher and professional award winners.

Meeting adjourned at 1 pm. *Moved: Lou Hagener; Second: Jack Vandervalk.*