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Photos by Lisa  
Raatz, Kailee  
Bickford &  
Jody Best



VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

INTERMOUNTAIN  
SECTION  
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

## Reach & Touch:



## Textures of our Rangelands

## Editor's Note

Jody Best

Have you ever walked in a plant community that made you want to dive in? Back



home we had a brome hay-field that we played hide and seek in when I was little. On warm summer days the grass would scratch and tickle, flies would buzz, ants would crawl. Waiting for my sister to find me I nibbled: the base of each leaf, where the leaf joined the main stem, was the tastiest part of the plant.

I work mostly with native plant communities now, but I can still feel that smooth brome community under

my feet when I close my eyes and take the time.

You'll notice that this issue of the newsletter is full of textures. I challenge you, s you inch through your winter work, to

**reach & touch the textures of our rangelands,**

either physically, or with your imagination.

Photo by Jody Best. Red-breasted nuthatch on white spruce.

## President's Report

Tracy Kupchenko



IMS President:  
Tracy Kupchenko.

This year has already been an eventful one!

Congratulations to our outgoing SRM president, Barry Irving, on a job well done! His mission for 2018 was "The Year of the Membership" and, as it turns out, the overall SRM membership is up to 2033 members (from 1959 in 2017)!

We are lucky to have another IM Section member, Clayton Marlow take the SRM reins for 2019! Dr. Marlow has coined 2019 as "the Year of the Section". As such, he has challenged each section to find ways to bolster our Section to bring members together and promote SRM.

The IM website is currently being updated to be more user-friendly and current. The location of the website has not changed. It is still located under the

"Sections" tab of the parent society

([www.rangelands.org](http://www.rangelands.org)).

Note that it is a work in progress, so don't be alarmed if it looks the same as it always has. A big thank you to Casey Gallagher for all the work she's put into it so far!

I would put a challenge out to all of you to forward rangeland related stories/photos/recipes/quotes/articles to myself, Casey or Jody. Let's make our website as interactive as possible.

**Save the Date : Friday July 19, 2019 - IMS Summer Tour** south of Havre, MT in the Bears paw Mountains. Stay tuned for more information on the IMS website!

As per the motion made at the 2018 fall meeting, the IMS Handbook is being

reviewed. A draft of the proposed updates/changes to the IMS Handbook will be completed and ready for review by members at the summer tour in July.

Our membership is voluntary. Those folks that step up to be active on the board and/or help plan any of the Section's activities do so with the knowledge that it'll take extra time and energy out of their busy lives. However, the results are excellent opportunities to work together as a Rangeland team to create amazing outcomes like the Fall Meeting, the Summer Tour, the newsletter, and the website. IMS members gather twice, sometimes three times a year to share information, to network and to be part of the Rangeland community. The hope is to increase those instances with the use of the SRM conference call



## President's Report continued

line, webinars and our website.

I would like to take a moment to personally thank some key people that have helped to make our Section a success! Without their additional efforts, the section would not be as successful as it is!

- Allison, Jennifer, Jillian and Rick – It's a pleasure working with you on the Executive Board. Keep up the great work!!!
- All of the Range Team coaches at MSU and U of A - Thank you for all you do to teach and ignite passion for Rangeland to the next generation. Congratulations on very successful Minneapolis URME and Plant ID exams!!!
- Jody Best – For all you do to bring our stories and photos to life! The section newsletter is an amazing product that our members enjoy and value!
- Lisa Raatz – Thank you for everything you do, especially making sure we stay out of the Red and on budget!
- Barry and Judy Irving – I

always appreciate the candid and valuable advice.

Hoofprints in the fescue.  
Photo submitted by  
Tracy Kupchenko.

Thank you to ALL members of IMS for their contributions and interest. We are a dynamic and widespread group. My ears/email are always open if you have any concerns/suggestions/encouragement. I think it's only fair to ask that if you happen to have a complaint or concern, please include a suggestion/remedy on how to fix it. That way you can be a part of the solution.

Have a very happy spring! Good luck to those of you with calving/lambing/foaling. Hope to see you on July 19!



## Upcoming Events

**July 19, 2018 SRM—IMS Summer Tour, Havre, MT.**

Photo by Jody Best:  
Elk tracks in snow  
at Waterton Lakes  
National Park



Photos by Lisa Raatz,  
Kailee Bickford &  
Jody Best.



## SRM in Minneapolis Barry Irving

Well, the 2019 SRM Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota is now a memory, and a very good one at that.

About 1000 attendees made their way to Minneapolis to take in sessions, speak in symposiums, contribute to SRM standing committees, and enjoy the warmth of the planning committee's fellowship as well as the local food, hotels, and facilities. The International Mountain Section was well represented by about 40 individuals split between Alberta and Montana, many of whom attended our Montana State/U of Alberta/IMS social.

SRM-IMS was represented by 2 Universities (Montana State University and University of Alberta) who did us proud in the various undergraduate student competitions and events (see page 6).

We were also witness as Courtney Taylor presented her 2018 First Place High School Youth Forum presentation from Sparks, Nevada at the 2019 Awards Ceremony. Each year the best HSYF paper presenter is invited back to give their presentation to the Society. It was quite an honour for Courtney and an equal honour for SRM-IMS.

There were about 400 sessions that included posters, oral sessions reporting on new research and management, and symposiums that summarized prior works. They included information on rangeland reclamation

and restoration, livestock management and grazing behaviour, pollinators, rangeland wildlife, poisonous plants, rangeland weeds, and every other subject area one can imagine. Information was exchanged in an open discussion format that was applicable to rangeland practitioners (ranchers and land managers), agency staff, and planners and high level policy makers. As always, there was something of direct benefit for every segment of the membership of our diverse society.

SRM honoured a suite of members during the awards program. Critical career development opportunities for university undergraduates was provided through direct training sessions in NEPA processes, employment fairs, and employment workshops.

The hugely successful "Bridging the Gap" was another highlight; it links young professionals and students of all levels with professionals and practitioners in range management. As SRM ushered out the "Year of the Member" with a solid increase in overall membership in the society, we were also presented with the vision for the upcoming "Year of the Section" by SRM-IMS's own incoming President, Clayton Marlow.

A key development that has come to fruition in the past year is a solidification of our Professional designations.

SRM now has a continual avenue in professionalism that can start immediately after graduation with an undergraduate degree. Students can apply to become an Associate Professional in Range Management upon graduation, and after 5 years of experience can move seamlessly to become a Certified Professional in Range Management, and eventually to a Certified Range Management Consultant. SRM was part of an effort that advocated for inclusion of professional status recognition in delivery of new U.S. Farm Bill programs. Of course, attending the Annual Meeting goes a long way to meeting the continuing education that is required to maintain professional status.

SRM now has 3 annual meeting locations committed out in front: Denver, Colorado in 2020, Boise, Idaho in 2021, and Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2022. We established a new model for Annual Meeting planning that will enable enhanced professional assistance in planning and delivery that will take pressure off Section volunteers while maintaining local creativity and passion.

It's not too early to begin the planning process for your attendance at the 2020 Annual Meeting. The Colorado and Wyoming sections are partnering to put on a show like no other. See you all in Denver next February!



## What thrives on sandy loams at Mattheis Ranch? Lisa Raatz

When I first visited the Mattheis Research Ranch shortly after Edwin and Ruth Mattheis generously donated it to the University of Alberta in 2010, I was working with a team that conducted agronomic research looking at various crop rotations including flax and peas. We used the location for one of our research trials and I recall getting the soil test results back that showed the texture as being sandy loam: 81% sand, 11% silt, 8% clay.

I'm from the Central Parkland of Alberta and my father farmed on a loamy

black Chernozem near Ponoka, so this seemed very much like a sandbox to me at the time. What could grow on so much sand?

Well, stepping outside of the irrigation pivot showed me an amazing plant community, just waiting for me to learn more about some of our most endangered and beautiful native grasslands in this province.

What thrives on these sandy loams? Sandgrass (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*), needle and

thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and wild begonia (*Rumex venosus*), to name only a few!

A rich biodiversity of plants, lichens, insects, and wildlife are supported on these rangelands stewarded largely by ranchers.

*Rumex venosus*, Wild begonia or Winged dock is not a begonia at all, but belongs to the Buckwheat family.



Sand dunes near Edgerton, AB.  
Photo by Zoey Zapisocki.

## Congratulations Range Teams! Lisa Raatz & Craig Carr

2019 was another successful year for the students representing our Section at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. Students from Montana State Uni-

ferred Rotation Grazing. MSU student Kegen Benson also presented his research findings in the Undergraduate Paper session with a talk titled "Short-term im-

MSU Range Club members. Back (l to r): Nick Hurtz, Ben Roeder, Carson Kane, Jake Zirbel, James Kramer, Braden Carpenter. Front (L to R): Weston Helle, Kyrsten Wolterstorff, Sierra Swank, Haylee Barkley.



University of Alberta Range Team. Back row L-R: Rachael Melenka, Katrina Holt, Madison Rehm, Jessica Roberts, Megan Johns, and SRM President Dr. Barry Irving. Front row L-R: Shelby Buckley, Kaitlin Holden, and Rosheen Tetzlaff.

versity and University of Alberta won several awards. Competing with 25 other university teams across US, Mexico, and Canada, University of Alberta won second place for plant identification and very fittingly tied for 4<sup>th</sup> place on the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) with Montana State University. Combined awards for high scores on both the plant ID exam and URME were won by University of Alberta Range Team members: Katrina Holt (1<sup>st</sup> place), Rosheen Tetzlaff (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and Megan Johns (5<sup>th</sup> place). MSU student James Kramer earned placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the URME, while Ben Roeder placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the Extemporaneous Speaking contest with a talk on De-



pacts of trail rehabilitation in the northern mixed grass prairie". Congratulations to all the students who participated in the student activities, as their performances represented their institutions and the International Mountain Section remarkably!

About 50 students participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plant Pictionary game hosted by Dr. Barry Irving. Even the coaches played on a team this year!



## Your IMS Executive 2019 Who's Who

President	Tracy Kupchenko
Past President	vacant
1st Vice President	Allison Martin
2nd Vice President	Jillian Kaufman
Director (MT)	Rick Caquelin
Director (AB)	Jennifer Caudron
Secretary/Treasurer	Lisa Raatz
Newsletter Editor	Jody Best
Youth Program Chair (MT)	Allison Martin
Youth Program Chair (AB)	Tracy Kupchenko
History Chairperson	Donna Lawrence
Membership Committee Chair	vacant
Awards Committee Chair (MT)	Jon Siddoway
Awards Committee Chair (AB)	Barry Adams
Nomination Committee Chair	vacant
Public Affairs Committee Chair	vacant
Social Media	vacant
Communications Chair	vacant
Youth Professionals Gp (MT)	vacant
Youth Professionals Gp (AB)	vacant

**Focus on: Jillian Kaufman** Jill recently joined the Intermountain Section executive as an Alberta Director after some strong encouragement from her peers Darin and Tracy! She holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in range science from the University of Alberta, and was a proud participant on the U of A Range Team in 2005 competing in Fort Worth, Texas. Since completing her formal education, Jill's career has focused on environmental work including vegetation, soil and wetland surveys, biophysical classification, environmental impact assessments, reclamation and remediation. She currently contracts to Husky Energy as a reclamation and remediation advisor through her company Lone Pine Consulting Ltd. She currently calls the Gibbons, Alberta area home, and in her spare time is working on developing her property to practice regenerative agriculture with various livestock. Feel free to drop her a line if you're in the area – she's always keen to show folks the bit of Central Parkland native grassland that is the pride and joy of her property!



### Do you know what this is?

**Answer to previous quiz:**  
**Ball head Waterleaf**  
*(Hydrophyllum capitatum)*  
 Photo by Jody Best.



Allison



Tracy



Rick



Jillian



Lisa



Jennifer

## Excellence in Range Management Matt Barnes

### Congratulations to Todd Graham!!!

Todd Graham, owner of Ranch Advisory Partners, was awarded the International Mountain Section's Excellence in Rangeland Management Award. Based in Manhattan, Montana, Todd offers ranch management and agricultural advisory services on over

five million acres of ranchlands in at least seven Western states. He has a proven track record of generating positive results with family ranches, amenity buyers, government agencies, tribes, energy companies, and conservation organizations.

Todd has over twenty years' experience managing ranches for absentee owners and providing ranch management consulting services on over five million acres of ranchlands across the West. His work focuses on improving the health of the land and improving wildlife habitat while implementing land-based enterprises that sustain themselves financially. He has helped landowners and public land management agencies design grazing

strategies that improve rangeland health, has enrolled landowner's carbon credits to be sold on the open market, and is a widely invited speaker on land management and conservation issues. He has extensive experience in public lands grazing issues, managing livestock to improve wildlife habitat, and has designed mitigation valuation strategies for large energy companies. Graham has a degree in rangeland science from the University of Wyoming.

Todd's management services are designed to optimize ecological performance, improve livestock performance, and provide livestock operations that sustain themselves financially. This includes grazing planning and implementation for rangeland and riparian area health, as well as wildlife habitat. In many cases Ranch Advisory Partners contracts the grazing. Todd calls his monitoring reports "ecological statements" portraying performance of the ranch resources, including "early-warning indicators" for whether management practices are or aren't producing the desired result.

One of the ranches Todd consults with in Wyoming, the Ucross Ranch, won the Wyoming Section's Excellence in Rangeland

Management Award. The Ucross tripled its stocking rate, improved riparian condition, and improved wildlife habitat all while increasing the financial output of the operation (see "Beyond Resilience: Managing Toward a Higher State of Ranch Performance," Graham 2014, in the Quivira Coalition's *Resilience* journal).

Todd co-authored the monitoring protocol *Bullsye! Targeting Your Rangeland Health Objectives* (Gadzia and Graham 2013), and contributed the case study "Groundswell: Community Dynamics from the Bottom Up" to the textbook *Conservation for the Next Generation* (Knight and White [Eds.] 2008).

Prior to founding Ranch Advisory Partners, Todd began his rangeland consulting as owner of Aero-scene Land Logic, and managed the educational tours of Madison Valley Expeditions. He managed the Sun Ranch, a large commercial cattle ranch and conservation property in the upper Madison Valley, including prototyping strategies for livestock to coexist with wolves and grizzly bears.



Photos submitted by Matt Barnes & Jon Siddoway.





## Highlights - 2018 IMS Fall Meeting Lisa Raatz

Over 35 people from across Montana and Alberta attended the fall meeting in Great Falls, Montana themed around “Managing invasive annual species on Western rangelands”. This provided great information relevant to ranchers, land managers, researchers, students, and government.

Dr. Jane Mangold (Montana State University) led off by walking us through some plant identification features and biology of invasive annual grasses including cheatgrass, Japanese brome, medusahead and more recently a new invader, *Ventena dubia* (wiregrass), and other weedy annuals. She discussed some of her current research. Apparently, *Ventena* is considered to be a species of concern in its country of origin! Knowing what species is on your land is important, but need help with grass identification? There’s an app for that! The team at MSU has developed “Montana Grasses” for \$4.99 download ([highcountryapps.com](http://highcountryapps.com)).

Dr. Peter Rice (University of Montana), showed preliminary research results using indaziflam (Esplanade) for suppression of weedy annual grasses in Montana. Because the herbicide has no foliar activity, but inhibits root cell growth of germinating seeds, Rice’s team compared the activity of several tank mixes on medusahead and cheatgrass and noted any damage to desirable perennial grasses.

Dr. Jeff Mosley (MSU) led us in an interactive brain-storming session. We dug into our collective knowledge about the biology and lifecycle of annual invader, cheatgrass, to identify grazing management strategies

and tools.

Rick Caquelin (NRCS) talked about working closely with several ranchers to use grazing to manage annual invaders. He used photos to monitor changes in vegetation cover and bare ground over many years and showed some encouraging successes. “As a grazer and land manager, you have more control over how the landscape looks than you think.” – Rick Caquelin

Dr. Fred Provenza (Utah State University, emeritus) wrapped up our meeting by taking a reflective look at what he has learned over his career doing animal behavior and nutrition research. He took us on a journey of food and forage selection from both a livestock and human perspective and how we are rewarded for our food choices. Fred’s book, *Nourishment*, is available online and in bookstores at the end of November 2018.

The meeting was very informative and it also provided an opportunity to network, make new friends, and meet up with long-time friends who share a passion for land and resource management. Some of us enjoyed a visit to the C.M. Russell museum to see some of his amazing artwork depicting western history and culture.

A very big Thank You to Allison Martin and Jon Siddoway for organizing a very relevant and interesting meeting, with assistance from Rick Caquelin and Tracy Kupchenko. The annual general meeting was well attended and for the first time, members could call in or join online via a conference link provided by our parent society!



## From the Desk of Windrift Farms with a Case of “Winter Doldrums”

Allison Martin

Have you ever read *Indian Creek Chronicles* by Pete Fromm? If not, go to your library and check it out. It's a great winter read.

This winter I have commenced the intimidating

ing theme: Life in the outdoors. This includes titles about sustainability, simplicity, nature, hardworking life long ago, plants, hiking, mules, skiing, range management...the list goes on and on!

*Indian Creek Chronicles* is about the simplest necessity of life: trying to live and survive, not necessarily to thrive. I often wonder if “we” as land managers, ranchers, ecologist's, educators are doing “enough” to play our part in what we

workers that not only didn't recycle, but refused to. What does this have to do with range management? Or does it have everything to do with range management? You decide.

How important is it to practice what we preach? I know that I have set intentions this year to:

- be more mindful of practicing sustainability,
- care more for this earth we live on,
- go the extra mile for conservation,



“task” of reading the books in my bookcase, imagine that!!

In my living room, sits a bookcase embracing a vast array of lovely books. My goal is to read every book in the bookcase in my lifetime. I am not an avid reader, but let's say I love to collect books. So, this endeavor is a big one for me. It appears all my books resonate a similar underly-



believe in and are preaching every day. I formerly worked at a Conservation office and witnessed co-

- be less involved in “consumerism”, and
- simplify life.



It's important to me to know the rancher of the beef and pork I consume. It's important to me for my children to know hard farm work, resiliency, and where their food comes from. I would like to contribute less to wastefulness and items we don't really need. We got three feet of snow in two days this week, and it took me until noon to do chores and dig out firewood. My girls know we must work for our heat; it's not a simple switch on the wall. And I wouldn't change it for anything.

*"I went up the south side of Indian Creek, where the trees and brush were thick, giving good cover for ruffed grouse. I hiked a long way without finding anything. During a breather I turned, seeing my tent far below me, snuggled into the juncture of the Selway and Indian Creek, the neatly stacked wood like a fortress wall beside it, a small twist of smoke still curling from the stovepipe. The big river threw off splinters of sun, and as I looked up I saw the clouds racing by low, splitting around the peaks and ridges that closed off the river."*

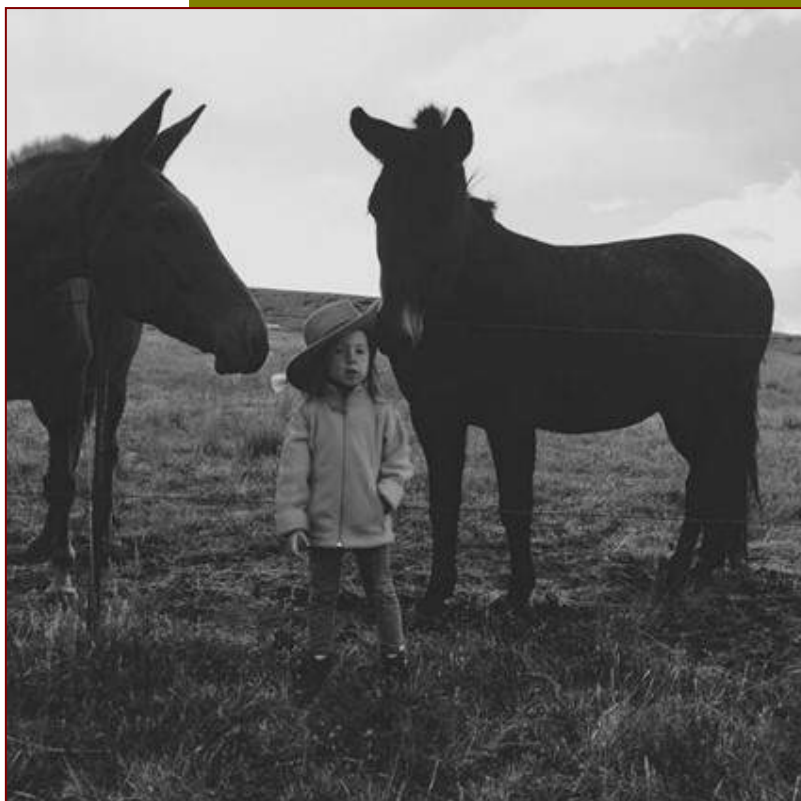
- Indian Creek Chronicles,  
Pete Fromm

I wholeheartedly recommend this book for a sensitive, thoughtful, and appreciative perspective on a place and time that we could hardly hope to experience on our own.

I challenge you: what can you do this year to elevate the threshold of sustainability and simplicity in your life? Buy local? Recycle? Know your rancher? Have a garden? Heat with wood? Bike to work? Get chickens? Waste less food? Install solar panels?

I know I have a lot more to do and am always thinking of the next way I can tackle being less reliant on others and things to sustain my life. My next venture may be a dairy cow (brown Swiss); any suggestions/advice?! Currently, I am learning to spin with my new traditional spinning wheel, so I can process my own fiber from my alpacas to make blankets, hats etc. And oh my, is that a task to take on! I now appreciate wool mills, immensely!

I look forward to a great year with IMS! Happy winter doldrums and spring might just be extra special this year after this three feet of snow! How do people that live in the south ever really learn to appreciate spring time? I'm glad to live in a climate where everything "magically" comes to life after such a "hard" winter.



## DRAFT Minutes from Fall Meeting 2018 Lisa Raatz

### **Society for Range Management – International Mountain Section**

Fall Annual General Meeting - November 2, 2018

Great Falls, Montana – Crystal Springs Inn

**Welcome** – Tracy Kupchenko, Section President (8:15 am)

#### **Bylaw Vote Results**

Thanks to those who mailed in ballots for the bylaw vote. Varge Craig and Jon Siddoway tallied the ballots during the meeting. Results were unanimously in favour of the changes (64 yes, 0 no).

**Motion:** Lisa Raatz made a motion that we destroy the ballots and envelopes.

**Second:** Barry Irving

Motion carried.

#### **Filling Executive Positions**

Tracy reported that members were approached to fill deficiencies in our executive positions and have been filled by appointment, as follows:

Allison Makoutz (Montana) - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Jennifer Caudron (Alberta) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Jillian Kaufmann (Alberta) - Director

Rick Caquelin (Montana) - Director

#### **Website Hosting**

Our website hosting options have changed and our two options are:

- The parent society can host it for a fee \$5.99 USD/month. We need a person to develop a site, but work closely with the SRM webmaster to do that. Looking for volunteers to work on this. This would still require someone who can maintain the webpage, but with support from SRM webmaster.
- We can create our own website (free options available or we can pay for website domain) and the SRM parent society would post our link on the main parent website. Again, we need volunteers to develop it internally and those with the capacity to maintain it.
- Both options allow us high visibility with the parent society, it's just a matter of choosing where our template files reside. Right now our page is archived on the parent society. It is there, but we cannot currently make changes to it.

#### Discussion:

Charles suggests we have a test run of using the fee-for-service site for 1 year (\$72). In our communications with Merrita, she is willing to keep volunteering to maintain the website which she is currently doing, but we recognize that there is a need for a second person helping populate the website if one person is unavailable. More than a couple of people with access, however, creates potential for communication breakdown. The people maintaining the website are not in charge of the content, but the format, layout, and getting it into the templates with appropriate links to our internal pages working. This can take quite a lot of time.



How many hours does it entail? Merrita would be the best person to answer that, but Tracy responded that the spring and fall newsletters would need to be posted, notices for upcoming meetings such as our fall and summer section meetings and the winter annual SRM meeting. There is also lots of interest to use webinar meetings. Webpages need to be updated regularly to keep them current. Out-of-date information looks bad, although it's a common problem across many volunteer run organizations.

**Motion:** Lou Hagener proposes that we align ourselves as closely as possible with the parent society even if we have to pay the fee to do so.

**Second:** Charles Fifield

Motion carried.

**ACTION:** There is a need for a working group to investigate our options and bring back to the membership.

Website working group consists of:

Barry Adams (on phone) - Alberta

Noah Davis - Montana

Kailee Calnan - Montana

Charles Fifield - Montana

Debbie Webster was nominated (later confirmed with Tracy that she is interested).

### Updates to the Handbook

- Lou Hagener led discussion that our handbook is very outdated. Last updated in 1990s. Much of what we have thought should be in our bylaws, can actually go into the handbook. We can create a working group to work on the handbook to iron out some of the issues with day-to-day workings.
- Peggy Strankman, Allison Makoutz both suggest that a few people could be responsible for some sections of the book, and Lou suggest having one designated person to collect the responses (email or otherwise) which could be open to comments from the membership. This person could be our Directors or a volunteer member, but have the person in place by the meeting in Minneapolis.
- Charles Fifield and Barry Irving both mentioned that long-time member's memory and input is valuable, but new members with new ideas are also valuable. We aren't doing meetings the same way we have done them in the past. We need everyone to participate.

**ACTION:** We have the ability to do these changes now (free conference call line available) and these do not need to be approved by the membership, but needs a deadline. Tracy suggests Fall Meeting 2020. Designated point-person chosen by our mid-February meeting in Minneapolis.

Handbook update working group:

Carly Moore (on phone)

Jill Kaufmann (on phone)

Lou Hagener

Chuck Jarecki

### Membership

Chuck reiterated that our biggest problem is membership; we aren't seeing the participation we used to see and summer tours are not as well attended. Our biggest potential for new members is the ranching community and they are not represented;



Photos by Jody Best.

## DRAFT Minutes continued

We are not getting the outreach and not appealing to them. Allison requested ideas.

### Discussion:

Chuck suggests we reach out to ranchers with something appealing to them. For example, we could write letters inviting the Stock Growers. Lou indicated that our membership committee needs to be more active, but that Chuck has lots of contacts with stock growers in Alberta and Montana. Barry added that we all have a sphere of influence and can speak positively about SRM and encourage membership in SRM; those on our committees can't reach everyone but can tap into their own networks. Charles remarked that we need to tap into our student members and High School Youth Forum, although travel to and from distance meetings and time off school is an issue for most. Carly indicated that travel and time off is an issue, but having online and mobile options to attend allowed her to be present.

Chuck suggests that we choose range issues that are relevant to ranchers and let ranchers drive what research is being done; ranchers have political clout and can influence funders. We have not had an SRM booth at a Western Stock Growers Association event in a long time.

Jon Siddoway indicated that Invasive Annual Weed issue was chosen as a theme for this meeting for that exact reason. Was advertising and communication effective? Robert (rancher) mentioned that he saw this meeting on Facebook and not going to our website. Thanks to Carly and Kassia who have been posting event notices and sharing articles on Facebook and Twitter for IMS!

Stacy Barda, involved in Rangelands program, indicated that she could have spread the word to her contacts as well and offered help with future planning; Some opportunities to partner with her organization to conduct tours.

Lou Hagener proposes that we have a joint mixer to improve our networking between our section members and students at U of A, MSU, U of Montana similar to last year. Bret Olson (MSU) organized it last year and it sounds like they will do something similar where a few U of A people donated money to have our students join and Alberta members paid an entrance fee to cover costs.

### **Financial Report**

- Lisa Raatz (IMS Treasurer) reported our current financial position for both our Montana and Alberta accounts. We are keeping the accounts in the black and have made money on our Fall 2017 meeting, Summer 2018 tour in Sundre and a special one-off cooperative set of summer tours between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Rangeland Research Institute and SRM this year.
- As of June 2018, we had 178 members which generated \$890 USD for our section or \$5 per person is collected by the parent society and given back to the sections. This was divided between our Montana and Alberta accounts depending on the number of members in each region. However, this amount does not cover costs for our yearly contributions to youth Range Days awards, nor to send a High School Youth Forum student to our annual meeting to attend the speaking competition at a cost of ~\$700-800 USD/year.

**Motion:** Tracy Kupchenko made a motion to accept the financial report.

**Second:** Lou Hagener.

Motion carried.



Discussion:

We should consider sending students alternating between Alberta and Montana, although Allison indicated that there is not a qualified student to send this year from either country.

Barry Irving clarified that the section can decide to raise the dues and that the \$5 per member amount has not changed in 30 years. This increase would have to be agreed upon by other sections across SRM in order to have a fee increase.

Other fundraising ideas? Charles suggested Silent Auctions. Judy Irving stated that we are the only section that does not have silent auctions at our meetings, where most of the money is set aside for youth activities; she is willing to contribute items for auction in future. Tracy added that we already find other sponsorship to help with sending students and we need to collaborate with other groups.

**Motion:** Lou Hagener made a motion to have the section membership endorse an increase in our dues from \$5 USD to \$10 USD back from parent society and to bring this forward to the Advisory Council meeting in Minneapolis.

**Second:** Chuck Jarecki

Motion carried.

**Parent Society Report**

Barry Irving, SRM President, reported that membership across all of SRM is up by 16% which is a significant increase; people coming to the annual meeting are often become members in order to take advantage of the reduced fee for members. SRM granted these people memberships last year as SRM aligned the renewals for everyone to be in January. Membership is not up in all categories (for example, ranchers), but the parent society increased communications to remind lapsed members to renew with good success.

Some of the changes we're making:

- The Advisory Council meeting will have an option for people to attend online this year to make it more accessible for all sections to have someone from executive attending.
- Young professionals in the US Certified stream (creating an Associate Professional Range Management stream); making the ability to get accredited designation simpler for these folks. This is linked to US Farm Bill and there are more professionals working in Range management. The Certified Prof Range Management will still sign off on work but can have some of it done by APRM and supervise their work. This fills a need for college graduates who find value in this professional designation. Robert asked what was involved in getting accredited. Barry responded that there is a standardized entry level exam and that years of experience and education are counted.
- Jon Siddoway added that there is a credits sign up sheet at the back and that this meeting is approved for 5 credits (every 2 years you need 32 credits).
- The Parent SRM society is set up for legacy giving in any amount and means. For example, there was a land gift in the magnitude of \$100K relatively recently.
- The parent society put out a call to all of the sections asking for one item that the parent society could do for the sections (besides giving money) what would that be? Many requested a conference line to have ability to conduct online/phone meetings. The parent society saw value in this request and is providing this to the sections. Our section was the first to take advantage and we've already used it twice!



Photos by Jody Best.

## DRAFT Minutes continued

At our meeting in Minneapolis, ways the sections can make money. There is opportunity for someone to volunteer to facilitate a technical section. They are looking for people. This next meetings will be:

Minneapolis, MN – 2019

Denver, CO – 2020

Boise, ID – 2021

And very probably somewhere in New Mexico – 2022

### Awards

Jon Siddoway presented the 2018 Excellence in Rangeland Management award to Todd Graham of U-Cross Ranch. Unfortunately, Todd was unable to attend to accept the award, but his plaque will be given to him next week. Thank you to those who took time to nominate!

### Meeting Wrap-up

A very big **Thank You** to Tracy Kupchenko who has been filling the role of Section President for a few years now, which is a much longer term than she signed up for or expected. She has spent a lot of time and effort populating the board and working to move our section forward with changes to our bylaws and have successful meetings and tours. Much appreciated by all those on the executive and our core participating members!

**Motion:** Barry Irving moved to Adjourn the meeting (9:40 am)

**Second:** Lisa Raatz

Motion carried.

### Interested in the Wild Horse and Burro Act in the U.S.?

The following article was published in the Natural Resources Journal earlier this year: "Three Alternatives for Managing Free-Roaming Horses and Burros: A Legal Reform." The article looks at the issue from a legal and rangeland management perspective and, unlike many articles, provides proposed language for revising the Act. The article is available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nrj/>

Photo by Jody Best.