

MINUTES

Society for Range Management – International Mountain Section

Fall Annual General Meeting – Friday, November 1, 2019

Olds, Alberta – Hainstock Community Hall

Approximately 25 members attended in person and Allison Martin and Jon Siddoway joined on the phone.

1.0 Welcome – Tracy Kupchenko, Section President (10:15 am)

2.0 Review of 2018 Meeting Minutes

No concerns were raised from the previous annual meeting.

Motion: Lou Hagener made a motion that we accept the 2018 SRM IMS Meeting Minutes.

Second: Chuck Jarecki

Motion carried.

3.0 Filling Executive Positions

As Tracy steps down as President and Allison moves into the role, we are left with a vacancy for 2nd VP.

Allison Martin (Montana) - President after this meeting

Past President – Tracy Kupchenko

Jennifer Caudron (Alberta) - 1st VP

Vacant – 2nd VP

Jillian Kaufmann (Alberta) - Director

Rick Caquelin (Montana) - Director

Rick Caquelin was nominated for 2nd VP prior to the meeting and has accepted the nomination.

Members asked if there were other nominations, but there were none.

Motion: Lou Hagener made a motion that we close the nominations.

Second: Chuck Jarecki

Motion carried.

Rick C assumes the role by acclamation. His new role leaves the MT Director role vacant, which Allison will be able to appoint after some consideration. Members are reminded that nominations for executive positions are due in August.

ACTION: All members of the current board will decide on how to proceed to fill vacancies on our executive board.

4.0 Youth Activities Update

Tracy Kupchenko will continue to serve as Chair for Alberta High School Youth (HSY) and Allison has been serving as the Montana HSY Chair, although she will decide whether to continue in this role or appoint someone else.

Some clarification was made on the difference between Young Professionals, and HSY. Young Professionals are early career, possibly engaged in or already possessing post-secondary education, while HSY forum is focused on High School students. Josh is the Young Professionals representative from Montana State University serving in our Parent SRM.

Barry Irving expressed some concerns about youth spending which may not be sustainable given the dues coming in from our membership. We can either raise money or lower our costs. He indicated that he was less concerned following the financial update since we do not spend a large sum on youth activities every year and did not this past year.

Judy Irving crocheted an afghan blanket and raised \$137.00 in donations to be set aside for youth activities.

5.0 Updates to the Handbook

Lou Hagener reminded us that much of our day-to-day section operations can go into the Handbook, which is currently being updated and the group is working on it.

Our Handbook update working group:

Carly Moore
Jill Kaufmann
Lou Hagener
Chuck Jarecki

ACTION: Allison will take on leading the updates to the Handbook in 2020, continuing the momentum from 2019.

6.0 Summer tour 2020

Jennifer Caudron and Jillian Kaufmann are working to organize the summer tour which will take place the 3rd weekend in July and be somewhere in the Edmonton area. The theme for the tour will fit nicely with the theme of this fall meeting with a focus on rangelands and the environmental goods and services they provide. Jenn C and Jill K will consider organizing a river float on the North Saskatchewan River. The float after this past summer tour was a very enjoyable social and learning time for those coming to the tour.

7.0 Membership

In efforts to generate increased SRM membership, Chuck Jarecki sent an open letter to the Stockgrowers Association of Montana publication which has added at least one member to our society. Chuck suggests that we may do something similar in Alberta to attract the ranching community. Jack Vandervalk has agreed to use the letter as a template and craft a something similar to send to Alberta Stock Growers Association encouraging their membership in SRM.

8.0 Website

Chuck noted that the old bylaws are still posted on the website and need to be replaced with our current bylaws. Carly Moore, our new website lead, has agreed to replace them as soon as possible. She indicated that our draft Handbook is posted.

9.0 Financial Report

Lisa Raatz provided the financial update for Montana and Alberta accounts. We are keeping the accounts in the black and have made a small amount on both our 2018 Fall meeting and 2019 Summer tours, both held in Montana. We receive \$5 per member, which is collected from our parent society and redistributed back to the sections. We have switched to doing online banking in the US, which saves us \$5 per month on paper statements mailed to us, but we now spend \$5 per month to our parent society to host our website. We do not have anyone providing a financial audit on our books.

ACTION: Barry Adams and Lou Hagener have agreed to review the finances prior to next fall meeting and request the summary in early October 2020 in order to have enough time to conduct a review.

Motion: Graham Gilchrist made a motion that we accept the financial report as presented.

Second: Lou Hagener

Motion carried.

A proposal was made at the last parent society Advisory Council meeting by Lou H that we raise our dues from \$5 to \$10 per member, but this did not pass. All sections would have to agree to this increase, otherwise it would be very difficult for the parent society to administrate. Past SRM parent society president, Barry Irving, explained that it is up to the Advisory Council to push for this and to seek agreement across all sections if we are to make this change. IMS is the 5th largest section in SRM. Other options were discussed for raising money for youth activities including silent auctions.

10.0 Fall Meeting 2020

Chuck Jarecki suggested that Friday meetings are difficult for students and Montana State University faculty to attend because they are in classes. He suggests that the Fall 2020 meeting be held on the first Saturday in November to allow more students and faculty to attend. Graham reminded us that the bylaws state that the fall meeting is to be held the first weekend in November, which technically is Saturday or Sunday. Lou also mentioned that if the meetings are predictable (date and location), it is easier for members to plan ahead to attend.

Barry Adams wondered whether the problem with Friday attendance could just be an issue in Montana since we have Alberta colleges (U of A, U of Lethbridge, Olds) students and staff who attend meetings such as Prairie Restoration Forum on weekdays, including this fall meeting which has 50 registrants. Judy Irving and John Carscallen also commented that Saturdays tend to be when families engage in sporting and other types of activities and may result in lower attendance. Jill K and Jenn C also indicated that Olds was chosen as the meeting location in order to potentially attract Olds College students, but logistics of holding the meeting on campus fell through. Tracy K also emphasized that there should be flexibility in the meeting dates and locations for the people who are doing the work of planning and organizing. Darin S mentioned that the dates are less important than the program in order to draw people to attend. If the program is attractive, people will make the time.

Allison M (SRM IMS President) agreed to do a trial run in 2020 by having the meeting on the first Saturday of November. Attendance at this meeting can help direct future fall meetings.

Motion: Chuck Jarecki made a motion that the next Fall Annual Meeting be on the first Saturday (Nov 7, 2020) in Great Falls, MT.

Second: Lou Hagener

Motion carried (12 agreed, 1 opposed)

Motion: Chuck Jarecki made a second motion that the fall meeting is located in a family-friendly venue such as a hotel with banquet facilities and that this should be added to the Handbook.

Second: Carly Moore

Motion failed to pass (4 agreed, 14 opposed)

11.0 SRM Parent Society Meeting in Boise Idaho 2021

Barry Irving led the discussion updating our section about the 2021 Parent Society SRM meeting/conference which will take place in Boise, ID that will be co-hosted by Idaho and IM sections. Barry Irving (IMS) and Brian Thrift (Idaho) will co-chair the meeting which will tentatively take place Feb 7-11, 2021.

An email was sent around to our members requesting a vote for one of 5 potential themes, which will be decided after this meeting. IMS will assist with selecting a theme, speakers, symposia topics, etc. Much of the work can occur remotely for those of us not in Idaho. Idaho will take the lead on organizing tours and also be a part of the other stated objectives.

This is an opportunity for IMS to generate significant revenue. The larger share will go to Idaho because of the larger role they will play. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was crafted and will be signed by the section presidents in the near future to formalize an agreement about work load and revenue sharing. The more volunteers IMS has, the greater the share of proceeds we will receive. Currently, we have 4 Chair positions: Barry Irving (Co-chair of the Annual Meeting), Tracy Kupchenko (Volunteer Coordination), Brett Olson (Student Activities), and Lisa Raatz (Finance).

This is a great opportunity for members of our section to get involved with the Parent Society Meeting. There will be more Planning Committee meetings in the near future, so save the date and we hope to see you there.

12.0 Meeting Wrap-up

On behalf of the entire section, Jillian K expressed a very big **Thank You** to Tracy Kupchenko who has filled the role of Section President for many years. She has served our section in this leadership role for much longer than she expected; She expended many hours and much effort by spearheading the update to our bylaws, by appointing people to volunteer on the executive and leading countless meetings. Her work has been much appreciated by all those on the executive and our core participating members!

Motion: Lou Hagener moved to Adjourn the meeting (11:45 am)

Second: Barry Irving

Motion carried.