

2020 AMENDED DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

(Amendments made December 27th, 2020, by Allison Martin)

Society for Range Management - International Mountain Section

**Fall Annual General Meeting - Saturday, November 7,
2020 (10:00 - 11:30 am)**

Online Zoom Meeting

Approximately 20 members attended via Zoom or conference phone line. Many thanks to Allison Martin and Stacey Barta for hosting, moderating, and navigating us through our first virtual meeting.

1.0 Welcome - Allison Martin, Section President (10:00 am)

2.0 Review of Draft 2019 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes were sent to those who registered for the fall meeting and were also available on our website since early 2020. No concerns were raised from the previous annual meeting.

Motion: Mae Elsinger made a motion that we accept the 2019 SRM IMS Meeting Minutes.

Second: Tracy Kupchenko
Motion carried.

3.0 Executive Members

Because the Covid-19 global pandemic has disrupted the 2020 summer tour and fall meeting plans, the executive have discussed the possibility of extending all current positions for another year to allow for an opportunity to have the summer tour in AB and fall meeting in MT, as planned. Barry Adams, Carly Moore, Tracy Kupchenko all commented that this would be a good idea considering these circumstances. All board members were present at the meeting and verbally agreed that they would be willing to serve another year in their current role.

Members of the executive are as follows:

Allison Martin (Montana) - President
Jennifer Caudron (Alberta) - 1st VP
Rick Caquelin (Montana) - 2nd VP
Jillian Kaufmann (Alberta) - Director
Stacey Barta (Montana) - Director
Lisa Raatz (Alberta) - Secretary / Treasurer, *ex officio* non-voting member

Motion: Tracy Kupchenko made the motion - Considering the unusual circumstances in 2020 as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic and the travel and gathering restrictions that were put in place, I move that we maintain our executive members in their current roles for an additional year to allow them an opportunity to plan the summer tour (Alberta) and fall meeting (Montana) that we were unable to have this past year.

Second: Rick Caquelin
Motion carried.

ACTION: All of us need to consider nominating members to fill the Alberta 2nd VP role when positions transition next year. Individuals being nominated for executive roles must be members of SRM and in agreement to allow their names stand for election at the 2021 fall meeting.

4.0 Updates to the Handbook

Allison indicated that progress has been made on revising the Handbook and that several members have made significant edits and comments, but the document is still in draft form. Some specific Handbook sections were discussed:

4.1 Newsletter Editor

We still do not have an official newsletter editor to take over the role that Jody Best fulfilled for many years. Allison contributed, solicited contributions, and compiled a summer newsletter and is willing to absorb the role to create 2 or 3 newsletters this coming year. Allison proposed that creating the newsletter should fall to the President in the absence of someone to fulfill this important role. Jon Siddoway and Tracy Kupchenko suggested leaving the language open so it does not commit the President to additional duties. Allow for flexibility to create a newsletter, but not an expected part of being President going forward. Barry Irving also agreed that flexibility should be maintained, and that the newsletter could be the role of the President or the President could designate someone to perform the task if someone is willing to do it.

4.1.1 See page 5, Addendum and amended changes.

4.2 Membership Committee

Declining membership is still an issue for our section, our parent society and other organizations. Several members indicated that it is up to each of us in our various roles and spheres of influence to be ambassadors for SRM and encourage others to become members. Recruiting members is beyond the expectation for one individual (e.g. membership chair or committee). Rick also mentioned that if we offer value to members such as through newsletters and occasional online webinars such as the one we are hosting following the business meeting, this will help attract membership.

4.2.1 See page 5, Addendum and amended changes.

4.3 Role of Directors

Allison proposed that Directors move into the role of 2nd VP, 1st VP and then President in order for them to understand how the section operates

and what is expected of them instead of assuming the role without enough experience. Several members commented that the expectations can be clarified in the Handbook, there is support from the Past President as well as 2 years of experience as VP to help prepare someone for the role of President. Directors already commit to a two-year term as outlined in the Handbook and moving into the role of VP would be an additional three years. It was acknowledged that part of the problem is finding people willing to serve in these roles.

4.4 Information & Education (I & E)

Allison indicated that this section of the Handbook still needs to be updated and parts of it could be removed.

The next steps were discussed. The Handbook can be a living document that changes periodically without going through the same process required to change our Bylaws. The board will make some final edits. While there was discussion about whether to open this up to the entire membership for comment, Mae Elsinger questioned the need for all membership to review the changes. Lisa R mentioned that we could post our new version on the website and interested and invested members are welcome to submit suggested changes for future updates rather than waiting for members to comment on the current version.

ACTION: Each board member will take 1 to 2 weeks to edit the Handbook in the following order: Jennifer C, Jill K, Rick C, Stacey B and final decision to accept changes will be made by Allison. The new Handbook version will be sent to Carly M to post on our website in January 2021. Allison will send the most recent Nov 6 version of the Handbook to Jennifer in the next day or two.

5.0 Financial Report

Lisa Raatz provided the financial update for Montana and Alberta accounts. We continue to keep the accounts with a small annual increase in value and do not hold any debt. Unfortunately, our 2020 summer Alberta tour was cancelled, which came at no cost to us, but we also did not gain revenue. Additionally, this fall meeting cost us nothing and did not generate revenue for our section either. As a reminder, we receive \$5 per member which is collected by our parent society when we renew our memberships and is redistributed back to the sections. Memberships generate less than \$1000 per year, which is split between our two accounts. A very big Thank You to Barry Adams and Lou Hagener for providing a financial audit on our books.

Motion: Lisa Raatz made a motion that we accept the financial report as presented.

Second: Barry Adams
Motion carried.

6.0 Youth Activities

Tracy Kupchenko serves as the chair for the Alberta High School Youth (HSY) Committee and gave the report that the 2021 Youth Range Days has already been cancelled because the pandemic is making it hard to plan and predict what summer activities will be permitted. They will revisit the decision for 2022. Allison

serves as the Montana HSY Chair, although this committee is not making the decision to cancel until closer to the end of July. Stacey also indicated that MT is waiting to decide whether to cancel Range Camp.

Barry Irving mentioned that student activities are still being planned for the SRM annual meeting. Josh was not at the meeting to give an update on the Young Professionals activities.

7.0 Summer tour 2021

Jennifer Caudron informed us that we will be planning an Alberta summer tour from the beginning again as previous plans are no longer possible. We will be looking for new ranches and locations to host the tour. She also cautioned that the 2021 in-person tour may be cancelled again if travel and gathering restrictions are still in place and many members may not be comfortable traveling even if restrictions are relaxed.

8.0 Awards

The Awards Chairs, Barry Adams (Alberta) and Jon Siddoway (Montana), confirmed that no nominations had been received this past year. Award nominations were not actively solicited this past year because presenting awards online has made it difficult to fully honour and celebrate with the recipients (i.e., no in person handshakes, applause or usual celebrations). Barry informed us that one nomination for an award is in the process of being submitted at the Parent society level.

Allison mentioned that the nominations for the Guy Kirk Davies Award for Excellence in Range Management (at the Parent Society) are due Dec 15 and that many of us know several well-deserving ranchers. She encouraged us to put forward at least one nomination from our section. It would involve a short 5-minute video of the ranch and rancher.

9.0 SRM Parent Society Annual Meeting - Virtual meeting Feb 15 to 17, 2021

Barry Irving, Lysandra Pyle, and Lisa Raatz are part of the 2021 planning committee (and a few others from our section). Lisa mentioned that planning is well underway; submissions for symposia have already been closed and abstracts for new science, education, management presentations (pre-recorded video and poster-style presentations) have had the deadline extended to Dec 4, 2020. Lysandra is part of planning the virtual exhibit hall. Barry Irving is planning student activities along with Rory O'Connor and most activities are still going to take place. Barry is planning to hold a virtual plant identification competition and Justin will also hold an URME, but they are still working out the details.

Allison received an email from the planning committee asking if our section wanted to have an online social activity/event on one of the evenings. Many members agreed that we could book the virtual space and evening time slot for those who might want to meet socially for a "wine and cheese" or meet-and-greet-type event. If we don't book the online venue, we would forfeit the chance to meet and have our section event advertised at the parent society level.

ACTION: Allison will confirm that IMS wishes to have a social event online as part of the parent meeting on one of the evenings.

10.0 International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists - Update

Barry Irving gave an update and indicated that this idea now has some traction. Many organizations including Gov't of Canada, many Universities and large organizations including SRM have written strong letters of support for this venture, which was initiated by Mongolia a few years ago. Unfortunately, the US government has not been on board, to date. The Committee that approves 'International Years' for Agriculture approved this proposal in Oct 2020. The next steps involve the proposal advancing to the FAO for their approval and then it goes before the entire UN council. It is on track to be approved as an International Year for 2026.

Tracy asked what would our role be if it is approved and Barry responded that 2026 seems like a long way off, but we can already be thinking of ways to highlight and celebrate rangelands and ranchers (basically pastoralists of North America). SRM has a large reach and influence across North America and internationally, so could potentially play a large role.

11.0 Wrap up

Allison thanked everyone for attending and announced a lunch break before the webinar starts at noon.

Motion: Allison moved to adjourn the meeting (11:15 am).

Second: Lisa Raatz

Motion carried.

Addendum to November 7th, 2020 Meeting minutes. **(To be voted upon at 2021 Fall Meeting for unanimous amendment approval)**

Amendment changes made December 27th, 2020

4.0

4.1.1 Chuck Jarecki would advise hesitation in regard to the President performing the newsletter task. Some people have not had the training to properly organize a letter. Chuck believes the most that a President can do is urge contributions from certain members that have experience with this task.

4.2.1 Chuck J. agrees that board members need certain responsibilities regarding membership, and we need at least one person from Montana and one from Alberta to represent and stimulate membership recruitment activities.

- Chuck J. also wanted to comment/ have his thoughts communicated that he could supply a list of 75 ranchers in Western Montana. "IMS functions need to be of interest to ranchers, years ago our summer tour was family oriented, not so anymore".

-Lou Hagener was also another member having technical difficulties during the zoom call. He said he did not have any major issues with items addressed and talked about but could have offered some thoughts.

Due to our Zoom platform and the technical difficulties that go along with this; aforementioned comments (addendum Dec 27th, 2020) from members that were not able to effectively communicate and have their voices heard will be tabled and re-discussed at the Fall 2021 meeting (hopefully a resumed in-person meeting).

**Allison Martin
SRM-IMS President
December 27th, 2020**

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X 

Allison Martin
IMS President

Allison Martin
S.R.M.-IMS President
December 27th, 2020

Date revised: November 10, 2020, Addendum amendment December 27th, 2020

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