

2022 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Society for Range Management – International Mountain Section **Fall Annual General Meeting – Friday, November 4, 2022 (10:00am – 12:00pm)** **Lethbridge, Alberta**

Approximately 25 people attended the business meeting in person and another 5 people attended online; including all of our executive members. A huge thanks to Jennifer Caudron for facilitating the meeting and to Barry Adams and Ross Adams for enabling virtual attendance.

1.0 Welcome & Introductions (10:10 am – delayed start due to AV checks for those online).

Jennifer Caudron introduced the executive members and stated their new roles:

Jennifer Caudron (President transitioning to Past President);
Rick Caquelin (1st VP and incoming President - MT);
Natasha Rinas (2nd VP transitioning to 1st VP - AB);
Jillian Kaufmann (AB Director);
Stacey Barta (MT Director – attending online);
Noah Davis (nominated for incoming 2nd VP); and
Lisa Raatz (Secretary/Treasurer).

Everyone in the room briefly introduced themselves.

2.0 Review of Draft 2021 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes were emailed to those who registered for the fall meeting, copies were available at the registration desk and were also available on our website. No concerns were raised from the previous annual meeting.

Motion: Lou Hagener motioned to accept the 2021 SRM IMS Meeting Minutes.

Second: Darin Sherritt.

Motion was approved.

3.0 Board Nominations

Due to the shift in roles, the 2nd VP position (MT) is open and one nomination was received. An electronic ballot along with a brief biography for Noah Davis will be emailed to the membership so they can vote for 2nd VP in the coming weeks. Membership will be given 2-3 weeks to return the ballots.

Jennifer will be transitioning to the position of Chairing the Awards Committee in the coming year.

There was some discussion about other vacant positions, such as the Chair of Membership Committee which can be appointed by the President. Suggestions were made to follow what is written in the Handbook and any of our members can volunteer for positions. Officers should fill the roles if they are left vacant.

Natasha Rinas and the membership expressed their thanks to Jennifer Caudron for serving as President for the last year. Jennifer was recognized for her efforts to acquire funding, her leadership, creation of two excellent newsletters, organizing the fall meeting and taking two terms as VP during Covid.

4.0 Meetings

Summer 2022 Tour in Montana – cancelled due to low registration

Rick and Stacey were thanked for their efforts arranging speakers and organizing the tour. We had been slated to tour two ranches with diverse ranch management; we may revisit the plan in 2024.

There was discussion about why registrations were low (4 people registered) which led to the tour being cancelled including cross border limitations to travel still a result of Covid infections, people still hesitant to travel, high fuel prices for those coming from a distance, and not enough advanced notice or advertising in the newsletter.

Rick suggested that more social activities outside of the regular meetings will help bring the group together as a community as well as offering CPP credits for those from MT will help encourage people to attend. Barry Irving noted that professional credits are self-declared for those with P.Ag. through AIA.

Summer 2023 Tour – planned to be in Alberta

While Natasha Rinas will be heading up the planning, it is a large effort and more people are asked to assist with deciding when/where/theme for the tour. Anyone can assist with planning, you don't need to be a member of SRM. Those in the meeting were encouraged to contact Natasha either at the meeting or via email to offer to help. Jill Kaufmann volunteered to be on the planning committee.

Fall 2023 Meeting – will be in Montana

Contact Rick Caquelin to assist with planning the meeting for roughly this time next year.

5.0 Social Media Update

Natasha Rinas is our Social Media Communications person and she gave an update about our new Facebook page (IMS SRM). The link for it is in the newsletters, but we are having difficulty making it searchable in Facebook; any assistance would be appreciated. She is also heading up the Twitter account and feel free to follow both accounts for information about our meetings. Natasha also posts events from the parent society and other nearby sections, and related groups.

6.0 Youth Activities

Tracy Kupchenko gave an update on the 2022 Youth Range Days which were less well-attended than in the past. West AB did go ahead, but the one in the East was cancelled due to low enrollment. Planning is underway for 2023, which will be July 18-20 for the 40-mile County in southeast Alberta; exact location still TBD. Thanks to Lee Molzahn and Ross Adams who are also part of the planning committee and others are welcome to join.

Tracy and Allison gave an update that there are no students from AB or MT to sponsor for the High School Youth Forum at the Annual Meeting in Boise.

7.0 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 summer 2022 tour in MT was cancelled, but the small expenses we incurred are not lost and our membership is back up to pre-pandemic levels. A reminder that renewing your membership with the parent society is where you select to be a member of the International Mt section; \$5 from that fee comes back to us.

Explanation was given by Lisa and Jennifer about the funding we received from ALUS and AEP for extension activities; these grants have been used to publish a spring and fall newsletter, enhance our capacity for holding hybrid meetings (a goal for IMS in the previous year), and for our workshops. A big thanks to Jennifer for applying for funding and Barry Adams for purchasing AV equipment which we used for this meeting.

ALUS also provided a generous donation for the Gerry Taillieu memorial award, which is being awarded annually to a rancher who exhibits rangeland stewardship (8-10 years of funding). Western Ranchlands will also directly provide an additional award, but we will choose the recipient. The new funding is already set aside for specific purposes and not for general IMS operations.

A very big Thank You to Lou Hagener and Barry Adams for providing a financial audit on our AB and MT books again this year! Barry and membership also expressed thanks to Lisa for her work doing the section finances and conducting office duties for the last several years.

Motion: Lou Hagener made a motion that we approve the financial report as presented.

Second: Barry Adams.

Motion carried.

8.0 Awards

Barry Adams reviewed the awards that IMS offers: Trail Boss award, Excellence in Rangeland Management award, Alicia Hargrave memorial award (given to a woman in the early stages of her career), and the new Gerry Taillieu memorial award. There has been an interruption in

the continuity for the Alicia Hargrave award in the past couple of years, but Tracy Kupchenko has been in contact with the family and will solicit a letter of support to continue to provide a plaque for this award going forward.

The section also gives out Certificates of Recognition for outstanding service, although this has not been done in some time. A reminder to all our members to nominate those we know are deserving of recognition! The section also submitted a nomination package to the parent society for one of the awards to be given at the Boise meeting.

9.0 76th Annual Meeting: Boise, Idaho - Feb 12-16, 2023 – “Rangelands without Borders”

Barry Irving, joining us online, gave an update of the planning progress. The meeting will be fully in-person and simultaneously online. There will not be any deadline extensions as we have already reached 25 special sessions (workshops, symposia, campfire ignite sessions). There will be science-based talks from the academic community and practical information for ranchers and resource managers.

Barry listed some of the workshop, symposia headings although the full program is not out yet. Visit srm.org for more information. Tracy K and Karen Launchbaugh are organizing the plenary talks, which will fit the cross-borders theme (geographically and beyond).

There will be technical tours to the Birds of Prey Centre; Simplot (pasture to plate operation which is a sponsored tour and limited to 48 people). There will be a shorter Birds of Prey tour on Wednesday morning targeting students and a Basque cultural dinner for up to 400 people within walking distance of the conference facility.

If we want to have an IMS booth at the trade show, we need people to volunteer to be at the booth. Tracy is the volunteer coordinator –contact her to let her know about your availability.

10.0 International Year of Rangeland & Pastoralists 2026 – Update

Barry Irving provided an update on the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists, which has been approved by the UN for 2026 and SRM is in full support. Mongolia was the original country proposing the initiative, but it has received overwhelming support from many countries including Canada, US, Mexico as well as from non-government groups. There are opportunities for our membership to get involved. As part of the planning leading up to 2026, the organizing committee is requesting section support to help plan. The workshop will take place Tuesday AM and into the afternoon and we need a section representative. Barry Adams volunteered to attend in Boise, but others are welcome.

11.0 Wrap up

Jennifer thanked everyone for attending; the fall workshop starts at 1:00 pm after lunch.

Motion: Lou Hagener moved to adjourn the meeting (11:40 am).

Second: Jillian Kaufmann.

Motion carried.