



Regular 1st quarter meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. **Present were:** Melony Sikes – President, Matt **Wagner** – 2nd Vice President, Donald **Cox** – Director, Lee **Knox** – Director, Jeff **Goodwin** – Director & Newsletter Editor, Scott **Petty** – Director, Diaz **Murray** – Director, Kent **Ferguson** – Director, Jerry **Payne** – Past President, Robert **Moen** – Treasurer, Natalie **Wolff** – Website and Bruce **Healy** – Secretary. Also present were: Paul **Loeffler** - Planning Committee. **ABSENT:** Bill **Pinchak** – 1st Vice President.

Sikes completed roll call, and a quorum has been established. Sikes welcomed **Wagner, Murray and Ferguson** to the board.

Charles **Anderson** is also present and will be serving as our luncheon cook. Thank you Charles!

Sikes reviewed the agenda and asked for any additions/corrections to the agenda. None noted.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed via email on December 23rd. Knox noted there is a correction to the minutes distributed as there are only **TWO** HSYF participants going to ABQ, not three. **Motion by Ferguson to accept minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Goodwin. Motion carried unanimously.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's Report, plus additional attachments, provided and reviewed by **Moen**. Moen indicated the report provided is a cash accounting version of the accounts – as it is easier to follow, but it should be noted that we are actually on an accrual accounting system. Discussion held on information presented.

Current Balances as of (12/31/08):

TSSRM General Fund	\$30,460.55
<i>(usable bank balance = \$17,768.37)</i>	
<i>(internal allocation to GOF Investments = \$20,000.00)</i>	
<i>(Endowment Fund accumulated surplus = \$9,445.11)</i>	
TSSRM Endowment Fund	\$36,852.17
TSSRM MSF	\$54,617.84
TSSRM Bill Wyche MSF	\$43,323.53
TSSRM YACEF	\$15,151.00

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as submitted by Goodwin. Motion seconded by Ferguson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEWSLETTER: **Goodwin** reported that the next issue will come out early February. Tentative due date for each issue attached to the agenda. **Sikes** has several good ideas. We will continue the rancher edition. The board commended **Goodwin** for all his efforts on the newsletter.

WEBSITE REPORT: **Goodwin/Healy** reviewed the current status. We are still in the transition period for the transfer from Ann Tanaka to Natalie **Wolff**. **Wolff** is researching the costs for software packages, etc. as she still wants to do it.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Photo Contest update:** **Healy** reported that our photo contest was featured in the December 2008 issue of *Rangelands*. Best in Show was magazine's cover photo, Reserve Best in Show and 3rd Place featured in article. **Loeffler** also reported that the last SRM Board of Directors



- Discussion on terms of office for officers/directors – Payne updated the board with the discussion on the past
- **Prescribed Burn Symposium** – Goodwin reported that a proposal for a Prescribed Burn Symposium to be held was distributed through the TNLA network, and 13 groups chose to participate in a meeting yesterday. Goodwin reviewed the information from yesterday. Currently, we are proposing to have a Prescribed Burn Symposium at the Lady Burn Johnson Center in the spring of 2010. The LBJC has a burn program, along with the City of Austin and TNC in short commuting distance. Target audience is county judges, county commissioners, county attorneys, legislative aids, fire departments, and any other interested parties. Group discussion lead to discussion on how to improve how counties implement burn bans. 1) A clear and concise interpretation of the burn law. 2) A better understanding of when to implement a burn ban. 3) Other alternatives. We are looking to focus on the policy of burning and burn ban interpretations. Petty commented on the situation in Medina County. Sikes requested that an overview of the meeting be published in an upcoming issue of Grass Roots. Discussion held others to consider inviting. Healy gave an update on the interaction with the Jim Wells County Commissioners.

We interrupted the meeting to take a short break for Payne to present Mason MTN WMA manager Mark Mitchell with the TSSRM Special Recognition Award as he was not able to make it to Nacogdoches to pick up the award there. Mr. Mitchell thanked the group for the award.

Mr. Mitchell then asked the board for input on a proposed research project regarding range research and Kjeldahl testing for browse quality response to prescribed burning. He also asked whom else he needed to contact for additional input – suggestions provided.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACTIVITIES & EDUCATION: Sikes reported on the information she is aware of from Pinchak. Sikes indicated that a few items that were in her budget were not completed last year, and they should be completed this year. So far, we are aware of the booth being at TSCRA, ORM Tour and Texas Wildlife Expo. The apparel project was discussed, and it was suggested that it be tabled for 2009 and considered again in 2010 or 2011. Sikes also showed the folks temporary tattoos for kids to. *Budget request is \$3000.* (TSCRA 750, ORM tour 200).

ANNUAL MEETING:

- 2008 AM (Nacogdoches): Payne reported that the final financial statement is not in yet, but we anticipate a final profit of around \$4000.
- 2009 AM (Beaumont): Sikes reported that the site visit has been pushed back to March due to Hurricane Ike impacts. Dates are October 7-9th. We will be at the **Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Beaumont Plaza**, (409) 842-5995, <http://www.holidayinnbeaumontplaza.com>. Sikes indicated that we'll have to budget \$500 for teleconferencing as a part of the annual meeting planning. This will have to be absorbed in the annual meeting budget. Payne suggested Sikes contact the CVB to see if they have teleconferencing available for the committee to use. Sikes indicated that she was contacted in Nacogdoches by some folks to offer some professional development options, as mentioned at the Section business meeting – several topics have been suggested – she requested board input. Payne suggested it could also be a concurrent session to the technical session rather than before the meeting to get more of the intended audience to attend. Sikes also brought up the board of directors meeting – considering Tuesday night. Looking at a fishing tournament on Wednesday. Looking a mix of technical tours and technical sessions. Sikes is also excited about the spouse's tour.
- 2010 AM (Odessa): no report.



AWARDS: Nelle reported he'd like to request \$700 for Awards Committee for 2009.

REMINDER: SRM HONOR AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE IN SRM OFFICE BY APRIL 30. SUGGESTIONS FOR AWARDS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO STEVE NELLE.

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES: No report. Budget request of \$200.

ENDOWMENT: Caudle recommended that the TSSRM Board of Directors review the committee guidelines for the Endowment Fund Committee to determine if this standing committee really serves a purpose. The Treasurer is the only person who has direct access to the information about the Endowment Fund investments. The committee has to request that information from the Treasurer who has already reviewed and reconciled the net gains and losses from the investments. If this committee has no other function than to review statements from Frost Bank, it should be dissolved. If a fund raising effort is desired to solicit funds for the Endowment Fund, an *ad hoc* committee can be designated for that purpose as needed.

If the BOD decides to maintain the Endowment Fund Committee as a standing committee, it should require that the Endowment Fund Committee Chair receive monthly or quarterly summary reports of the endowment fund status, so that the committee can function as intended to have input into the investments and to keep the BOD and the Officers informed of the status of the fund. The committee guidelines need to be revised to reflect the functions and expectations of this committee accurately.

The Endowment Fund began the year on January 1, 2007 with a total portfolio balance of \$47,852.87. There have been no contributions or donations to the Endowment as of December 16, 2008. Like most other investment funds, the Endowment Fund has suffered an overall decline in value this year. The portfolio balance as of November 30, 2008 was \$36,852.17. This represents a net loss of \$11,000.70 or 23% of the overall value of the Endowment Fund through the last reporting period. The markets have gone up slightly in December. Those changes are not reflected in this report. Hopefully they will close higher for the month. Hopefully 2009 will be a better year for the markets and our invested funds, and we can recover some of the lost value that we suffered in 2008.

Moen has agreed to send a copy of the bank statements when they come in from Frost Bank. Discussion held on the report. Loeffler commented that Frost Bank manages the EF, so the EC is not set up to manage the funds, and thus Caudle's point regarding the need for an actual committee, rather an ad-hoc committee can be formed for any future fundraising needs - he may have a point. Sikes has agreed to comment back to Caudle and Whigham, with copies to Moen and Healy. Knox suggested that the EF committee be given a goal of fundraising outside of the annual meeting during the year, dollar goal to be established as the committee. Petty suggested that the EC approach folks outside of the membership to raise funds to annual meeting.

GRASS ROOTS AWARDS: no report.

MEMBERSHIP: McClintock reported that current membership numbers are as follows- 407 active members as of 12/15/08. I received an updated report from Lesley Radtke. The reports from the website are a couple of months behind.

Sent letters to new member's welcoming them to this great professional organization. Also sending letter to expired members asking them why they have not renewed membership, and if there is anything we can do better or different to keep them with us.

Most of the people just haven't gotten around to renewing their memberships. They say they will get to it this year. They also like getting reminders via e-mail to remind them their renewal time is here. I have sent out paper copies of renewal request's as well. I also have taken on this role by myself with very little guidance. If there is anything that I should be doing that is not getting done, or that I can do please let me know.

I would like to submit a request for a little bit of budget money for stamps and envelopes if we can get them. Or if we envelopes with the SRM address already on them can I get some. I'm going to try and reach out to some landowner's and students to try and raise our membership number's that seem to be declining. **I would like to request for say \$50 dollars in stamps and if no envelopes are available several boxes of envelopes as well.** If there is anything else please let me know.

Sikes has asked McClintock to focus on membership recruitment in the Panhandle. Also we are having difficulty in getting membership reports from the SRM Office.



NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: Franklin requested a budget of \$450 is requested for 2009. Several members have personally contacted me with interests in serving as a Director or 2nd Vice President to date.

Franklin also asked for suggestions for candidates for 2nd VP and Director – please contact Joe directly with your suggestions.

ORM: Payton reported that he talked to Allan McGinty, past chair, about the budget for the ORM-ORS award and based on our discussion I would like to make the recommendation that we set up \$600.00 for the award.

I hope this request will be appropriate at this time. When things slow down some I will try to submit a proper request if necessary. This should at least give you a figure to work with.

Let me now if there are other things I need to do.

PLANNING (2011 AM): Loeffler provided a written report, but also gave a detailed oral report. Bids were solicited through members by the current policy.

Two outstanding quality bids were submitted by San Angelo (Cody Scott) and Abilene (Lee Knox).

Planning Committee recommends the selection of San Angelo as the 2011 AM host city. Loeffler offered the opportunity to review the bid packets. Matt Wagner will be lead board contact until he selects a local planning committee.

Goodwin moved to accept the recommendation of the committee and approve San Angelo as the 2011 host city. Second by Knox. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS: Ferguson was the incoming chair elect, but having been elected Section Director, Charles Stanley has agreed to become the committee chair.

- **TNLA:** Goodwin indicated TNLA was used to help distribute information on the Prescribed Burn Symposium meeting yesterday. All TNLA members will be invited to the Environmental Awards. 2009 TS representatives are Allan McGinty, Bill Pinchak, and Matt Wagner.

PUBLICATION AWARDS: Ansley provided an end of year report - The committee was organized during February-March 2008. Nominations were solicited from March through July 2008. The number of nominations received for each category was 3 for the Technical Writing category, 4 for the Popular Article category, and one for the Special category. The committee members were asked by the committee chair to vote on winner for each category during the last 2 weeks of August. The committee chair tabulated the votes and organized the information for the award plaques. Voting was 6-0-0 for the Technical Writing category, 3-2-1-0 for the Popular Article category and 6 for the Special category (only one candidate for this category). The information was taken by the committee chair to a trophy company in Wichita Falls in early September. Plaques were completed by September 25, 2008. A total of 7 plaques were made (3 larger ones for senior authors and 4 smaller ones for each junior author). Total cost of the 7 plaques was \$300.00. Information and design for each plaque is included in the next pages.

A plaque for each senior author and a smaller plaque for each co-author for each category were presented to the winners at the TSSRM meeting in Nacogdoches, TX at the noon luncheon meeting on October 9, 2008.

Award Winners for Each Category:

Technical Writing: Wilcox, B. P., Y. Huang and J. W. Walker. 2008. *Long-term trends in streamflow from semiarid rangelands: uncovering drivers of change. Global Change Biology 14: 1676-1689*

Popular Article: Garza, N., and C. Taylor. 2007. *How to build cost-effective skid-sprayers for prescribed burning. Rangelands 29 (2): 41-44*

Special Category: Fulbright, T. E., and J. A. Ortega-S. 2006. *White-tailed deer habitat – ecology and management on rangelands. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station*

I want to thank the committee members for their participation on this committee this year. Requested budget is \$350.

RESOLUTIONS: Caudle had no budget request or report.

Loeffler updated the board with committee makeup. One request from him was to consider revising the handbook for the committee structure to include some younger members on the committee. Healy updated the board on a request he has forwarded to the committee regarding electronic voting and related issues. Cox suggested that we put a notice in the



next issue of Grass Roots asking for membership input on electronic voting. **Goodwin** will place a note in Grass Roots, with a deadline for response of 30 days from distribution to the Secretary and a follow-up report at the next meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP: **Sikes** has signed the agreement for State 4-H Foundation to continue to TSSRM Memorial Scholarship award presentation through the State 4-H Foundation.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS: **Owens** reported that three one-page TSSRM informational pamphlets have been developed/modified with a fourth pending. Funds to be budgeted for printing and distributing informational pamphlets created previously. Budget request for printing and distribution of the rangeland informational fliers developed for the section informational booth noted (no \$ listed).

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: **Scasta** reported that the Youth Range Workshop (YRW) staff selected the 2009 SRM High School Youth Forum (HSYF) delegates to represent the Texas Section at the Albuquerque, NM meeting in February. **Laura Stapper** (Ozona, TX), **Robert Buchholz** (Eldorado, TX), **Daniel Haverlah** (Ingram, TX) will represent Texas. **Hoyt Seidensticker** will be traveling to accompany delegates. **Barron Rector** and **Derek Scasta** will continue to assist delegates in preparation for presentation.

The 55th Annual Youth Range Workshop will be held June 21-26, 2009 at the Texas Tech University Center at Junction. We are currently publicizing the workshop and taking applications. Directors are being secured to support the full agenda. If you know of any youth in your area that may be potential candidates for this rigorous and rewarding program please encourage and assist them in applying. Cost for the workshop can quite often be covered by local sponsorship. Please help us in advertising this premier educational opportunity.

After discussion among Youth Activities Committee Members, we submit the following budget request to the TSSRM Board of Directors for the 2009 fiscal year:**Requested Amount = \$1,174.00**.....

The requested amount of \$1,174.00 will be used to cover the expenses of flying the three youth delegates and one sponsor (**Hoyt Seidensticker**) to Albuquerque, NM for the 2009 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting. The cost per roundtrip airline ticket is \$293.50 (x 4 = \$1,174.00). We are asking the TSSRM Board and Officers to help support three Texas delegates to the 2009 High School Youth Forum. Plane tickets will cover departure from San Antonio on Saturday, February 7 and return on Thursday, February 12. All other fees including: meeting registration, lodging, food and insurance will be covered by sponsorships received by the Youth Activities Committee.

New change – the section will now once again have three HSYF delegates.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 903-467-4168 or jdstasta@ag.tamu.edu for further questions. **Barron Rector** and **Hoyt Seidensticker** will also be happy to discuss this topic in further detail if needed.

Motion by Ferguson to accept the budget request as presented. **Second by Knox**. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:39 am.

Meeting reconvened from lunch at 12:20 pm. The board thanks **Anderson** for an excellent lunch.

Moen reviewed the current budget expenses. Ferguson moved to approve budget as submitted. **Murray** seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Appointments:** **Healy** for Secretary, **Moen** for Treasurer, **Goodwin** for Newsletter Editor, and **Natalie Wolff** for Website. **Sikes** commended everyone for their work. **Motion by Knox, second by Murray** to approve appointments as submitted. (It is noted that this is Healy's last year as section secretary.)
- **Archivist:** we have a need for a new archivist for the section. With Harold's passing, **Jan Wiedemann** has decided not to continue. **Sikes** will put a request in Grass Roots for a new archivist. Hopefully we will get a response from a new membership.
- **Sikes** would like to work with the Governor declare/have it signed to designate October as Rangeland Month.
- **Youth Range Workshop** dates are June 21 to 26.



- **Sikes** reviewed her wish list for 2009.
- **Ferguson** reported on a telephone call from Mark Moseley to contact TxDOT to request a change in the road signs
Payne motion, **Goodwin** second.
- **Payne** reported on his letter to Texas Highways magazine (Oct issue) on the photo essay on the grasslands of Texas and that his letter was published in the January issue.
- **Murray** asked for an update regarding our involvement with other groups, including co-sponsorships at workshops and field days, not necessarily at annual meetings. Discussion held.
- **Sikes** asked **Loeffler**, as SRM Advisory Council chair, about TS representation at the Advisory Council. AC will meet at 10am (start) on Sunday, and 130 on Monday. Sikes will be attending, who else is going from the section? Wagner is NOT going? Cox will serve as proxy for Wagner. Healy and Moen will also be attending.
- **Knox** announced that there will be a Plant ID contest at the Big Country Wildlife Expo (Feb 25) in Abilene.
- **Ferguson** asked **Moen** about donations to the section. We can accept amount of a donation, and **Moen** can provide the tax-deductible forms to them. **Moen** will work with **Ferguson**.
- **Administrative Handbook** – last update posted is Nov 06. New one ready – Healy was pending a new update from committee chairs, if there are no more additions/corrections.

Future Meetings: **Fri April 24 @ 9am @ Mason Mountain WMA.**
 (Attend YRW at TTU-Junction Fri June 26th.)
 Fri July 17 @ 9am @ Mason Mountain WMA.
 Tues Oct 6 @ 5-9pm @ Beaumont.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:48 pm.

Thank you for attending and participating in the meeting.

Bruce S. Healy, Secretary