

**The Section Business Meeting was called to order by President Charles Anderson at 3:05 pm with 73 members present.**

**MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes of the October 2005 business meeting were presented to the membership in the agenda packet. **Motion to approve the 2005 business meeting minutes as submitted by Kent Ferguson. Second by Ernest Fish. Motion carried unanimously.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (*Moen*) report in agenda packet.

Balances listed below *as of September 30, 2006:*

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| GOF Checking                         | \$24216.26  |
| TSSRM Endowment Fund                 | \$42269.20* |
| TSSRM Memorial Scholarship Fund      | \$58792.47* |
| Bill Wyche Memorial Scholarship Fund | \$50894.15* |
| TSSRM Youth Endowment Fund           | \$10001.00* |

\*Estimated as of 8/31/06.

(Rector) What is the Sales Rebate? Funds received from video sales by Cornerstone.

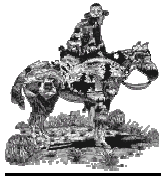
**Motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted by Barron Rector. Second by Mort Kothmann. Call for Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS**

- 2006 Annual Meeting - Del Rio (*Chad Ellis*): *about 200 people registered.*
- 2007 Annual Meeting - Lubbock (*Paul Loeffler*): *We are planning an "outstanding" meeting in Lubbock and with exciting topics and events at the American Wind Power Center and the Ranching Heritage Center. CVB & Hotel Rep: (Mary) We are so excited to have you come to Lubbock. We will be adding an additional prize for anyone who reserved their hotel room here – 2 nights stay on the hotel/CVB. (Mandy – hotel) The hotel is currently undergoing a complete renovation, so we will be at a "NEW " hotel.*
- 2008 Annual Meeting - Nacogdoches (*Jerry Payne*): *We will be at the Fredonia Hotel – a historic hotel in an exciting location. They guaranteed a hotel rate of \$70/night 4 years early.*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- County Level Awards (*Diane Arnold*): *We would love to have more nominations sent in. We will also be working on updating the application forms.*
- Membership (*Mike Stellbauer*): *TSSRM Membership is at 463 as of the August 31, 2006. The SRM membership challenge is ongoing and we encourage everyone to sign up new members. The TSSRM member signing up the largest number of new members will be given a complimentary registration at next year's annual meeting.*
- Newsletter (*Jeff Goodwin*): *Reminded everyone of the due dates for each issue for 2006 & 2007 (due dates in the agenda packet). Anything from the Annual Meeting due ASAP. If you*



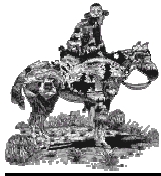
have not been getting the newsletter, please email him and we will get you added to the correct list. *Anderson thanked Jeff for his excellent work on the newsletter.*

- **Nominations and Elections (*Barron Rector*):** Discussion Items for the Board: The Election period for 2006 was reduced from 60 days to 45 days (if it had been stopped at 30 days, the results would have been different than after 45 days). A total of 232 actual ballots out of 463 mailed were received. This is a voting return rate of 50.05% or *the highest we have had in the past 3 years*. I want to congratulate everyone for taking the time to vote in this election. The board has put together a strategic plan and the new officers/directors will have the challenge of following through on this strategic plan. 10% of the members were asked to allow themselves to be considered as candidates for the ballot by the committee.

For 2007 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President candidates on the ballot included Melony Sikes (NRCS) and Matthew Wagner (TPWD) – **Melony Sikes was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> VP**. Candidates on the ballot for TSSRM Director included Lee Knox (NRCS), Billy Kniffen (Menard County Extension Agent), Don Cox (UT Land System) and Poncho Ortega (Assistant Professor at A&M-Kingsville) – **Lee Knox and Don Cox were elected Directors. Congratulations to Melony, Lee and Don!**

- **Outstanding Rangeland Management (*Stephen Zuberbueler*):** We will not have the ORSM Award this year, but the ORM Award will be presented tonight. I would also encourage more nominations.
- **Scholarship (*Jason Hohlt*):** The scholarship was not presented at the State 4-H Roundup as eligible applicants were previously selected.
- **Youth Activities (*Lee Knox*)** Barron was recognized with 6 monogrammed shirts and a framed print for 25+ years as director/co-director at the YRW Awards Program. *Thank you Barron!*
- **Other Committee Reports:** none

**TSSRM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (*Charles Anderson*)** Right now the section is very financially solvent. We would like to thank Dan Caudle and George Peacock for helping raise \$16,000+ for the section from hosting the 2005 SRM annual meeting. The funds have been invested - \$5000 of which was invested in the new Youth Activities Foundation. *However, we are only 3 years away from insolvency* – so we need to focus on remaining fiscally sound and continuing to raise \$8000-\$10000 from each annual meeting. While we did approve a deficit budget this year, we will not spend all our funds. We need to encourage more members to come to annual meetings to remain profitable. The ***Land Management Tips for Small Texas Ranches*** was mostly funded by outside sources beyond TSSRM. \$1500 has been set aside to reprint this publication. We need to also seek out grant funding as we are a non-profit. While I tried to cut back my local workload, this has been the busiest year ever. We are all busy in many activities, so *we need to remain committed. We are not really juggling tasks – we have a bookshelf and we work on one book at a time.* Other groups are amazed that we run annual meetings, and host national meetings, with all volunteer efforts. If we are asked to chair a committee, we need to make it a priority to set aside the time and commit to following through. Membership retention – we need to do a better job of retaining a member, especially students. While it used to be a priority to encourage new employees to be members, it seems that we have slipped on that effort. We need to involve the Young



Professionals more. We need to be aware of generational differences and be aware of what motivates each generation. We have to get/keep the youth involved. I had an idea that TSSRM needed to put on a symposia on the value of rangelands – after study it was determined that this was not the way to go. Our membership diversity is a value but also a hindrance in determining direction. The investigational media campaign brought out that all volunteer sponsors for media events are difficult. We need to get more media exposure/name recognition. Don't be afraid to contact Paul Loeffler or Jerry Payne with the activities committee to have the section be a co-sponsor at a multi-county event. *We need to do a better job of goal setting and follow through.* We also looked at the groups that use rangelands, even if they are not looking at it that they are rangeland users. Thus, we are working to form a Texas Grazinglands Coalition. A meeting will be held in February to start meeting with interested rangeland users. The Past Presidents Breakfast will allow those to provide insight into this developing Coalition effort.

Remind everyone that ***October has been designated by Texas Governor Rick Perry as Range Management Month by official proclamation.***

**SRM NATIONAL REPORT** (*Allen Rasmussen*) Welcome from the SRM Board of Directors and thank you for everything you have done for the national society. I would really like to thank Mort Kothmann for all of his efforts as Society President – you really made a difference and I appreciate it. Some of the successes: changing the Journals and how we are publishing. I also want to thank Keith Owens for his significant efforts as REM Editor. I would also like to thank Barron Rector for his many years of work on the High School Youth Forum.

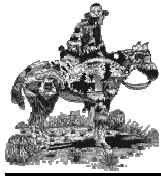
In talking about our successes – the successful changes to the Journal. We have really increased the size of our annual meetings and increased the diversity of our membership. The number of people attending (~1/2 of the entire membership annually)

**A proposal has been put out to have the annual meetings at a set number of cities (4 or 5).** Workload would be shared with surrounding sections, so one section wouldn't be responsible for all host duties.

**Larry Butler:** we should keep it like we presently do it. By having competition for hosting our annual meetings – we were able to get the Fort Worth Convention Center for \$1 – rather than the \$30000 normally. By have set locations – you would always have folks doing meeting planning. Agencies, etc will not give you that amount of staff time to be in constantly planning.

**Mort Kothmann:** we need to have competition for meetings, but on the other hand we have many sections that don't have the facilities to host the annual meeting. Those sections would also like to benefit from hosting. I would challenge the Board to keep what is right by keeping the competition, etc. but figure out what is the best direction to involve the smaller sections.

**Dan Caudle:** from our experience in Fort Worth, some of the reasons HQ put forth don't hold water. Their reasoning's listed are not correct on hotels/management, CVB staff, etc. There is no consistency just because it is in the same city.



**Barron Rector:** being on the side of education and going to all the different host sites, what have we learned, what have we seen? Students wouldn't get exposed to the diversity of rangelands, and the diversity.

**Willy Conrad:** we need to continue with the way we have been. By going to all the different cities, we learn far more than only a few cities.

**Jerry Payne:** maybe the Board needs to bring back the summer meetings for the smaller sections showcase their rangelands. I learned more at the summer meetings, by sight and hands on, in these locations.

**Butler:** have you talked to organizations that are doing this very thing? Is it really advantageous? It seems that there are no advantages on hotel rates, etc.

**Rasmussen:** SD Section has offered to host several times as it is a major membership drive for them.

**Caudle:** some of the cities that have been proposed for host location are not suitable for us, they don't really want us, don't care for us to be there.

**Paula Maywald:** the proposal is an option, can't we rotate the hosting so that if a section hosts a winter meeting, they host a summer meeting the next time so we can see these rangelands under "growing" conditions.

**Joe Franklin:** What about several of the small sections banding together to host in a given location? South Dakota indicated that hosting there allows their agencies to commit time/effort and it brings money to the local economy.

**Rasmussen:** How wants to keep it the way it is now – everyone. Who wants to go with the change? No hands raised.

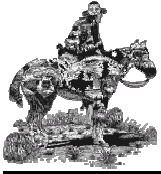
Membership issue on payroll deduction option – the deduction was stopped as it was cost prohibitive – SRM was charged \$1 per transaction for bank withdrawal. SRM is willing to look at it again if there is enough interest? A couple. We'll bring it up and see if we can revisit it by Reno.

Youth involvement: when we look at our demographics, we do a good job of signing people up, but we don't keep them as members (especially retirees). It's not just keeping the new members, but how do we bring in the experienced folks and retirees to keep them members. What do we need to do to keep them active?

**Any questions for the board? None.** Don't hesitate to holler, I'm in Kingsville.

#### **OPEN MIKE SESSION:**

- **Kothmann:** I would like to put in a plug for Urs Kreuter, who is currently running for SRM Director. He grew up in Africa, and is currently at TAMU. He would bring the international component back to the Board. I think he would represent Texas well on the Board.
- **Ernest Fish:** Announcing that 3 weeks ago, the higher education coordinating board approved our request for a name change to the **Department of Natural Resources Management (TTU)**. We are transitioning to the new name, but we are the same old department. We are retaining the degree program, just changing the department name.



Nominations & Elections Committee – Boardroom at 5:00 pm.

Young Professionals Conclave also meeting at 5:00 pm.

Motion to Adjourn by **Kent Ferguson**. Second by **Jeff Goodwin**. **MEETING  
ADJOURNED at 4:20pm.**

---

Bruce S. Healy, Secretary

MINUTES