



Regular 1st quarter meeting was called to order at 9:14 am. Present were: Melony Sikes – President, Bill Pinchak – 1st Vice President, Lee Knox – Director, Jeff Goodwin – Director & Newsletter Editor, Diaz Murray – Director, Kent Ferguson – Director, Jerry Payne – Past President, Robert Moen – Treasurer, Natalie Wolff – Website and Bruce Healy – Secretary. **Absent were: Matt Wagner – 2nd Vice President, Donald Cox – Director, Scott Petty – Director.** Also present: Paul Loeffler - member, Charles Anderson – member and cook.

Sikes completed roll call. Committee reports requiring no action were reviewed.

Ferguson arrived at 9:52 am and a quorum was established. A review of committee reports continued.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting taken by Natalie Wolff were distributed for board review via email on June 25th. **Motion by Ferguson to accept minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Murray. Motion carried unanimously.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report provided by Moen. He reviewed the treasurer's report, audit report, and tax return. Nacogdoches AM had a profit of \$4067.

Current Balances as of (5/31/09):

TSSRM General Operating Fund (6/30/09)	\$32,615.43	GOF CD's - \$20,000.00
TSSRM Endowment Fund	\$38,979.94	
TSSRM MSF	\$60,079.99	
TSSRM Bill Wyche MSF	\$47,538.06	
TSSRM YAC Endowment Fund	\$15,101.00	

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

- **Endowment Fund Committee request follow-up (tabled from last meeting) by Moen – Moen** reviewed our current investments of the various funds (reports provided). The proposal for fund management from last meeting was tabled for further discussion at this meeting. All of Funds (EF, MSF, BWMSF, and YACEF) are management interlinked at Frost Bank, as we need to have a total funds balance over \$100,000 managed by them. **Murray** asked for clarification of the report and the EF committee's request for board action at the last meeting. Regarding **Whigham's** (Endowment Fund committee chair) suggestion to move the EF out of Frost Bank - **Murray** indicated that Edward D Jones is not covered by FDIC – which would violate our current investment policy.
 - **New report from EF Committee (Whigham) –** Committee Report emailed last night. **Payne** suggested that we consider tabling this action to Beaumont to have the EF Committee present for the discussion. **Loeffler** also suggested that we also invite Frost Bank to sit in on the explanation of the management of the funds. Discussion held. Knox commented that funds grow through investments, not management. We pay folks to manage the money, we need to have our members in charge of fundraising.
 - **Motion by Knox to take this activity off of table. Second by Ferguson. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - **Ferguson motion to leave our investments with Frost Bank as per our current investment policy. 2nd by Murray. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - **The board graciously thanks the Endowment Fund Committee for their attention to detail and commitment to our funds management.**

NEWSLETTER: Goodwin reported. Next issue is about ½ done. Please keep sending in your articles. **Goodwin** requested to email Dr. Robert Knight to get some photos on the 2009 YRW for the next issue.



WEBSITE REPORT: Goodwin/Healy reviewed current status.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACTIVITIES & EDUCATION: Payne gave a report on the ranch tour of the 2008 ORM Tour of the Graves T-Bar Ranch. Excellent tour and chuck wagon lunch. Family very pleased with it and it went well.

ANNUAL MEETING:

- 2009 AM (Beaumont): Sikes/Newman/Pate *oral report* – Hotel reopened in March – onsite preconvention site visit has been made. Draft agenda/speakers has been developed. Impacts of Hurricane Ike still visible in many areas. No cattle in the marsh at present. Beaumont appears to be mostly recovered, but the coastal areas were heavily impacted. Best of Beaumont tour (9-3) will be limited to the first 30 people and will include the Basilica. There is a potential for a revegetation event. Several restaurants are nearby the hotel for other dining options. They have decided not to do door prizes. A passport to have everyone interact with the trade show vendors and then ask where they want to go in 2013, making them eligible for the handwoven rug by Lois Vicente (Lordsburg NM). Trade show will be limited to 40 booths. There will be an apparel order for preconvention ordering. Maximum registration is 500 – reaching out to several outside partners. First 250 paid registrants will receive with special incentive thank you. Need help with meeting sponsors. Board meeting is Tuesday from 5 to 9 pm. Preconvention tour on Wednesday.
- 2010 AM (Odessa): Pinchak *report* – Sikes reported that Steve Hartmann and Ray Schimcek are co-chairs. Cody Scott also actively involved.
- 2011 AM (San Angelo): Wagner *report* –

AWARDS: Nelle – no report.

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES: Reyna – no report. Room has been requested for the Collegiate Plant ID meeting.

ENDOWMENT: Whigham – report attached. Also see the activity in the Treasurer's Report above.

GRASS ROOTS AWARDS: Clendenin – no report. Announcement has been sent out.

MEMBERSHIP: McClintock report attached. Sikes reviewed the latest Expired Members list from SRM.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: Franklin reported that ~450 TSSRM election ballots were mailed out the week of June 22nd – under budget.

ORM: Payton report attached. ORM and ORS winners have been selected. Plaques and signs have been ordered. Loeffler presented discussion item regarding the potential need this committee needing to have a standing or longer-term chair (2-4 years). Further discussion will be at Beaumont as the 2nd VP or 1st VP are not here.

PLANNING (2012 AM): Payne gave oral report. A solicitation has been sent out to the CVB's and our newsletter. El Paso has contacted. Encourage everyone to bring up nominations for other host cities and encourage our members to become involved as there has not been too much activity.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS: Stanley no report. Sikes reported that the committee created the Save The Date flier for Beaumont and emailed out across the state. They are also working on a news release *for October is Range Management Month*.



- **TNLA:** McGinty/Pinchak no report. Anderson/Ferguson reported on burning of brush piles, etc. Ferguson is working on a informational flier for landowners on how to safely burn brush piles before prescribed burning.

PUBLICATION AWARDS: Ansley agreed to step in to chair again this year. Knox reported that there are a number of nominations in several categories. July 20th is the deadline.

RESOLUTIONS: Caudle submitted a negative report.

SCHOLARSHIP: Tibbs report attached. This year, *Thomas Huff is the winner*, and he also attended the 2009 YRW this year where he was the Trail Boss. Loeffler also requested that this group should also consider this committee having a longer-term chair. Mostly, it is a timing issue with the State 4-H Foundation (must be done very early). This really is not a committee, its one person, unless there is a fundraising event. The State 4-H Foundation would like to work with TSSRM to develop a marketing strategy for this scholarship, and we have been remiss in working with them. This will be reviewed again in Beaumont with the ORM committee chair proposal.

Report from Wyche Scholarship – a winner has been selected.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS: Owens reported attached. Committee requests input from the board on ideas for additional range topic fliers. Murray suggested a flier be developed on how to digitally scan grass plants/seedheads to create your own digital library. Knox suggested we develop a one-page flier for each ecoregion of the 5 key grazing plants of that region.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Scasta report attached.

- YRW – 33 total youth attended. We had 4 Junior Directors this year (last year's HSYF participants and the state 4-H range record book winner- 2nd place this year due to a schedule conflict). Loeffler reported it was an outstanding year. Sikes requested that a report and a few photos be put in the next newsletter.
- Loeffler also reported that, as a YAC committee member, that the YAC would highly encourage the Board/Officers to come spend some time at YRW.
- Loeffler also reported on the YAC fundraiser for the Beaumont meeting – similar to the South Padre meeting. Grand prize will be a custom BBQ pit. Need to figure of how to conduct the reverse raffle in conjunction with the mixer.

Recessed for lunch: 12:16pm.

Reconvened from lunch: 12:56pm. *Anderson provided a tremendous lunch! THANK YOU!*

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Texas Prescribed Burn Symposia:** Goodwin reported on the planning committee meeting on July 16, 2009 at Buchanan Dam. After the events in the meeting, the workshop will be changed from Prescribed Burning Symposia to an Adaptive Management of Rangelands. This meeting has opened more doors that initially envisioned and it is a positive aspect to get the correct change. 70% of the days in Travis County (last year) were in a burn ban. Only 1/3 of those days were actually in high/extreme fire danger. Our point is to get the science involved to help in determining the when a burn ban should be implemented. It will still be a 2-day event on how do we effect policy to get the law changed to the benefit of prescribed burning and the proactive benefits of prescribed fire. Discussion held. Goodwin reported that they have spent \$360 of their budget so far (under budget).
- **Texas Forest Service-forest reclassification (Caudle submission):** Sikes was asked to get additional information, and she forwarded it out to the board via email. I think they have informally reconsidered their proposal. They are not trying to take over our business, just get more funds for firefighting, etc.
- **Archivist:** Started with Harold Bryant – no response yet. Knox has graciously volunteered to serve as archivist. Sikes has officially appointed Knox as archivist.
- **Endowment Fund committee guidelines** – check wording on management of funds.



NEW BUSINESS:

- **TSSRM Photo Contest:** We reviewed the current rules posted on the website. Payne suggested we add a new category as "Outside of Texas" and keep all the other categories. We also need to find a new chair – need to email in suggestions to Sikes, one-week deadline.
- **Payne:** Texas Native Plant Society will be having their annual meeting in Wichita Falls the week after Beaumont. We need to have our informational booth at that conference.
- **Sikes:** Range Stewardship certification concept. **Knox** said to check out the Montana State website.
- **Sikes:** SRM AC discussion in ABQ for 2013 host cities. An email vote was sent out for AC consideration, and Fort Worth as one of the top 3 choices to be voted on.

Next Meeting: Tue Oct 5 @ 5pm @ Beaumont.

Being no further business, meeting is adjourned at 2:04 pm.

Thank you for attending and participating in the meeting.

Bruce S. Healy, Secretary