

Range Science Education Council
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2004

Members Present:

Sam Fuhlendorf (Oklahoma State Univ.), Ernest B. Fish (Texas Tech Univ.), Karen Launchbaugh (Univ. of Idaho), Karen Hickman (Fort Hays State Univ.), Don Kirby (North Dakota State Univ.), Dan Rodgers (Univ. of Wyoming), Leonard Jolly (USDA NRCS Liason, SRM staff), Bruce Menzel (USDA CSREES, Wash. D.C.), Dan Kugler (USDA CSREES, Wash. D.C.), Jeff Miller (Oregon State Univ.), Edward Bork (Univ. of Alberta), Mitch McClaran (Univ. of Arizona), K.O. Fulgham (Humboldt State Univ.), Rob Kinucano (Sul Ross State Univ.), Bok Sowell (Montana State Univ.), Laurie Abbott (New Mexico State Univ.), Walter Schacht (Univ. of Nebraska), Pat Johnson (South Dakota State Univ.), Chuck Butterfield (Chadron State College), John Brock (Arizona State Univ. East).

Introductions

Minutes approved

Business Meeting

Evaluation of Range Students for Federal Jobs

Dan Kugler, CSREES in Washington visited with the Council. He explained that there has been no Resource Leader for the past 5 years. The agency is attempting to set policy to oversee range resources in Washington D.C. He has shared time with SRM one day per week.

Bruce Menzel is also with USDA, CREES in Washington D.C. He is a USDA National Program Leader for Fish and Wildlife issues and handles research, extension and education.

Leonard Jolly expressed an interest in working with RSEC on revisions to job qualifications.

Lauri Abbott stated that students needed 18 hr of range-related courses, but the prefixes listed on the transcripts kept evaluators from recognizing these classes. Several people concurred that the acronyms are causing problems. Don Kirby and Sam Fuhlendorf pointed out that plant ecology courses are often not counted as range credits due to the prefix of the class. Ken Fulgham suggested we compile a computerized list of courses and how they are related so evaluators will be able to cross-reference courses. Several members expressed concern that federal agencies and Range Universities are not asking for the same qualification. They suggested that agencies work with SRM or RSEC to make these requirements clear. Ken, Mitch, Laurie and Bok agreed to form a sub-committee to investigate the possibilities of coordinating our course titles with job requirements.

Range Management Presentation:

Leonard Jolly is working on a power point presentation with photographs which depict changes over a 100 year time span. He solicited more pictures. Karen Launchbaugh also requested pictures with fence line contrasts.

Career Brochure

It was suggested that RSEC check the Career Brochure. It is posted on the SRM web site.

Certification

Students wishing to take the certification exam may do so when they graduate. Then, they must have 5 years experience for CPRM. There is no sunset time on the exam, and no fee for the exam if they are not certified.

Update of RSEC membership list

It was pointed out that there was a faculty list and a question if such a list should be maintained.

RSEC Brochure

It was suggested that RSEC develop a brochure to explain the benefits to faculty and students to being a member of RSEC. Chuck Butterfield suggested it be a folder on the SRM web site.

NASALGIC

Walter Schacht attended the Natural Resource Board and informed us that SRM is not represented on the Board. Our discipline does not have formal status, although Tom Thurow was an ex-officio. He stated that foresters were interested in working with range people. Walter explained that fire was one area which could use some representation. He further explained that there was not a seat on the Board available to range.

Teaching Award

Ron Sosebee announced that a selection had been made and thanked the members for their work.

Teaching Awards Committee

Karen Launchbaugh and Ken Fulgham volunteered to serve on the committee for the next three years. The committee is chaired by Don Kirby. The other members include Wayne Leininger, Ron Sosebee and Pat Johnson.

Secretary of RSEC

Dan Rogers was unanimously selected for the position of secretary.

Meeting Adjourned