

**Range Science Education Council
Annual Meeting Minutes - Vancouver BC
February 12, 2006**

Meeting called to order by Ken Fulgham @ 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Barry Perryman (University of Nevada - Reno), Carl Wambolt (Montana State University), Carlos Villalobos (Texas Tech University), Don Kirby (North Dakota State University), Edward Bork (University of Alberta), Georgia Yonglove (Chadron State College), Jeff Fehmi (University of Arizona), Jim Bartolome (University of California - Berkeley), John Brock (Arizona State University), John Malechek (Utah State University), Karen Hickman (Oklahoma State University), Karen Launchbaugh (University of Idaho), Ken Fulgham (Humboldt State University), Linda Hardesty (Washington State University), Mike McInnis (Oregon State University), Mort Kothmann (Texas A&M University), Pat Johnson (South Dakota State University), Val Jo Anderson (Brigham Young University), Walter Fick (Kansas State University), Wayne Leininger (Colorado State University)

- Student Request Presented. Jessica Warner discussed that she had attended the National Conference on Conservation in St. Louis on behalf of the SRM Student Conclave. Jessica covered her own expenses for this meeting. She will give a report on her trip at the Student Conclave luncheon. Jessica asked for \$500 to \$800 to support her travel expenses. Request tabled until discussion of new business.
- 2005 Meeting Minutes Approved. Patricia Johnson moved to accept minutes from the 2005 Fort Worth meeting as circulated/ Wayne Leininger seconded/ motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report was presented by Don Kirby. Twenty-five institutions are members of RSEC, however, to date, only 20 Universities have paid dues. (List of institutions circulated) Currently, cannot accept credit cards to pay dues. List of members and potential members circulated for corrections. Currently, RSEC has \$15,753 in savings and about \$615 in checking. Receipts of \$1,293 and payments of \$1,292 in 2005. Motion to accept treasurer's report by Val Jo Anderson/ Karen Hickman seconded. Discussion about the fact that current fees cover current costs. Unless activities require additional expenses, it currently doesn't make sense to have more money in reserve unless we are going to use it. Motion to accept treasurer's report passed.
- Historian's Report. Wayne Leininger circulated an addendum to the RSEC history. The Historian's report includes officers, activities, award winners, etc. Carl Wambolt moved to accept Historian's report/Pat Johnson seconded/motion passed. Wayne announced his desire to resign from his post as RSEC Historian. Pat Johnson nominated Mort Kothmann for Historian. Val moved to close nomination/ Mike McInnis seconded/ motion passed. Vote was taken for Historina and Mort Kothmann was elected. (Congratulations to Mort). K. Launchbaugh and M. Kothmann agreed to work together to place historians report and other related documents on the SRM web page as an "Affiliated Organization."
- Undergraduate Teaching Award Committee met by conference call in 2005 and selected the 2006 winner of the Undergraduate Teaching Award which will be awarded at the ceremony

Action Items:

- Treasurer will write a check for \$400 to Jessica Warner.
- M. Kothmann and K. Launchbaugh will work to establish a RSEC section on the SRM webpage and post historian documents.
- K. Hickman is new chair of Teaching Award Committee. J. Fehmi & D. Kirby are new members.
- RSEC Exec Committee will work with D. Kirby to create a policy regarding how requests are made for RSEC funding.

of the 2006 Annual Meeting. The award committee chair for 2006 will be Karen Hickman. Karen Launchbaugh and Ken Fulgham will continue in the third year of their terms. Rob Kinucan and Karen Hickman will begin their second year. Two new committee members are needed on the committee this year. Jeff Fehmi and Don Kirby agreed to serve as incoming members for 3-year terms.

- Election of New Secretary. Mort Kothmann nominated Karen Launchbaugh for secretary. Val Jo Anderson moved nominations cease/ Linda Hardesty seconded motion/ motion passed. No further nominations. Karen Launchbaugh reluctantly accepted nomination and was elected incoming secretary of RSEC.
- OPM Standards/Student Coursework. A form was recently created and circulated by Mitch McClaran to inform position raters of which course at each university will fill OPM standards for range conservationist. Discussion ensued regarding how to use the form and who to send this list. The form needs to be sent with individual students who are hoping to pursue range jobs with the Federal Agencies. The RSEC expresses thanks to Mitch McClaran for his work to create this document and Bok Sowell for his work on this project. The form will be circulated with the minutes and posted on the RSEC web site.
- Agency/RSEC relations discussion related to how programs are meeting the demand for range students needed by pending retirements in the agencies. A discussion ensued on an update on types of degree and course in Range Degrees and requirements. Representatives from each University gave an update on their range program and graduates. The general themes were:
 - Continued strong employment opportunities for range graduates. Nearly all range students get jobs in range.
 - Students appear to be attracted to new degree and course titles that are not centered on range such as conservation biology, ecological restoration, wildlife habitat ecology, and applied landscape ecology.
 - University programs continue to go through structural changes including department mergers and creation of cross-disciplinary programs.
 - A future challenge may be getting well-rounded and yet well-trained range professors. A concern was expressed that we are training fewer Ph.D. students with an understanding of rangeland management. Thus, it may be difficult in Universities to hire good professors that can teach and serve the profession..
- Discuss Support for Student Funds Request. Mort Kothmann moved that Jessica Warner be given \$400 toward her travel to the conservation meeting/ Georgia Younglove seconded. Discussion centered on a concern that we will undoubtedly be setting a precedence of requesting funds after the fact. Motion passed. With this gift to Jessica, two additional actions were set: 1) K. Launchbaugh will go to Student Advisory Committee and ask their assistance to develop a Student Conclave budget, and 2) Develop an RSEC policy for how funds can be requested from this body. The RSEC Exec Committee will work with Don to create a policy regarding how requests are made for RSEC funding.
- Adjournment. Pat Johnson moved adjournment/ Karen Hickman seconded/ motion passed/ Meeting adjourned.