

**Range Science Education Council  
Annual Meeting Minutes - Reno, NV  
February 11, 2007**

Meeting called to order by Dan Rogers @ 1:00 p.m.

**Members and Guests Present:**

Ward Brady (Arizona State University), Georgia Younglove (Chadron State College), Edward Bork (University of Alberta), Jack Taylor (Montana State University), Ernest B. Fish (Texas Tech University), John C. Malechek (Utah State University), Val Anderson (Brigham Young University), Tom Thurow & Dan Rogers (University of Wyoming), Mort Kothmann (Texas A&M University), Mike McInnis (Oregon State University), Pat Johnson (South Dakota State University), Karen Hickman (Oklahoma State University), Laurie Abbott (New Mexico State University), Jeff Fehmi (University of Arizona), Karen Launchbaugh (University of Idaho), Ken Fulgham (Humboldt State University), James Bartolome (University of California - Berkeley), Linda Hardesty (Washington State University), Walter Fick (Kansas State University), Jim Dobrowolski (USDA - CSREES, Washington DC), Jim O'Rourke (Chadron State College, retired).

Minutes were distributed. Ernie Fish moved minutes accepted with minor revisions (spelling errors and typos). Patricia Johnson seconded motion/motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by Don Kirby. Twenty-seven institutions were members of RSEC in 2006. Account balances of January 1, 2007 were \$15,241 in savings and \$641 in checking. Receipts of \$1,499 and payments of \$1,590 were made in 2007. Discussion ensued about ways to increase participation by members who have not paid dues or other schools that have not previously participated. Treasurer Kirby said he would be happy contact institutions with interest. Ken Fulgham moved to accept the treasurers report/Mike McInnis seconded/motion passed.

Outstanding Teaching Award - Karen Hickman, chair of the Undergraduate Teaching Award Committee, reported that 4 applications were submitted this year. Voting went well and included a member of the SRM awards committee this year, as should always be done, but has not consistently been in the past. Ken Fulgham moved to accept report/ Pat Johnson seconded motion/ motion passed. Karen Launchbaugh and Ken Fulgham will rotate off the committee, while Georgia Younglove (Chadron State) and Ed Bork (University of Alberta) began 3-year terms on the committee.

Election of New Secretary – Mort Kothmann nominated Karen Hickman to serve as secretary. Pat Johnson move nomination cease and Mike McInnis seconded, Karen did not protest severely enough, and election of Karen Hickman for RSEC Secretary passed unanimously.

Historian's Report - Mort Kothmann noted that he will amend the history of the RSEC (including officers, award winners, etc.) and will send file to Karen Launchbaugh. Karen agreed to make sure the RSEC was placed on the SRM web page under "Affiliated Organizations." Several members noted that there was once a box of RSEC archives that may be in the SRM headquarters. It is likely that Ron Sosebee or Ann Mehan may know the location of the missing box. Ernie Fish and Mort Kothmann agreed to contact Ron Sosebee and try to find box of archival information. It might also be located with Mike Smith, University of Wyoming, or the SRM History/Archives/Library Committee.

**Action Items for 2007:**

- ▶ Historian, M. Kothmann will send current files of RSEC history to K. Launchbaugh to be posted on the web.
- ▶ E. Fish and M. Kothmann agreed to contact R. Sosebee and try to find RSEC archival information
- ▶ Undergraduate Award Committee will develop and propose a 2-tier award system for early career and more experience teachers.
- ▶ The RSEC officers will suggest a reasonable procedure for making decisions regarding requests for funding and project.
- ▶ K. Fulgham and D. Kirby will determine how to facilitate a request for membership by J. Dobrowolski of USDA-CSREES

### **New Business:**

Discussion on the teaching award focused on adding a new award for “New Promising Faculty.” In the past more senior faculty members have been awarded because they simply have more experience and recognition. Several members noted that engaging young faculty may actually increase interest and awareness in the teaching award. Concern was expressed that we will not get nominations for younger faculty if there is a perception that a nominated young faculty does not have a good chance of being awarded. The titles suggested for a 2-tier award included “Distinguished Career in Teaching” versus “Early Career Excellence in Teaching.” Pat Johnson moved/Ernest Fish seconded that the Teaching Award Committee develop and propose a two-tier system for recognizing early career and more experienced faculty with appropriate award names. The proposal will be sent to members for an electronic vote with the intention to institute a 2-tier system in 2008 if the proposal is accepted.

- **Re-accreditation Update** - This is the first year of the revised standards and procedures for accreditation. Mort Kothmann gave an overview of new accreditation. Value of accreditation was discussed. The value or need for accreditation varies by department and institution.
- **What Is In a Name?** - Mort Kothmann opened a discussion whether the term “range” is outdated. More and more schools are moving away from the name “Range” or “Rangeland” in the title of courses and departments. Val Anderson also spoke to the point that the term “Range” in the degree level was no longer relevant. The term “wildlands” was suggested as an alternative. Tom Thurow also spoke to the point and reported on survey results that showed faculty, researchers, resource managers, consultants, and ranchers noted that 24% said the term “range” was “essential”, 38% responded it was “highly desirable”, 22% noted “moderately desirable”, and 16% responded it makes “little or no difference.” This topic was not resolved but may serve as a source of projects or discussions in future RSEC meetings.
- **How to Handle Requests from RSEC for Funding** - Karen Launchbaugh opened a discussion on what we could do with our budget. Should funds be used to support activities of RSEC only? Or, should we accept proposals from outside RSEC? Don Kirby noted that dues were initially collected to support the Teaching Award and workshops. Several members noted that funds could be used to do workshops and symposia. Generally, consensus was that the funds should be used to support interests of dues paying members. However, other groups or organizations could submit requests to RSEC for funding of projects with high relevance to the mission and goal of RSEC. The RSEC officers will discuss the development of a reasonable procedure for making decisions regarding requests.

**Transfer of the Leadership** – Dan Rodgers passed the RSEC Presidency to Ken Fulgham.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Requests:**

- Jim Dobrowolski of CSREES has requested membership in RSEC. Don Kirby and Ken Fulgham will follow up to determine how to accommodate this membership.
- Ken Fulgham requested ideas for future activities.
- Jim O'Rourke requested videos on rangeland types of North America for a faculty member associated with the International Grassland Congress.
- Oklahoma State University informed RSEC that a new department called “Natural Resource Ecology and Management” has been created at Oklahoma State University. The new department includes Fire Ecology & Mgmt., Fisheries & Aquatic Ecology, Forest Mgmt., Forest Resource Conservation, Natural Resource Communications, Rangeland Ecology & Mgmt., Urban & Community Forestry, and Wildlife Ecology & Mgmt.

Jeff Fehmi moved that the meeting be adjourned/Don Kirby seconded/ motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.