

**Range Science Education Council  
Annual Meeting Minutes – Louisville, KY  
January 27, 2008**

Meeting called to order by Karen Launchbaugh at 9:10 am.

**Members and Guests Present:**

21 member institutions were represented with 4 guests. Cindy McArthur (USDA Forest Service/SRM Liaison), Mike Borman (Oregon State University), John Brock (Arizona State University Polytechnic), Georgia Younglove (Chadron State College), Edward Bork (University of Alberta), Ernest B. Fish (Texas Tech University), Chris Call & John C. Malechek (Utah State University), Jim Waggoner (University of Wyoming), Mort Kothmann (Texas A&M University), Pat Johnson (South Dakota State University), Karen Hickman (Oklahoma State University), Mitch McClaran (University of Arizona), Karen Launchbaugh (University of Idaho), Ken Fulgham (Humboldt State University), Linda Hardesty (Washington State University), Walter Fick (Kansas State University), Jim Dobrowolski (USDA - CSREES, Washington DC), Don Kirby (North Dakota State University), Kendra Moseley (USDA-NRCS-CA), Laurie Abbott (New Mexico State University), Ann Hild (University of Wyoming), Val Jo Anderson (Brigham Young University), Steve Bunting (University of Idaho), Barry Perryman (University of Nevada-Reno).

**Program:** “Recruiting Rangeland Professionals for the Future”

Karen Launchbaugh began the meeting by providing a brief overview of the program by discussing “Rangeland Recruiting: Obstacles and Opportunities”.

Karen Hickman and Chris Call presented “Range, Rangeland, Wildland, Arid-land, Grassland, etc... In Search of the Right Words”. Results from the informal survey conducted by Ling Babcock one of Karen Launchbaugh’s students, were presented. Chris presented a case study of Utah State’s development of a B.S. Degree in Conservation and Restoration Ecology and its current status after 5 years, relative to the performance of the Rangeland Ecology and Management program.

Zackie Salmon from the University of Wyoming McNair Scholars program, presented an overview of “Who is the Millennial Student?” Key Point: Not US!

Ken Fulgham described challenges associated with “Recruiting Range Students” into Humboldt State’s Range program by presenting the powerpoint program developed by Lisa Perry, Recruiter for Humboldt State University’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Karen Launchbaugh directed a discussion of recruiting difficulties and solutions among members of the audience. Request was made for the speaker’s presentations and the guide for course work equivalencies produced by Mitch McClaran to be posted to the RSEC website. Action was proposed to address revising Office of Personnel Management (OPM) standards as they relate to coursework. Mort proposed communicating with SRM to develop a task force addressing revision of OPM standards.

**Business Meeting began at 11:10 am.** Minutes were distributed. Action Items for 2007 were reviewed for status: Mort sent the RSEC history files to Karen Launchbaugh. Ernest Fish and Mort Kothmann contacted Ron Sosebee and obtained RSEC archival information. It was suggested that Wayne Leininger should be contacted to obtain other files---Mort will follow up on that. Proposals have been created on the Undergraduate Teaching award and procedures for requesting RSEC funding for proposals. Mort pointed out a constitutional bylaw concerning the requirements for voting members because of the request by Jim Dobrowolski (USDA - CSREES, Washington DC) to become a member of RSEC. It was decided that he could be a non-voting member. John Brock moved that the minutes be accepted. Mort Kothmann seconded motion/motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by Don Kirby who reported that 27 institutions were members of RSEC in 2007. Account balances of January 1, 2008 were \$15,394.02 in savings and \$941.30 in checking. Receipts of \$1,350.00 and \$152.98 interest income were received and payments of \$1,010.00 were made in 2007. Pat Johnson moved to accept the treasurers report/Ed Bork seconded/motion passed. Discussion concerning Don needing an assistant during his SRM vice-presidency and presidency resulted in Don suggesting that he involve one of his NDSU colleagues, Shawn DeKeyser, in the next couple of years.

Historian's Report was presented by Mort Kothmann. Webpage was updated to include all RSEC history files. Karen Launchbaugh pleaded for all members to check their respective institutional link on the RSEC website to make sure they are correct. Karen Launchbaugh will also talk to Tanaka about moving the RSEC website to the SRM server.

Outstanding Teaching Award - Karen Hickman, chair of the Undergraduate Teaching Award Committee, reported that no new applications were submitted this year, however, there were 3 applications still eligible. The committee has made its 2008 selection and will announce it during the Student Awards ceremony.

### **New Business:**

Ken Fulgham asked what time is best for the RSEC meeting: consensus of members present indicated that Sunday morning is best.

Selection of replacement members for the Teaching Award Committee. Karen Hickman and Robert Kinucan will rotate off the committee. Pat Johnson volunteered and Barry Perryman was appointed by Ken Fulgham to serve a 3-year term. Ed Bork (2010) was appointed as chair of the committee. Remaining members are Jeff Fehmi (2009), Don Kirby (2009), Georgia Younglove (2010).

Election of New Secretary – Georgia Younglove was nominated to serve as secretary. Val Jo Anderson move nomination cease and Mike McInnis seconded it. Election of Georgia Younglove as RSEC Secretary passed unanimously.

### **Proposed changes to by-laws:**

Karen Launchbaugh began a discussion and presentation of 3 proposed changes to the by-laws and procedures:

1. Teaching Award: Karen Hickman presented the RSEC with 2 proposed teaching awards from the Teaching Awards Committee. Discussion followed concerning the direction of the two-tier awards: Distinguished Teaching Award and the second proposed was the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. Further discussion ensued with the result being that no one objects to moving to a two-tier award, however, more revisions need to be made and completed prior to the 2009 awards. Major points of discussion were what level of career the awards should go to, reference to Range

### **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 two-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

curriculum needs to be revised, and undergraduate teaching should be the focus. Karen Hickman will make the discussed changes and forward to Ed Bork who will complete the revisions. Approval of the awards will be conducted via email.

2. Karen Launchbaugh presented a proposal to revise the by-laws to "Allow up to \$1000 of RSEC funds be used, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, to develop the program for annual meetings including paying speaker expenses and providing necessary meeting supplies." The vote to amend the by-laws will be made by email, with no response considered a "yes" vote. Request was made to provide \$250 to Zackie Salmon for presenting information about the Millennial Generation. Approved by consensus.

3. The third proposal to amend the by-laws addressed funding RSEC projects. Any funding request submitted to RSEC must address the RSEC Objectives as follows: Proposal for projects of activities must promote the objectives of the RSEC as stated in the Constitution and By-Laws. Proposals can be submitted by any member of RSEC and should be submitted by January 15 each year. Proposals will be considered by the Executive Committee and forwarded/presented to the RSEC for approval at the annual meeting. The vote to amend the by-laws will be made by email, with no response considered a "yes" vote.

Proposal request for 2008: Karen Launchbaugh also presented a request for funding to

- Develop a new brochure with and for SRM on "Careers in Rangeland Management".
- Find money from SRM or other source to print brochure and distribute to RSEC members.
- Develop a web page on Careers in Rangeland Conservation for the SRM website, RangelandsWest.org, and to be used widely by members of RSEC.
- Survey career web pages used by students to identify careers and make sure a positive and powerful representation of rangeland careers is included.

The request was made for \$3000 for 2008. Karen Launchbaugh and Karen Hickman will take the lead. Anyone else interested in participating are free to join them. Pat Johnson moved/Ernest Fish seconded/Motion passed.

### **Announcements:**

In the future we need to consider whether Range Science Education Council is the best name we can put forward.

Phil Gipson will become Department Head of Texas Tech's Department of Natural Resources Management on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Transfer of the Leadership:**

Ken Fulgham passed the RSEC Presidency to Karen Launchbaugh.

Ernest Fish moved that the meeting be adjourned/Ken Fulgham seconded/ motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.