



Regular section business meeting was called to order at 3:53 pm by **President Charles Hart**.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Minutes of the October 2003 meeting in Wichita Falls were presented to the membership. Motion by **John Hunter** to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Second by **Paul Loeffler**. Call for the question by **Charles Anderson**. **Motion carried unanimously.**

SRM PRESIDENT'S REPORT – M Mort Kothmann. Membership in professional societies, in general, is declining – SRM is contrary to this trend. The Salt Lake City annual meeting had nearly 2000 in attendance. We anticipate that Fort Worth will break this mark. I am impressed with the involvement of our young professionals in this (TSSRM) meeting, and we need to continue to involve our young members. The Society is financially solvent, with a balanced budget. No complaints heard on membership servicing in recent months. The focus of SRM, originally, had ranchers, agencies and academia/research on the same focus. Our science has evolved and we now have a broader view of research. We need to return to a common vision once again with the on-the-ground, agency professionals, academia/research. Let's get the word out on our common vision, multiple uses, etc. Every member needs to help with recruitment of new members and help mentor them in integrating these young people into the Society and retaining them as active members.

TSSRM PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Charles Hart. Charlie introduced the current officers, directors, executive board, and all current committee chairs/members. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication this year. The TSSRM Administrative Handbook was completely updated and now is available on the section website. Check the website for the latest section information – we have a new Section Business tab. *The Legacy of Rangeland Stewardship* video was completed and is entering the marketing phase. Section Newsletter – NACD, our publisher, is no longer in the publishing business, thus we will be going electronic. We are exploring how to handle distribution of an electronic newsletter, with a list serve, and a limited number of printed copies. He outlined the changes to the Annual Meeting process. We have been blessed with being in sound financial condition in recent years.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Harold Bryant. Copy provided to the membership.

Current Balance as of September 30, 2004:

TSSRM General Operating Fund (GOF) \$ 27,174.00

Harold reminded members of the opportunity to contribute to the Endowment, TSSRM Memorial Scholarship and Bill Wyche Memorial Scholarship. Harold updated members on the meeting with Frost Bank on the investments of the three funds. All reports filed timely with the State of Texas and the IRS. Motion by **Willy Conrad** to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Second by **Ray Schimcek**. Call for the question by **John Hunter**. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS:

TSSRM 2004 Annual Meeting – Charles Anderson. As of this morning: 266 members registered, 260 attended the awards luncheon, 240 to attend tonight's banquet. We project an \$8000 profit from this meeting.

SRM 2005 Annual Meeting (Fort Worth) – Dan Caudle. Dan outlined all the activities going on with the event. Preconvention workshops will now start on Feb. 4th. The Planning Committee expects more than 2000 people to attend. *We need volunteers for this event.* Thanks to the Texas Section for all your support.



TSSRM 2005 Annual Meeting – Robert Knight. Please come to South Padre to relax and have a good time. It is a beautiful area with wonderful ecosystem diversity and lots to see/do. We will be at the Sheraton Hotel on October 4th – 7th.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – Hoyt Seidensticker. An excellent 50th Anniversary celebration with 75+ people attending. The Texas YRW is the longest running range training event in America. 30 youth attended the 50th Youth Range Workshop – thanks to all the directors, ranchers, and others who helped with this successful event. The 50th YRW was videoed in its entirety – it will be a commemorative item and will be used to promote the YRW and TSSRM. We want to make the YAC self-sustaining, and we are working on a new TSSRM Youth Endowment Fund. Mallory Williams, Shiloh Long and Kelly Haile will represent Texas at the 2005 SRM HSYF.

OUTSTANDING RANGELAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Stephen Zuberbueler. We have an outstanding ORM Award Winner, which you will hear more about tonight. Our ORM award will remain as is. We are teaming up with TSCRA for a joint *Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship Award*. It will be modeled on the NCBA Environmental Stewardship Award and nominees for the award will be recognized through both groups and forwarded to NCBA. This will be a wonderful promotion of stewardship in Texas. Six TSCRA members and Six TSSRM members will serve on this award committee. Winners must be members of both organizations. The ORM committee is working to develop guidelines for the Administrative Handbook.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE – Barron Rector. Another role of a society is to instill leadership among its members. Barron recognized and thanked the committee members. 42% of our membership voted this year. Election results: Loeffler (2nd VP), Cody Scott (Director) and Tim Reinke (Director).

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – Robert Knight. The section had an informational booth at four events – TSCRA, South Texas Farm and Ranch Forum, The Wildlife Expo, and Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers. Thanks to Hoyt Seidensticker for keeping the booth and taking it to all the events. If anyone needs the booth for an event, please contact Hoyt. Three Rancher Forums have been held and a plant contest at The Wildlife Expo was held by Steve Nelle. Get your requests in for next year.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – Paul Loeffler. A \$1500 TSSRM Memorial Scholarship was awarded by the State 4-H Foundation – Elizabeth DeFranzo was the winner. The State 4-H Foundation has waived their normal management fee. TSSRM received an impressive thank-you from the 4-H Foundation and the recipient. There is tremendous exposure for us by working with the State 4-H Foundation and we are recommending continuing our relationship with them. The auction at the Wednesday mixer raised \$2350 for the TSSRM Memorial Scholarship Fund – thank you to all who participated.

THANK YOU TO MATT WAGNER – Our sincere appreciation for all your efforts the past 3 years. Your efforts have gotten us great exposure in the wildlife community. (Matt's was presented early due to a schedule conflict, John Walker's will be presented tomorrow at the conclusion of the meeting.)

OPEN FORUM:

John Hunter - the first TSSRM Handbook was put together in 1976. Thanks to all we have done with the handbook.



Paul Loeffler – We desperately need your help in manning the booth at future events. New ideas are also appreciated.

Linda Campbell – the plant contest at the (Texas Chapter of) The Wildlife (Society) Expo was a great hit and we would like to continue this.

Mort Kothmann – meetings with other Societies: We will be working with 8 other societies to seek common ground and work out how to hold joint meetings, etc. The 2008 (SRM) annual meeting will be in Louisville KY and will be co-sponsored by AFGC. I would encourage you to continue these efforts at the local level.

Barron Rector – If you have an interest with serving at a higher level, the Nominations and Elections Committee will be working on submitting nominations to SRM for 2nd VP and Director.

Nell Wilson – We should consider giving copies of our latest video to local libraries and FFA chapters. On working with other groups – this organization has a lot to say, we need to pass it around.

Bill Fox – Members please consider folks within the Section for SRM Honor Awards, applications are due April 15th, and also nominations for next year's TSSRM Awards.

Motion by **Charles Anderson** to adjourn the meeting. Second by **Ray Schimcek**. Motion carried unanimously.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:18 PM.

Bruce S. Healy, Secretary

Charles R. Hart, President.