

Regular Spring Meeting was called to order on April 27th at 9:19 am. **Present were:** Paul Loeffler – President, Jerry Payne – 1st Vice President, Melony Sikes – 2nd Vice President, Charles Anderson – Past President (*cooking lunch for us – he will take a break for planning committee report*), Tim Reinke – Director, Robert Lyons – Director, Donald Cox – Director, Lee Knox – Director, Robert Moen – Treasurer, Jeff Goodwin – Newsletter Editor, and Bruce Healy – Secretary. **Absent were:** Phillip Wright – Director, Cody Scott – Director. Quorum has been established. **Others present:** Rob Cook, YPC; and Wayne Dunson, Membership Committee & YPC.

MEETING MINUTES (Healy): Minutes of the regular fall meeting were distributed to the board via email in February. **Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Reinke, seconded by Knox. Motion carried unanimously.**

TREASURER’S REPORT (Moen): Fund balances:

General Operating Fund (as of 4/27)	\$ 28,595.50
TSSRM Endowment Fund (as of 3/31)	\$ 46,456.86
TSSRM Memorial Scholarship Fund (as of 3/31)	\$ 64,393.11
Bill Wyche Memorial Scholarship Fund (as of 3/31)	\$ 54,626.25
TSSRM Youth Endowment Fund	\$ 10,000.01
First Ntl Bank of Sonora (Del Rio AM)	\$ 1,921.98
<i>General Operating Fund CD's</i>	<i>\$ 20,000.00</i>

- Informal breakdown provided on the *Legacy of Rangeland Stewardship* video revenues and costs to date.
- Discussion held on all reports.

Motion to approve the treasurer’s report as submitted by Payne, seconded by Lyons. Motion carried unanimously.

NEWSLETTER (Goodwin): As editor, I prefer original articles written by our members, not reprints from other publications. I also need good digital photos for the cover’s newsletter banner (landscape rangeland scenes) – I want a new photo in each issue. President Loeffler requests that we work with Jeff to put together a list of VIP (groups, etc.) to send our newsletter to – email preferred. We need to increase our partnership efforts, public awareness and this effort will go a long way. Next issue – articles due May 15th. **Payne commends Goodwin for doing an excellent job on the newsletter!**

Loeffler updated the Board on the installation of SRM Office signage effort accomplished during the Reno Annual Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Video sales report from Cornerstone: Monica reported there were two video sales for the 1st Qtr of 2007.

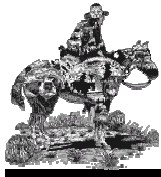
2007 BUDGET: **Motion to approve the treasurer’s report as corrected by Knox, seconded by Reinke. Motion carried unanimously.**

Legacy of Rangeland Stewardship Video Marketing Plan: Sikes received an official NRCS Ethics Participation Notification Letter from Washington DC that she cannot be involved in any marketing efforts, any partnership efforts for TSSRM during work hours, etc. Thus she has had to excuse herself from working on a video-marketing plan. **The section will need to find a person to work with Cornerstone Video on the development of a marketing plan.** Loeffler thanked Sikes for her previous efforts.

It is recognized that there has been an obvious shift in (Fed/State/Local government) management’s perspective regarding participation in professional societies. How is the Texas Section to be involved in this discussion?

TS would like to recover our costs of production, but we need to increase distribution of the video. Knox suggests that we find someone before the next meeting, and work on the proposed marketing plan.

Coffee break taken at 10:24 am. Anderson provided the snack. Meeting resumed at 10:45 am.



Young Professionals Committee (Rob Cook): **HANDOUT** Wayne Dunson, Cody Scott & I have developed the draft YPC guidelines – Wayne and I are here to present them to the board. We plan to start working with the 2007 Annual Meeting Committee to assist with the Young Professionals Program and hope to secure a time/place for a Young Professionals Committee meeting at Lubbock. We also hope to get other young professionals involved in these processes. We plan to work on the agenda for our first official Young Professionals Committee meeting in Lubbock. YPC needs to be inclusive, rather than exclusive – need to be careful of this. YPC is to get young professionals involved in the society, network with other members, etc. Make sure the chair positions continually rotate. Age 40 is taken from the OYRP awards criteria. Discussion on co-chair overlap. **All TS members are encouraged to attend all YPC meetings to encourage interaction among all members.**

Motion to approve the YPC Committee Guidelines as submitted by Payne, seconded by Sikes. Motion carried unanimously. Loeffler thanks Dunson & Cook for all their efforts.

YPC will also work with Scholarship, College Activities, AM, etc. to see where they can help out/be more involved.

SRM AM in Reno (Loeffler): It was an excellent meeting, with the largest attendance ever. TS was well represented at the meeting. 2008 is in Louisville KY with AFGC, starting Jan 31st. (Note on HQ building signage above.)

Investment Criteria for TS Funds (Moen): Current update provided. Investment strategy is for the long-term commitment of the TS. There is still work to be completed on the Youth Activities Endowment investment strategy.

Website (Goodwin): Bruce and I have looked a several potential web hosting companies, and have decided on **We Love Texas Web Solutions** of Stephenville. You may take a look at their site at <http://mytexaswebsite.com/>. They offer very reasonable rates and a wide variety of services. We are in process of switching our current domain name over to their server. I have delivered Bruce's update to them and they are developing a "mock-up" for us to review. (Bruce.....your updated website was very well received by WLT.)

The cost associated are a \$75 setup fee and \$39.95/month which can be billed monthly or paid yearly (well within our approved budget). There is a 1 year contract, however; we have a trial period in which we can determine if we are satisfied with the service. With the packaged we decided on, we will get 25 monthly updates, which should be more than enough.

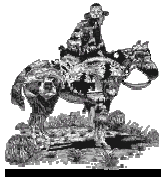
If you have any items that you feel need to be on the website please send it electronically. We have the opportunity to add whatever we want to the site before it goes "live."

- WLT asked us to think about a FAQ's page and we can also setup numerous email accounts – **Suggested that each committee to have one.**
- **Can we set up a members only password protected webpage?** Goodwin will look into it. (It will be called the "Directors Page" went activated.)

Archives (Wiedemann): I am taking all archives I have here to the Southwest Collection, Texas Tech Library to Lubbock for archiving during the TS Annual Meeting. **Anyone wanting items archived please get them to me as soon as possible. Please keep me on all email lists, etc. to keep me informed.** Cox asked if we can have Goodwin put it in the next newsletter.

2007 TS Goals (Loeffler): We are essentially 1/3 through the year, we need to review where we are at. 1) Native Lands Alliance, 2) Young Professionals Committee, 3) LMTSTR pub – cases found, 4) ORM tour of Holt Ranch - S Zuberbueler will get this accomplished, 5) sponsorship of field days and CEU credits, 6) Newsletter format and articles, 7) eNewsletters have started, 8) Video marketing (update above).

Rio Grande Joint Venture (Healy): Meeting to be held on May 3rd in El Paso (Chihuahuan Desert), Taumalipan Brush Country meeting held previously.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Activities (Payne): The AC and the I&E committees (B Pinchak, chair), have worked together to effectively promote the section. We were at the CAST conference (November in Wichita Falls). We had the booth at the TSCRA meeting in Fort Worth – (Mar 23-25, B Pinchak, J Goodwin, P Loeffler, D&J Payne assisted). We had good feedback from attendees. C Anderson, J&D Payne attended the Junction Range Management Field Day (Apr 24)- had our booth and handed out several membership applications. We furnished two *Legacy* DVD as door prizes. C Anderson is going to take the booth to the Fredericksburg Range Tour (May 10).

B Pinchak, J&D Payne had a brainstorming session at the TSCRA convention. We suggest that TS have some **inexpensive stick-on name tags** with our name and logo made and furnish them to various field days and events. We also need a couple pamphlet display holders and **three or four additional table top display units** to be purchased and distributed to various geographic locations across the state. Having only one display creates a real transportation problem.

We need to work on increasing our visibility as a section.

If anyone needs the booth for an event, please request it from B Pinchak or myself.

Annual Meeting:

2007 – Lubbock (*Pluhar or Sosebee*): Draft agenda, registration information, and annual meeting flier available for review.

- Cox has requested a time slot to review exhibitor solicitation information.
- **October Board Meeting: Wednesday October 10, 10 am start @ Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock (to be completed by 3 pm). Motion by Sikes, second by Cox to set this as the meeting times. Motion carried unanimously.**

2008 – Nacogdoches (*Payne, Stellbauer or Pate*): Dates are October 8,9,10. All AM committees appointed. Encourage everyone to attend.

2009 (*Loeffler on behalf of Bob Knight*): Bids were entertained in Del Rio from Beaumont, College Station, and New Braunfels. Loeffler reviewed the merits/demerits of each. ***The 2006 Planning Committee recommends to the Board that the 2009 Annual Meeting host city be Beaumont.*** Beaumont updated us with information on the current status. Beaumont will honor 2009 State Rate. A contract has to be signed by May 31st if we are still interested. **Motion to approve the planning committee recommendation of the selection of Beaumont as submitted for the dates of October 7-9 by Sikes, seconded by Reinke. Motion carried unanimously.** Loeffler will notify Knight of Board decision and Beaumont CVB of selection and dates. Sikes will coordinate site visit for HQ hotel with Knight.

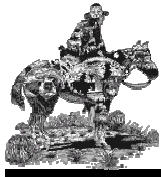
Awards (White): The Awards Committee has submitted a total of 5 Honor Award Nominations to the SRM Office. We are now starting on TS awards: **July 1st** due date for Fellow and Special Recognition Awards (these require Board action); **August 1st** for OCRM, OA, and OYRP awards. If the Board knows of someone who wants to nominate another person for one of these awards, please contact me. I plan to submit a news release in the May-June issue of *Grass Roots* concerning the deadlines. ***Any suggestions for nominations should be forwarded directly to White.***

College Activities (D Kothmann): I have contacted Emmett Miller, last year's chair. He has agreed to stay on to help. Others who have agreed to serve as members are Fred Reyna and Chris Casaday. I am waiting to hear back from a few others, but **would love to have anyone that you know is interested in helping.**

We plan to use the same company in Abilene that was used last year for the plant identification contest awards. Although I do not know how much expense will be associated with the Outstanding Student certificates, or other items, **I think that the \$500 allocated to our committee in this year's budget is more than we will need.**

Loeffler hopes to get Scholarship and College Activities committees to work collectively with the State 4-H Foundation on contacting the right folks to get nominations.

County Level Awards (Teplicek): no report.



Endowment Fund (Hartmann): Oral report by **Loeffler** – he is working on a long-term fundraising event to help raise endowment funds.

Financial Audit (Moen for Conner): things look good now, final audit to be completed this summer.

Recess for lunch at 12:59 pm. Reconvene from lunch at 1:45 pm. *Special thank you to Past President for donating and cooking lunch!*

Information & Education (Pinchak): HANDOOUT. Most common questions about TSSRM at the Informational Booth are: *What is TSSRM about? What do you provide me/us with? How does it benefit me?* I do not think that our paid section membership will ever be significant, however I do believe we can provide value-added educational opportunities to non-professional clientele IF we define that as part of our mission.

Membership (Stellbauer & Dunson): Current TS membership is at 463 as of the March 31st, 2007 SRM membership report (as a comparison, TS had 462 members in July 2006). We continue to send welcoming emails to all new members and emails to all expired members encouraging them to renew. Retention of student members continues to be a concern. Membership breakdown: 75% Regular, 10% Student, 10% Lifetime, 2% Apprentice, 2% Family, 1% Emeritus, and 1% Commercial.

Native Lands Alliance (Anderson): Presented Charter membership documents (need, mission, principles, rules of engagement, admission of new partner organizations and steering committee). Annual dues would be required. The Section may be the treasurer for the group initially. The board thanks Anderson & McGinty for their efforts on our behalf.

Nominations and Elections (Pluhar): I have one good 2nd VP candidate, one close, another considering it; also 4-5 potential director candidates. Anticipate a good ballot.

ORM (no current chair): no report. Reinke will assist Loeffler in locating a new chair. The ORM tour @ Holt Ranch will take place – information to follow from Stephen Zuberbueller.

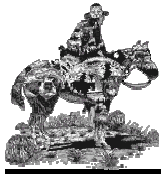
Planning Committee (Anderson): Change to the proposed AM rotating structure presented. *Current “wagon wheel” rotation is not working effectively* (this rotation was approved for 2003 for a 3-year trial. **Three options discussed:** 1) keep same as used last 3 years; 2) charge Planning Committee to determine where they want to solicit from and contact the towns; 3) go to a new rotation. Board input requested to Anderson on proposed change. **Knox** suggests that we keep the rotation but exclude the extremes. **Payne** – don’t necessarily agree IF you have the membership to host it. **Anderson** proposes option 4: publish in June 1st Newsletter, anyone wanting to host an AM, to contact Anderson and come to Lubbock. Motion by **Sikes** to publish announcement in the June *Grass Roots* newsletter requesting anyone interested in hosting the 2010 AM, to work with their CVB to put together a proposal, to contact Anderson by July 1st; if we don’t get 3 nominees, then we use the present rotation (South zone). Second by **Cox**. No discussion. **Motion carried by majority vote – 3 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain.**

Public Affairs (Moseley): Negative report.

Publication Awards (Fox): Nomination solicitation was in Mar-Apr *Grass Roots*.

Resolutions (Ueckert): no report.

Scholarship (Loeffler for Kneuper): Current awards process is with State 4-H Awards Program for a baccalaureate program. *State 4-H Foundation has suggested that we consider a change to the collegiate level (<30 hours), which has been approved.* With this change, the list of acceptable majors has been trimmed with this new category, with



the caveat to State 4-H that if there are no collegiate winners, it reverts to the baccalaureate level as previously. State 4-H has indicated that they have an *outstanding* baccalaureate candidate to present to this year.

Youth Activities (Knox): Currently working on the agenda for the YRW. Currently 10-12 youth registered. List of YRW directors provided. Dates are June 17-22, in Junction. [Get your registrations in...](#)

Dunson informed the group of the Wimberley Youth Range Camp (Comal, Guadalupe, Hays SWCDs). Attendance open to anyone in the local area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Border Governors Conference (Loeffler): Invitation for TS to participate in the BGC's Wildlife Directors of the Border States (includes 12 border states and their corresponding Mexican provinces) – **May 29-31 (Bamberger Ranch)**. In addition to our participation, they also asked for our interest in sponsoring the breakfast (\$300). Loeffler indicated we would attend – asked Public Affairs committee to take the lead (Moseley). Would the board like to consider sponsoring the breakfast? We would have name in the program, sponsorship recognition, and a seat at the table. (This is the first time someone beyond a wildlife group has been asked to participate.) Lyons – this is the first time we have been asked, we may need to consider it. [Payne moved to agree to the \\$300 sponsorship, and ask if we could have the booth there also.](#) [Second by Sikes.](#) Clarification on budgetary classification requested by Moen (to be applied under Native Lands Alliance funds). [Motion carried unanimously.](#)

Committee/Board Assignments (Loeffler): copy in packet. [Request board members to please contact each of those committee chair in the near future and inquire to current status in yearly activities.](#)

Other: Request board to contact information in the directory.

Next Meeting: July 13, 9 am . Mason Mtn WMA, Mason

[Being no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.](#)

Secretary