



Regular section business meeting was called to order at 11:45 am by President Melony Sikes with **36** members present. [Quorum has been established.](#)

2008 SECTION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (Healy):

Minutes of the 2008 business meeting were distributed with the agenda. Members were given an opportunity to review the minutes. [Bob Knight moved to approve minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Jeff Goodwin. Motion carried unanimously.](#)

TREASURER'S REPORT (Moen):

The treasurer's report and associated handouts were distributed with the agenda and reviewed by Moen.

Current Balances as of (8/31/08):

TSSRM General Fund	\$29,641.47
TSSRM Endowment Fund	\$42,030.31
TSSRM MSF	\$64,772.90
TSSRM Bill Wyche MSF	\$50,689.36
TSSRM YAC Endowment Fund	\$15,101.00

- [Financial Audit was completed by Bill Connor, Audit Coordinator, and Hampton Pratkanis of Frost Bank. Everything was found to be in order.](#)

[Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as submitted by Bill Pinchak. Motion seconded by Bob Knight. Discussion held - call for the question by Paul Loeffler. Motion carried unanimously.](#)

REPORT FROM PARENT SOCIETY (Charlie Hart, SRM Director): Financials within the society are not looking good.

Investments are way down. Bottom line is that our 2 publications (REM, Rangelands) are really costing the Society – expenses are not being covered. To remedy that situation, you should be getting information soon on a whole new dues structure – cafeteria style with several options available. No one liked doing this, it was necessary for the solvency of the society. On other topics, the CPED program should look at. The SRM membership task force is working hard on what it is that keeps members and what causes them to leave. One of the first obvious problems was the membership billing, reorganization, software changes, etc. – we think we have that fixed now, but if you still are having problems please let the SRM Office know. Loeffler reminded everyone that the SRM ballots are out now and everyone needs to vote. Urs Kreuter is on the ballot – his bio is being passed around for review. Mr. John Merrill asked about the balance of the SRM Endowment Fund. Bill Pinchak asked about contacts on the SRM Membership task force – everyone referred to Jack Alexander.

- **2009 Annual Meeting:** *Melony Sikes* reported that 184 were registered for this meeting. We tried a lot of novel marketing techniques this year. Liked using our website for passing along information. Thanked everyone for staying until Friday. Too soon to tell on the AM budget results. I appreciate the work of the AM committee.
- **2010 Annual Meeting:** *Bill Pinchak* would like to invite everyone to Odessa. Ray Schimcek and Steve Hartmann are co-chairs. We will be at the MGM Grand Hotel. They are working on setting everything up. Everyone please join us. Bill has some thoughts, but will be more hands off, so if you would like to see some things, please feel free to contact Ray & Steve. We hope to have something more concrete by the January BOD meeting.
- **2011 Annual Meeting:** *Matt Wagner had to leave. Dr. Cody Scott is a co-chair of the meeting.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:



- **Nominations and Elections (Franklin):** Sent out 470 ballots, several came back due to incorrect addresses – so please keep your contact information current. 46% return of the ballots. Ken Cearley is the new 2nd VP, and Linda Campbell and Tony Dean are the new directors.
- **Youth Activities (Derrick Scasta):** 2009 YRW – 33 campers attended. We have 3 HSYF delegates – Gabe Jennings, Erin Reed, and Ely Young. We are promoting the 2010 YRW at several events and we want you to help in the promotion. The majority of the youth attendees find sponsorships for the camp cost, next year's registration fee will be \$280. This year's Reverse Raffle raised over \$5000.

Sikes also wanted to recognize our outgoing officers once again – Healy, Cox & Knox.

Informational Committee Reports attached to the agenda (no action required):

Membership (currently 454), Scholarship did have a 4-H scholarship presentation, Fred Reyna did a good job of reaching out to new folks. Sikes reported that she was able to attend one day of the YRW – it was rewarding to see those folks.

MEMBERS OPEN MIKE SESSION:

- Paula Maywald – Proposition 11 (Eminent Domain), TWA is working with TDA Commissioner Staples on open space preservation. TSSRM may want to support this effort.
 - Paul Loeffler reminded everyone to vote in the SRM (parent society) election. He gave everyone an update on a telephone conversation he had recently with 2nd VP candidate Wally Butler, which Paul is willing to do. He is a down to earth resource person.
 - Diaz Murray, (TSSRM Director/TSCRA Director) – TSCRA and TWA are coming together on a common goal for TSSRM to support their efforts on landowner rights to water. Real major water rights issues – 94 water districts in Texas now, some may not be making decisions favorable towards landowners. I think that TSSRM needs to look at the statement and discuss it and see if we can support it. Pinchak asked about what the timeline – TSCRA/TWA needs to have something together before January, so there is a compressed timeline. Jerry Payne asked for a summary of the information – Murray explained that cities are trying to supercede the landowner's right to capture water on their property. Sometimes a landowner's water rights are being ignored, and it has to go into the court system (one case to the Texas Supreme Court). It is getting harder for the landowner to claim their water rights. Maywald reported that the statement is available on the TWA website. Pinchak reminded everyone about our resolutions process. Loeffler reminded everyone that TSSRM cannot lobby, but we could consider networking with TNLA for a larger voice, larger thrust. Pinchak will follow up on that with Brinsedine and Campbell. This water rights issue certainly ties into wetlands/marshes we were presented information on during this meeting.
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- **TSSRM PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Melony Sikes):** Working on a Certified Range Steward process with the State of Texas – stay tuned to Grass Roots for updates. Thanked all of the committees for their efforts. Wanted to pay back all the leaders who inspire her.
 - **1st VP report – Pinchak:** Where are we headed next year??? We are a body of natural resource professionals. We need to focus on our needs and the needs of our profession and how to add value to your jobs and your profession. We have a 20% retention rate of student members, why is that? We have less than 50% of natural resource professionals (agencies, etc.) as members, why is that? I think it is time that we strengthen ourselves because we are the natural resource professionals in Texas. I look forward to a good year – all committee chairs (but 1) are on board. I would also like to thank Sikes, Cox, Knox, and Healy for their service. I'm not a "glass half empty" kid of guy – so I look forward to a really productive year.



**Texas Section
Society for Range Management**

**Meeting Minutes
Section Annual Business Meeting
October 9, 2009
Holiday Inn, Beaumont TX**

Being no further business, the section annual business meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Motion by John Paclik. Second by Joe Franklin.

Thank you for attending and participating in the meeting.

Bruce S. Healy, Secretary