

Original meeting date of January 16-17 with Committee Chairs was cancelled due to weather.  
Board meeting rescheduled to February 1, 2007.

**Regular winter meeting** was called to order at 10:00 am on February 1<sup>st</sup>. **Present were:** Paul Loeffler – President, Jerry Payne – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Cody Scott – Director, Donald Cox – Director, Lee Knox – Director, Jeff Goodwin – Newsletter Editor, Robert Moen – Treasurer, and Bruce Healy – Secretary. **Absent were:** Melony Sikes – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Charles Anderson – Past President, Tim Reinke – Director, Robert Lyons – Director, and Phillip Wright – Director.

Thank you to everyone for attending. Welcome Lee & Don to the board and look forward to their service for the next 3 years. We have enough members to establish a quorum to conduct business.

**Philip Wright** arrived at 10:03 am.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes of the regular fall meeting were distributed to the board via email on December 11, 2005. **Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Scott, seconded by Wright. Motion carried unanimously.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Detailed Report Provided. Balances listed below *as of November 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.*

General Operating Fund	\$22,221.31 ( <i>as of 12/31/06</i> )
TSSRM Endowment Fund	\$45,931.06
TSSRM Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$62,643.81
Bill Wyche Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$54,039.98
TSSRM Youth Endowment Fund	\$10,001.00
GOF (Certificates of Deposit)	\$20,000.00

*Del Rio Annual Meeting: \$10,056 Profit.*

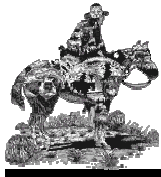
**Motion to approve the treasurer’s report as submitted by Payne, seconded by Scott. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2006 Budget:** Moen reviewed under Treasurer’s report.

**Stewardship Video:** No report submitted from Cornerstone. Sikes has indicated she wants to spearhead a new marketing program. Pluhar has indicated she, and YAC is willing to help on the development of teacher planning materials for the video. *What does the board want to do?* Board is willing to allow Sikes to work on a targeted marketing program. *Do we need to give it away?* **Motion by Wright for YAC wants to work on a lesson plan development for ag teachers and to allow Sikes to spearhead the marketing for one year. Second by Cox. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Committee Structure:**



- Activities/I&E: *move to the end of the end of committee discussion.*
- Chair terms (length): **Scott** originally proposed that committee chairs serve two years, rather than our current practice of one year. **Payne** suggests that the chair appointments be staggered, so that ½ of them rotate each year. **Payne** suggests we call them co-chairs (top one rotates off, bottom moves up, etc.). **Payne** moves that, starting in 2007, that each committee has two co-chairs. The current 2007 chairs will serve one year, and then move to ex-officio. The 2008 chair will serve two years as chair (junior chair and senior chair) and have a junior chair underneath. **Second by Scott. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Investment Criteria for TSSRM Funds (Moen & Wright):** We need to add a descriptive sentence to the memorial scholarship that the winner needs to be a natural resource major. Other materials fine. Wyche write-up is okay. Memorial Scholarship okay. Youth Endowment's is still in development. We wanted to stress the long term investment goal of the investments. *We can revisit all at the summer meeting.*

**Small Acreage Brochure:** \$1500 has been donated/earmarked for reprinting of this brochure. We started working on reprinting it last year. In December, San Angelo discovered 10 cases. Wright suggests we ship them out and they will disappear fast. He has provided copies to Whole Foods Market in the I-35 corridor; we can't keep them in stock. Layout will need to be updated along with some content. **Matt Wagner has offered to oversee the reprinting of the brochure. Wright has offered to assist with fundraising.**

**Website:** 1) Draft update presented for review. Publish when we can. 2) Web hosting: we need to finding someone to host the website outside of A&M. We need to find somebody to do it for us. **Wright moves to appoint Goodwin & Healy to a website task force and charges them to find a new web home at a stable company. Budget will be discussed later. Second by Knox. Motion carried unanimously. Get as much service as possible.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Activities (Payne):** Attended CAST convention in Wichita Falls in November, lots of conventioners. Proposed to attend: We have booth space at TSCRA (March 23-26). No other dates scheduled yet. Open to suggestions on events to attend. TSGRA (July, Kerrville Inn of the Hills). Think about how to handle Big Game Awards (8 regions). TPWD Wildlife Expo. VTAT – similar to CAST.

### **Annual Meetings:**

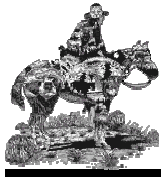
2006 – Del Rio (*Moen*): \$10,056 profit.

2007 – Lubbock (*Jennifer Pluhar*):

- AMC last met Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. Next meeting not scheduled. Tour subcommittee has reviewed the route and stops. Sponsors being sought for busses, mixer and entertainment. Currently, we have commitments for 4 buses.

- **Brief outline of Program:**

**10 October 07      Board of Directors meeting**



**10 October 07**      **Evening mixer at American Wind Power Center**  
*Tentatively planning calf fries, fried fish, etc. prepared by Committee members Royce Siebman and Reggie Quiett.*

**11 October 07**      **Day long tour**  
*Beginning with Jenny Pluhar's custom made breakfast burritos, OJ, yogurt on the bus, stops at playa lake, possible wildlife refuge, ranches; chuck wagon lunch, student and member plant id contests.*

**Steak supper, cocktails, dancing at Ranching Heritage Museum**

**12 October 07**      **Past President's Breakfast**  
**Young Professionals Session**  
**Business Meeting & Closing Awards Ceremony**

- Possible student dance at hotel October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Registration set at \$100, all events included.
- Rooms necessary at hotel for meetings (spouse hospitality, Past President's Breakfast, photo contest, BOD meeting and Friday morning sessions) set aside at hotel. Only catering to be purchased from hotel includes Past President's breakfast and a break on Friday morning. Hotel is aware of our plans *not* to use their catering for mixer, banquet off site.
- Still discussing when is best time to hold Business Meeting. Plan to discuss this and review room needs with Loeffler in Reno.
- Committee members assigned to major roles.
- Bank account open.
- **No action requested from BOD at this time.**

2008 – Nacogdoches (*Payne*): October 7-10. Fredonia Hotel – GREAT PLACE. Co-chairs are Mike Stellbauer and Craig Pate. Do plan to do a tour. Host people are fantastic. Open to suggestions.

**Awards** (*Jeff White*):

A couple committee members from 2006 asked to be taken off of the committee for the 2007 year. We have added several new members to this year's committee. The members of the 2007 TSSRM Awards Committee are:

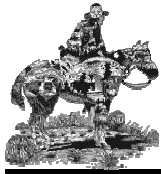
George Peacock ( <i>chair-elect</i> )	Jim Ansley
DeAnn Cameron	Rob Cook
Bill Fox	Charlie Hart
Billy Kniffen	Allen Rasmussen
Stanley Reinke	Bonnie Warnock

All four of our SRM award winners have been notified and are planning on attending the 2007 Annual SRM meeting in Reno.

- F. Stephen (Steve) Hartmann - W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award
- Dr. Charles A. (Butch) Taylor, Jr. - Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dr. Charles R. Hart - Outstanding Achievement Award
- Dr. John W. Walker - Outstanding Achievement Award

After these recipients have been announced at the meeting in Reno, we will release a news article in each recipient's hometown newspaper as well as in the TSSRM newsletter.

We are starting to get nominations together for the upcoming 2007 SRM Awards deadline which is April 30. Please let the committee chair or another committee member know if you know of someone that needs to be nominated for either a SRM or Texas Section Award this year so we can get started on the nomination packet. I will get with Jeff Goodwin and submit an article in the May- June newsletter concerning award guidelines and nomination deadlines for the TSSRM Awards.



**The Awards Committee's budget for 2006 was \$500. Dan Caudle suggested that we make it at least \$600 for 2007.** The price of the Award plaques is getting more expensive every year. It could also cost more if we happen to have an award given in the Special Recognition category.

Dan also suggested that the TSSRM handbook needs to be updated in the Awards section. Several changes include adding the Outstanding Achievement Award and Outstanding Young Range Professional criteria. Also, the TSSRM nomination format in the handbook says **maximum of two (2) typewritten pages**. I think the BOD approved last year that we can go up to five (5) typewritten pages.

Dan Caudle asked to be dropped from the Awards Committee for 2007, but said that he would help me should I have any questions. He has given me all the files carried over from 2006 and any nominations that were not selected from the previous years.

**College Activities:** no report. Same budget request as last year.

**County Level Awards:** no report. Same budget request as last year.

**Endowment Fund:** Steve Hartmann has agreed to chair. Who is in charge of the fundraiser? Scholarship 1<sup>st</sup>, then YAC 2<sup>nd</sup>, then **Payne**—why not have 1/3 of proceeds go to each of the funds? All three chairs work on it each year? Generally they bring in \$1500-\$2000 annually.

**Financial Audit:** Bill O'Connor agreed to continue as audit coordinator.

**Information & Education** (*Pinchak*): We have booth 1120 at TSCRA. He will work with Activities and others to finalize schedule by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership** (*Mike Stellbauer*): As of November 19<sup>th</sup>, there are 472 active TSSRM members. Also provided is a list of expired members to be contacted (96 members). Mike has asked the board to approve to have the expired members listed in the newsletter. **Board concurred to publish the list.**

Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:03 pm.

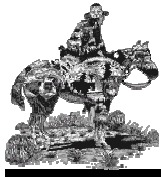
Meeting reconvened after lunch at 12:35 pm.

**Newsletter** (*Goodwin*): Reminded everyone of the article submission deadline for each issue.

**Nominations and Elections** (*Pluhar*):

- Materials from last year's committee chair have been received and reviewed.
- Twelve TSSRM members (some from last year's committee) have been contacted and invited to serve on the 2007 committee.
- A list of potential candidates for Director and Second Vice President is being developed.
- Potential candidates will be solicited beginning immediately. It is anticipated that the committee members attending the SRM Annual Meeting in Reno may gather for an informal meeting and to begin discussions with potential candidates.
- Candidates under consideration from 2006 will be contacted to determine if they wish to remain under the committee's consideration.
- Committee working on a questionnaire to potential candidates

**Budget Request:** *I did not ever see what the committee was budgeted for 2006, however have no reason to expect expenses to exceed the 2006 budgeted amount.*



**ORM:** no report at all. Last year's chair elect has resigned recently. Paul needs input on a replacement as chair. We desperately need to have a tour on the ORM winning ranch the following year. ORM/ORSM nominations are due to the committee June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Planning Committee** (*Anderson*):

At Del Rio, I made a comment about recommending going back to our old way of selecting meeting locations. Since then I have started to rethink that statement. This process has brought in approximately \$900.00 for each annual meeting starting with the Abilene meeting. Last year Bob Knight stated that a star pattern might be a better way to rotate meetings. This would move us from east to west and north to south so we would not get in a clockwise rotation. I believe this has some merit and needs to be looked at before we scrap what we have. There also was some discussion on increasing the number of regions.

My current intention is to assemble a fairly good sized committee to deal with these 2 issues. I can see the majority of this being handled by email with one teleconference call. The call would be the only item that I see would require TSSRM expenditure.

I would ask that the board spend some time discussing this item and let me know what direction they think we should look at going.

**Committee Recommendations to the Board:**

1. I do not know if Bob Knight will have a recommendation for the 2009 Annual Meeting. I have visited with him some concerning New Braunfels and he said the prices he had quoted were high. He also said we would be limited to the last week of October in College Station. The other option would be to select Beaumont. I think we could have a good meeting there, but it might be a little hard just coming off Nacogdoches. I think we should work some more with the people at New Braunfels to see if we can put together an affordable meeting without driving the way they suggested. I recommend that the item be tabled until the summer meeting. This should allow us sufficient time to determine our best option.
2. ***I would ask your consideration of a \$300.00 budget request*** for the Planning Committee in 2007. I would expect to cover the cost of a conference call for refining meeting selection criteria.

A review of bids, problems or concerns from each. Planning Committee currently feels they need more time/information before making a final recommendation.

**Motion by Cox, Second by Scott to table final decision to next meeting.**

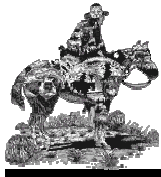
Board determines

**Public Affairs:** Moseley will continue as chair. He will continue to work with the Governor's office to get October proclaimed as Range Month. Loeffler gives oversight of TSSRM participation

**Publication Awards:** *no report.*

**Resolutions** (*Ueckert*): no new activity but ready to go.

**Scholarship:** Reviewed State 4-H application and acceptable degrees. Currently, we in the Baccalaureate Scholarship category – the Foundation has suggested that we consider switching over to the Collegiate Scholarships for Former 4-H Members with at least 30 hours. Then, we wouldn't be competing directly with Houston & San Antonio Stock Show. The other alternative is to take it back ourselves. **Loeffler** suggests we go with the Collegiate category for 2007 and then have our College Activities committee work with the Foundation to work directly on improving it. Knox concurs with the switch to the **Collegiate** category. **Board is in consensus on the change to Collegiate.**



**Rangeland Coalition/Texas Native Lands Alliance** (*Charles Anderson & Allan McGinty*):

Since the board meeting in Del Rio we have been working towards an initial meeting with a small group to determine if there is support for forming a coalition to support rangeland stewardship and to educate the citizens of Texas on the importance of rangelands to them. The meeting was held on **January 24-25, 2007 at Buchanan Dam**. LCRA provided us lodging and meeting space, as well as, providing a facilitator. All this at no cost to TSSRM.

We had a very successful meeting. *Those in attendance were:* **Texas Wildlife Association** – Jenny Sanders and David Langford; **TSCRA** – Ellen Humphries Brisendine and Wilson Scaling; **Nature Conservancy** – Jim Bergan and Dan Snodgrass; **Texas GLCI** – Mark Moseley (Bob McCann had to cancel because of another meeting); **TSSRM** – Allan McGinty and Charles Anderson; and **Remme Corporation** – Kaare Remme. *Absent were:* **Dow Agrosiences** – Rick Borgogni; **Holt CAT** – Peter Holt (*will be contacted for April 10 meeting*)

We had a very productive meeting. Allan and I felt the meeting far exceeded our expectations. The final outcome was much different than what we had thought going into the meeting. David Langford and Jenny Sanders shared a model for a national wildlife group that has worked for 8 years. The alliance concept we agreed upon allows each organizations to retain its entity. In fact, one of the principles is that the name TNLA will never be used to communicate outside the group. Members have the right to agree or disagree. Any organization can elevate a concern, educational item, event and by email it will be communicated to all members. Each member will decide what position they will take on the item. In fact, some of the members may work on an issue, while other members implement the item.

The mission statement we developed is: *To focus our collective efforts to more effectively promote awareness of the benefits that managed native lands provide to all Texans.* The primary purposes for the alliance will be to educate the citizens and landowners of the state on the need for rangeland stewardship. However, the alliance can also be used to stay abreast of legislative changes that could have a negative impact on rangeland.

**Committee Recommendations to the Board:**

*I would ask that the coalition be allowed a \$2,000.00 line item for 2007.* We did not spend any of the money from 2006. **We spent \$627.47 on food, caterer and refreshments.** Robert will be able to give you specifics.

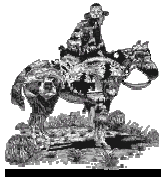
I do not think we will spend the total, but want to have sufficient money budgeted since we will be having a meeting sometime later this year to explain the coalition (alliance) to 40-50 groups/businesses to determine if they want to be charter members for the TNLA.

TSSRM will incur mailing costs and I would also think we should provide at least one or two breaks for this initial meeting. We will probably provide lunch for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the TNLA working group on April 10. I expect the cost for this meal to be less than \$100.00 (15 persons).

**Youth Activities** (*Knox*): Three students will be attending HSYF as delegates, plus Ross Tolleson as 2006 HSYF Paper winner. State Fair Plant ID contest had a good turnout. Getting ready for Fort Worth Plant ID. Jenny, Paul & Hugh using video to solicit funds for the Youth Endowment. Dates for YRW are June 17-22, pamphlets were distributed. Discussed to expand staff to some science teachers, etc. A list of current committee members was provided. Staff is mostly set, but will continue to add. Duties have been split up between Lee, Jenny, Barron & Hoyt. Application can be approved by 4-H, FFA or Science teacher. **Budget request for Ross Tolleson to attend to HSYF to present last year's winning paper and \$260 donation for one slot to YRW to be auctioned off at TSCRA.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointments:** **Bruce Healy**, Secretary & Administrative Handbook; **Robert Moen**, Treasurer; **Jan Wiedemann**, Archivist; **Jeff Goodwin**, Newsletter Editor; and **Bill Connor**, Financial Auditor. **Motion to accept appointments as listed by Wright, seconded by Payne.** **Motion carried unanimously.**



**Young Professionals Group:** An exploratory meeting was held at Del Rio. A survey was sent out after Del Rio and there was overwhelming support to have their committee recognized officially by the board. Additionally, they would like the Board to consider having the Young Professionals involved in putting together the Young Professionals Program at the annual meeting and be involved in the Texas Section. *If we recognize as a committee, a set of committee guidelines for the handbook will have to be developed. Membership in the Young Professionals Conclave is by the same age limitations as the Outstanding Young Range Professional Award (age 40). The chair of the Young Professionals Group is also required to actively participate with the Annual Meeting planning committee for coordination of the Young Professionals Program.* Motion by **Scott**, second by **Cox**, to formally recognize the Young Professionals Committee under our committee structure. Motion carried unanimously. *First charge of the Young Professionals Group is to have them develop a set of committee guidelines and submit to the board for review/approval, which will include selection of Chair/Chair-Elect. The Young Professionals will have input in 2007 and then be in charge of the Young Professionals Program at the 2008 annual meeting.* **Scott** agreed to serve as the Board liaison to the Young Professionals Conclave.

#### **SRM Reno:**

- Proxy at Advisory Council needed for Melony Sikes, who will not be attending. Will the Board approve to allow Jenny Pluhar to proxy on Sunday. We have several volunteers for Monday. Board ok'd Paul to find a suitable proxy.
- Donation item for the Silent Auction: Motion by **Payne** to designate \$250 for the silent auction item. Second by **Scott**. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Plant ID Awards:**

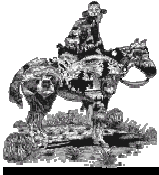
**Scott** moves to continue to sponsor the Plant ID contest awards at The Wildlife Society meeting. Second by **Wright**. Motion carried unanimously. We also plan to donate stewardship video CD's to the top two teams.

#### **Goals for 2007:**

- Suffered for several years for a lack of selling ourselves. We need to do a better job, especially the board. We need to continue the board/committee liaisons, in a more active role.
- Yes we need to continue to make money at our annual meetings. We need to do something with it to be more effective.
- Better outreach – more exposure/sponsorship at localized meetings and field days.
- CEU hours for CPRM's. We need to do a better job of promoting local meetings/hours for this purpose.
- This board has to be proactive in promoting TSSRM, CEU hours, etc.
- Do a better job of promoting SRM – wear your “Ask me About SRM” button!

#### **Short/Long Term Goals for the Section:**

- Continuation/fruition of the Texas Native Lands Alliance. Hopefully a symposium in 2008.
- Republication of the Small Acreage brochure.
- eNewsletter of Range Topics – maybe publish of the Young Professionals Papers this way. Localized news articles from members also eNews'd that can also be distributed to the members.
- We need to do something that makes membership in this Society worthwhile.
- Update bylaws/constitution.



- Sunset review of all committees for continued effectiveness.

**2007 BUDGET** (*draft provided*): Budget reviewed and preliminary proposal made.

**COMMITTEE/BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS:** Loeffler will send out assignments.

**OTHER:**

**Payne** 1) Booth at Clay County Expo (\$150)...lets do it! 2) Ask Resolutions Committee to write a resolution to take to Reno/Louisville on the current USDA ethics policy. Wait for the selection of the new STC, and see if it stays that way or if we need the executive officers to have a personal visit to discuss. 3) TSSRM window sticker (4 inch size) to indicate membership in the society. Green & white in color. Good idea, Payne will work on it.

**Moen** Budget item correction, adjustment for missing items.

**Goodwin** Newsletter

**Next Meeting:** April 27<sup>th</sup>, Mason WMA, 9am

Motion to adjourn at 3:54 pm by **Scott**. Second by **Wright**. Meeting adjourned.

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Bruce S. Healy, Secretary