

WERA 1008: Rangelands West Partnership (RWP)

Date of Annual Report: 9 May 2014

Report Information:

Annual Meeting Dates: 23 March 2014 to 25 March 2014

Period the Report Covers: 10/2012 to 9/2013

Participants (Annual Meeting Attendees)

On-site:

United States (27): Norman Harris-AK; John Kawula-AK; Jodee Kuden-AK; Barbara Hutchinson-AZ; Sheila Merrigan-AZ; Sarah Noelle-AZ; Jeanne Pfander-AZ; Matt Rahr-AZ; Cody Sheehy-AZ; Mel George-CA; John Harper-CA; Mark Thorne-HI; Jeremy Kenyon-ID; Lovina Roselle-ID; Walter Fick-KS; Livia Olsen-KS; Mike Borman-OR; Brad Schultz-NV; Amy Shannon-NV; Amy Ganguli-NM; Cynthia Watkins-NM; Nicole Mason-ND; Reddy Deva-TX; Beth Burritt-UT; David Kruger-WY; Ann Tanaka-WY; John Tanaka-WY (WERA 1008 Administrative Advisor)

Virtual / Online attendees:

United States (5): Jocelyn Boice-CO; Rachel Frost-MT; Dana Boden-NE; Pat Johnson-SD; Alyson McDonald-TX

International (1): John Taylor - Australian Rangeland Society (Queensland, Australia)

Annual Business Meeting (Summary), 23 March 2014:

Chair Report

Dave Kruger opened the business meeting

WERA update

JOHN – COULD YOU SUMMARIZE THIS AS YOU SEE FIT?

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Beth Burritt (UT) reported that she would compile and submit annual meeting minutes and report for WERA. She also thanked David Kruger (WY) for all his help sending out the announcements for the California Meeting including the agenda. Our current balance is \$13,314.93.

We have a surplus of funds of \$3000 to \$3500 dollars to use for the Rangelands Partnership. A discussion followed on how to use the funds. It was decided that funds would be available for a variety of items to support the partnership. Funds will be distributed via mini-grants. The Executive Council will draft guidelines for proposals. This year funds will be used to cover part of the travel for Barbara Hutchinson to travel to South Africa to get them involved with the RP.

Review of the 2013 Action Plan: At the 2013 meeting several Task Force groups were formed. Reports from these groups were given from Jeremy Kenyon on Digital Repository Harvesting, Nicole Mason on Hot Topics Development & Maintenance, Barb Hutchinson on International Partner Recruiting and Content Development and Amy Shannon on Marketing Rangelands West Partnership Databases.

Future Annual Meetings:

New Mexico will host the annual meeting in 2015 (exact date to be determined). Utah will host the 2016 meeting.

Governance / Executive Committee:

David Kruger (WY) moved into Chair position and Beth Burritt (UT) rotated to Vice-Chair. Nicole Mason (ND) was elected by unanimous acclaim and welcomed as 2013/2014 Secretary-Treasurer for RWP.

General Meeting Notes (RWP Annual Meeting, March 23-25, 2014, UC Davis, Davis, CA)

An informal reception was held the evening of Sunday, March 23, with welcome by John Tanaka WERE 1008 Administrative Advisor and John Harper University of California-Davis.

On Monday, 24 March 2014, David Kurger (WY), the Vice-Chair of the Rangelands West Partnership (RWP), opened the 2014 meeting in Davis, CA. Rachel Meador Chair of the RWP was unable to attend the meeting due to health reasons. The meeting opening was followed by a welcome from John Harper UCCE Farm Advisor and Mel George, Emeritus Professor from UC Davis.

The morning agenda included a review of RWP activities during the past year including updates and reports on: 1) the MOA between SRM and Allen Press, 2) the SRM Outreach, Communications and Website Committee, 3) the Range Science Information System (RSIS), 4) Higher Education Challenge Grant (HEC), 5) a Rangelands multimedia site called Wrangle, 6) the proposed Phase 2 of Global Rangelands/Rangelands West website redesign and 7) the Rangelands eXtension optimization grant.

We received a \$50,000 grant from USDA/NIFA to conduct focus groups on use of social media by end users of the web-site, to become more actively involved in social media based on focus groups and to better integrate Global Rangelands, Rangelands West and the eXtension Rangelands Community of Practice.

In the afternoon, international partner John Taylor gave a report on the Australian Rangelands Society. Felix Ayala from University of Hermosilla, Mexico was unable to make a report because they were on strike. Barb Hutchinson gave a report on possible collaborations with South Africa, Canada, and FAO. State updates from RWP members (13 on site, 5 virtual) followed. The Business Meeting (see above) closed out the afternoon agenda of the first day of the meeting.

That evening (24 March 2014) we were treated to wine appreciation/tasting/food pairing by Glenn McGourty UCCE Viticulture and Plant Science Advisor for Mendocino County, CA. We also heard from Barbara Allen-Diaz Vice President of UC Division of Ag and Natural Resources.

The second day of the meeting (Tuesday, 25 March 2014), Ann Tanaka gave us an update on the Partnership Member only site. The site is non-public site with useful information exclusively for RWP members.

Last year's meeting resulted in the Rangeland Partnership becoming more involved in social media. RW now has an active Facebook page; Youtube channel for the global rangelands site. Jeanne posts a relevant article on Scoop-it daily. John Harper has a blog. We discussed better use of other social media outlet such as twitter, linkedin and pinterest.

After the morning break and again after lunch, attendees participated in facilitated working group meetings on the following topics: 1) Hot Topics Development & Maintenance, 2) Adding Ag Experiment Station Records into GR/RW Database, 3) International Partner Recruiting and Content Development, 4) Marketing RWP Databases, 5) Social media, 6) GR/RW site design, and 7) Partnership membership website.

After the afternoon break, facilitators reported on the working groups on progress and their plans over the next year.

Meeting was adjourned by David Kruger.

- Identifying additional existing content to add to the database, including:
 - Dissertations, theses
 - Legal issues / regulations
 - More full-text symposia to Australian Rangeland Society collection
 - CSIRO collection
 - GSSA collection (South Africa)
 - Content for specific audiences (tribal nations, etc.)
 - U.S. federal documents (digitally harvested from AGRICOLA, etc.)
 - Foundations of Range Management collection (pre-1970s)
 - Ag Experiment publications
 - Select Extension publications, including fact sheets
 - Digital herbarium (Wyoming, Biedel collections, etc.)
 - Water quality content, especially at the state site level
 - Historical scientific data sets
 - Lists of digital projects in rangelands
 - Repeat photography

- Identifying new unique content to develop, including:
 - Time-line / evolutionary tree of range management discipline (visual, interactive, include historic photos, video, etc.)

- Content regarding human dimensions (decision-making, etc.)
 - Eco-regions map for U.S. and/or USGS regions
 - Database of current research projects on rangelands topics (digitally harvested from existing resources such as CRIS, etc.)
 - Improving the hot topics section which provides the latest scientific data current controversial topics on rangelands.
- Exploring additional functionality of Global Rangelands/Rangelands West website, including:
 - Focusing on enhancing functionality before working on new content
 - Using Rachel Frost's (MT) new Montana employers as a focus group
 - Seeking ways to gather info/data on site impact
 - Adapting tools for site analysis and usage analytics
 - Incorporating search functionality on Hot Topics pages
 - Incorporating a search-capable "app" for Extension publications across Rangelands West (state) sites (to put on eXtension Rangelands, etc.)
 - Incorporating a search-capable "app" for search Global Rangelands / Rangelands West database to put on external sites
 - Establishing a two-stage metadata creation process & ability to sort metadata records
- Seeking Additional Funding Opportunities, including:
 - Connecting with Principal Investigators on rangelands research projects and offering Global Rangelands / Rangelands West as mechanism for dissemination
 - Western SARE
 - CERES digitization grants from the National Agricultural Library (AgNIC/USAIN)
 - Environmental education opportunities & reusable learning objects
 - Coordination of grant-writing through Barb Hutchinson (AZ)

10/2012 – 09/2013 Accomplishments:

- Successful annual meeting of the Rangelands West Partnership (March 2013, Palmer, AK) attendees (23 on-site; 9 virtual attendees) representing 17 U.S. states, Australia, and Mexico.
- Successful redesign of several state Rangelands West sites.
- Full integration of Wrangle site into Global Rangelands (videos and gigapans)
- Progress on several grants received by different RWP partners for rangelands information projects
 - USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant - Repositioning Rangeland Education for a Changing World (University of Idaho, Humboldt State University, New Mexico State University, Oklahoma State University, South Dakota State University, University of California-Davis and Utah State University)

- Received a \$50,000 grant to expand the use of social media of the eXtension Rangelands Community of Practice Site. And to integrate with Global Rangelands and Rangelands West.
- New MOA between Allen Press and Society for Range Management for open access for two journals: Rangelands and Rangeland Ecology and Management.
- Western Extension and Research Administrative (WERA) status renewal documentation approved. **JOHN – APPLICABLE THIS YEAR AS WELL?**
- **JOHN – ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD HERE?**

Challenges of the past year:

- Finish redesign of the Rangelands West portal including a new technical architecture to accommodate user-requested functionality and incorporate social media tools to encourage increased user-engagement
- Continue to build and expand unique state rangelands websites with locally-specific content - with access provided also through the Global Rangelands repository search function and from the home page of Rangelands-West/Global Rangelands
- Build a global repository of full-text rangeland science and management resources (“Global Rangelands”) in cooperation with rangeland-related organizations and associations from around the world
- Strengthen connections between Rangelands West/Global Rangelands, eXtension Rangelands, and the Range Science Education Council’s resources and services, and continue their complementary development.
- Reestablish connections with AgNIC database as soon as we have a working Global Rangelands/R.W. database that can be harvested.
- Streamlining task forces to ensure productive responses

In process / Next Step activities:

- Re-designing a template for “Hot Topics” within the Rangelands West portal
- Developing and maintaining “Hot Topics” sections – members were assigned to a topic
- Marketing the Rangelands West Partnership databases to new constituents, including boilerplates for members to create new materials to share
- Facilitating international partnerships and content development
- Harvesting digital repositories and creating new digital content, chiefly by addressing agricultural experiment and extension publications across member institutions

Impact Statement:

The Rangelands West Partnership (RWP) seeks to provide quality web-based information, resources and tools to improve land management and ensure sustainability of rangelands. Our expected and ongoing outcomes and impacts include:

- Increased quality of rangeland information and resources to meet the needs of a broad range of users and audiences from around the world.
- Improved navigation and accessibility of desired information through the redesigned Rangelands West/Global Rangelands website.
- Creation of user-oriented services based on direct input from diverse audiences through formal needs assessments.
- Strengthened relationships among rangeland professionals, librarians, and information specialists in each Western state through improved communications resulting in greater sharing of information and content development.
- Development of standardized methods for metadata, incorporating input from the Western Rangelands Partners, FAO, and other interested stakeholders. The metadata for significant rangelands resources will then be input into the new portal.
- Identification of Western Rangeland Partnership university institutional repositories with relevant rangeland resources that could also be made available through Global Rangelands for additional access.
- Increased use and exposure of the Rangelands West website, and state rangelands websites to the global community.
- Significant steps taken toward the achievement of the primary vision of Rangelands West/Global Rangelands as the premier website for dissemination of scientifically-based printed information on rangeland ecology and management.