

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

## Western Rangelands Partnership Annual Meeting Minutes\* May 22-24, 2011 Bozeman, MT

\*(compiled from BH, SM & JP notes and flip chart & post-it notes from meeting)

### Sunday, May 22, 2011

**6 p.m.** – Amy Shannon, WRP Chair welcomed attendees to the opening reception at the Best Western Gran Tree Inn. Rachel Frost, Local Arrangements, also welcomed attendees and reviewed a few brief logistical points. Attendees enjoyed the refreshments and caught up with each other in informal conversations.

### Monday, May 23, 2011

**8:30 a.m. – WRP Chair Welcome** –Amy Shannon, 2010-2011

- Challenging economic situation facing most institutions and states; declared this a guilt-free meeting; focus on projects and opportunities to move Partnership forward

**8:40 a.m. – Montana Welcome**

Dr. Glenn Duff – Department Head, Animal and Range Sciences, MSU – welcomed attendees.

- Animal Bioscience Building - New facility \$16 million; 50% from private donations (half from range livestock production)
- 300 undergrads; 76 equine; 70 livestock; rangeland ecology 50; wildlife 40 – large program

### Attendee Introductions:

On site: Norman Harris-AK; Barbara Hutchinson-AZ; Sheila Merrigan-AZ; Jeanne Pfander-AZ; Matt Rahr-AZ; Mel George-CA; Mark Thorne-HI; Karen Launchbaugh-ID; Lovina Roselle-ID; Walter Fick-KS; Livia Olsen-KS; Glenn Duff-MT; Rachel Frost-MT; Jeff Mosley-MT; Amy Ganguli-ND; Amy Shannon-NV; Pat Johnson-SD; Felix Ayala-TX; Beth Burritt-UT; David Kruger-WY; Rachel Mealor-WY; Merrita Fraker-Marble-WY; John Tanaka- WY; John Taylor, University of Queensland – Australia; Colin Kaltenbach, Administrative Advisor

Virtual / Online: John Kawula-AK; Allison Level-CO; Dana W. R. Boden-NE; Tip Hudson, WA; Jim Dobrowolski, NIFA, DC

### 9:30 a.m. – Reports from 2011 SRM Annual Meeting

Rachel Frost reported on the “Foraging for Rangeland Information in an Unfamiliar Virtual World” symposium held at the 2011 SRM Annual Meeting. The symposium was well attended – standing room only. Presentations were given on the Gus Hormay Online Collection (Bonnie McCallum); RSIS (Jason Clark) ; Global Rangelands (Barb Hutchinson); eXtension Rangelands (Rachel Frost et al); internet & new media technologies for “rangeland ambassadors” (Lovina Roselle et al), and writing grant proposals for rangeland web projects (Jim Dobrowolski). Lots of positive interactions & feedback.

Barb Hutchinson reported on interviews & focus group discussions she had at the SRM mtg with individuals from Jornada LTER, Allen Press, etc. (in the hotel foyer with internet access) re: possible new content for Rangelands West / Global Rangelands. Focus groups indicated need for more full-text journal back files. Handout distributed of focus group summary for issues related to technical questions, state sites, Rangelands West home page, teaching clearinghouse/learning objects, content, and new ideas.

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

Merrita Fraker-Marble is Chair of the SRM Outreach & Communications Committee. They are working on a re-design of the SRM home page. The committee is also making a request for funding from SRM for public outreach resource toolkit (see handout: Informing the Public...).

Merrita distributed a handout regarding a SRM 2012 Annual Meeting (Spokane) workshop proposal "Available for Your Foraging Pleasure: Open Access Rangeland Knowledge Resources". It would be a 2 hour "hands-on" workshop repeated twice in a 4-hour block and include sections on RW, eXtension, etc.

## 10:30 a.m. - WRP Year in Review – Project Reports

### eXtension Rangelands - John Tanaka

- Close to launch; pages published but not live yet
- Shutting down the wiki June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Converting to Drupal
- 100 FAQs (85 now); can go to see if anyone has already answered that question – roll this out to the range people in your state
- Ask an Expert (Question Wranglers) – 24 hour turn around (need to be in your profile to tell system which questions you are willing to answer); receive an email with the answer or an email that the question hasn't been responded to; collecting statistics (Google Analytics – and track how long it takes to get an answer)
- Log in – go to main page, scroll down to Rangelands , shows three sections with pages of information; need to fill in articles that need content, including images, etc.
- Rangelands Content Home: Glossary of Terms from SRM
- Launch date – soon, but still need more content before they will launch; marketing through eXtension (handouts; ask you to put out info to country agents; Range Flash, etc.)
- eXtension - John Tanaka will take on WERA Academic Advisor position; someone needs to take on the eXtension lead / co-lead (with Sherm Swanson?)

RSIS – Merrita distributed a handout about the Range Science Information System project. Current efforts: New annotations and articles added continuously; Using Agrovoc control words; Quality control of current records; Adding vegetation type, MLRA, type of article to descriptions. Mel suggested that the CEAP report will come out soon which will provide some sources.

### HEC- Repositioning Rangeland Education for a Changing World – Karen Launchbaugh

- 8 members on project team; overlap with Rangelands West
- Goals are to
  - transform curricula to meet current and future needs
  - Increase production of graduates of range science and management
  - Increase student recruitment into university rangeland programs (50-100 students in programs)
- Projects:
  - Needs assessment for range professionals – focus groups
  - Increase quality and accessibility of rangeland educational resources – distance ed; clearinghouse = Rangelands West
    - Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium – courses, field courses, traveling field courses, hybrids
  - Programs to advance teaching skills of rangeland faculty – reusable teaching objects – what are rangelands? – PPTs, quizzes, etc. (HAS A CLICKABLE GOOGLE MAP) – virtual exploration of Rangelands
  - NEW: WERA project – rangeland education across borders – Temp 3321 - for Western Universities to coordinating with R.W. and others; how to share tuition and faculty (Nevada dean is lead); issue of credits etc.

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

- Out of the Past – short subject, 5-10 minutes; clickable map for ecosystems
- Goes through Adobe to Flash (Ecosystem Description)

## ISE Global Rangelands -

Overview of “new” RW and Global Rangelands prototype sites. – Barb Hutchinson. PowerPoint presentation handout available.

### Video Projects - Mel George

#### Virtual Tour Australia

- Australian Virtual Rangelands – Cody doing this in August for three weeks – 2,700 miles
  - Visiting many different sites; atriplex, shrublands, woodlands, savannahs
- Video and call outs

#### Rangelands Australia – John Taylor

- Challenged to be student-focused, relevant to current and emerging issues; courses to remote areas in Australia, but not duplicate but add value
- Tried to capture wide range of stakeholders in defining what
- 6 new courses; graduate certificates – effective stakeholder engagement
- Reading the Rangelands, etc

Outreach for Development pages – George Ruyle and Fadzyi Mashiri are developing this resource on global extension practice involving participatory approaches and the use of ICTs (information and communication technologies) related to rangelands/natural resources and international development.

Allen Press Negotiations/Exploration – Jeanne Pfander described work at UA to update MOAs for SRM journals; migrate SRM journal archives to stable interface and DOIs or permanent URLs. Also exploring possibilities of adding other Allen Press, etc. journals for open access.

**12:45 p.m.** – Visit during lunch break to MSU’s Renne Library, Special Collections. Presentation and “tour” of the Gus Hormay Collection.

### **1:30 p.m. – International Reports & Opportunities for Collaboration**

John Taylor – University of Queensland; President of Australian Rangelands Society

- Not a professional association, 340 members, more of an interest group (all types of land managers)
- The Rangeland Journal - 4 issues per year
- Shared flyer for 2012 conference
- Proceedings – 50-80 presentations and 30-50 posters
- Range Management Newsletter – could be useful for repository
- Viability of journal – AGORA and OARE
- Abstracts of all articles 33 volumes; metadata and a link to CSIRO website
- Full articles for proceedings and newsletter
- News of range relevant

Felix Ayala - Representing University of Sonora (and TAMU-Kingsville); both are interested in being involved in WRP/Global Rangelands.

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

## 2:00 p.m. - State Reports

### Virtual/Online presentations:

Colorado - Allison Level. Checking for links and adding content; Looking to move to LibGuides as new platform; New department of Ecosystem Science & Sustainability. Maria Fernandez-Giminez in the Pyrenees blogging.

Nebraska - Dana Boden

Budget concerns; Library cannot support attendance at WRP mtgs. Will continue to be a nominal partner in RW, keeping web site up.

Washington - Tip Hudson

New priorities for extension agents; budget cuts - have only two range faculty in Extension; New CMS -Microsoft share point; old sites not being maintained

### On-site presentations:

Alaska - Norm Harris

University switched over to new system and R.W. site off-line because does not comply with the university system; Taught intro to range management class where he gets content from; used a wiki that expanded content and images; Trying to get online again; John Kawula edits what Norm sends him

Arizona - Jeanne Pfander

No new content this year on the Arizona site; Working on the new sites (RW/GR); Cleaned up data from old R.W. portal - fixed metadata and checked links; Received files back from Million Books project - historical Experiment Station, Extension and OALS publications - eventually will put up on Arizona site.

California - Mel George

Changed the look of the site. New content on water quality. The watershed information is very good; Many other new projects; New endowed chair - water ecology, rangelands, etc. research for several million dollars; Mel's new Virtual Range laboratory; Reshooting historical photos (repeat photography); Trying to make the local ecological site guides more available; Social media at John M. Harper's Mendocino site.

Hawaii - Mark Thorne

May need to transfer to a different server; Last 3 years working in Pacifica Rim rangeland management - Marianus grazing academy.org – workshop materials and photos, reports, etc.

Idaho - Karen Launchbaugh

Department merged with fire and forests; and a center is being formed. Will change site for next year. Youth range education with Lovina – Teacher Resource Guide for Rangeland Principles for high school curriculum – book chapters and ppts and class activities – dual credit class for high school students; Secondary education challenge grant. Western National Rangeland Career Development event, Nov. 7-8, 2011, will be held in Utah – involves teachers – 70 kids from about 4 states. Get 4 – 5 requests a week from teachers

Kansas - Livia Olsen and Walt Fick

Livia started in October – fixed dead links and added some links; new web services librarian so it is going through an audit; Walt – Kansas smoke management issues; Kansas Flint Hills Smoke Mgmt site; smoke models – ksfire.org new site

Montana - Rachel Frost

Renee Tanner left for ASU and Library is interviewing today to fill that position. New department head and highlights in research and animal science; also multi-state projects.

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

Nevada - Amy Shannon

Showed prototype LibGuides CMS – can make a change on fly – part of her regular job; met with Sherm and reviewed old site; Software is a series of modules; Some things can't change; one license for the university; each tab is a separate page and can have sub-pages; can plop in RSS, videos; handbooks, etc.; RSS feed from Rangeland Ecology and Management; News feeds; Form for calendar of events; Zip files for GIS; Print Page or Print Guide; Will be adding Extension publications; Sherm gave list of what he wants included; Gives excellent statistics

North Dakota - Amy Ganguli

Kathie Richardson is officially retired. Working to transition and wants to stay involved at least at some level. Amy has some domain space and will add Kathie's site when they figure it out. Is a good site, but just need to find a home for it.

Oklahoma - Barb on behalf of Karen Hickman. Needs help to try to get the library involved.

Oregon - Barb on behalf of Mike Borman. Has been a difficult year and hopes to be able to focus on the Oregon site this next year.

South Dakota - Pat Johnson on behalf of Roger Gates and Nancy Marshall who is still involved and would have been here but for a conflict. Extension going to regional centers; unstable situation; websites and teaching clearinghouse; website went down from university changes but at least there is a link to the Library site; Some interesting new projects that will be useful.

Texas - Felix Ayala

Representing TAMU Kingsville. Just found out the previous week about WRP/RW; gathering info to take back and share so a decision can be made on their involvement with Texas Rangelands site.

Utah - Beth Burritt

Spent summer doing website; highlight projects being done in Utah – forage Kochia; working on local information; got \$10,000 to hire grad student to help; website housed in Extension but have to follow their format. New department – may be moving to College of Science

Wyoming - Rachel Mealor and Dave Kruger

Updated the site; promoting; going through web presence and whether or not it is working or not and will support R.W. when they fix their College site; Behind the scenes – Larry Schmidt Mellon Grant project to incorporate with digital herbarium – Teton park region – may give ideas for others. High resolution photos are on the herbarium site.

## 3:30 p.m. – State Site Maintenance and Support Options

Discussion about uniformity of state site look –

- 1) Amy – more important to get content up
- 2) Dana – agrees
- 3) Allison needs to go with Lib Guides
- 4) John Kawula's library has Lib Guides
- 5) Mark – states need to define their own look, provides ownership
- 6) John – need logo that is not the WRP
- 7) Mel – some states have not been able to follow this; need a logo a little more prominent at the top and provide uniformity
- 8) Pat – strict about how sites look
- 9) Amy – R.W. is the umbrella for the state sites
- 10) Karen – just a tag line “members of the Western Rangelands Partnership”

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

- 11) Colin – Rangelands West Partnership – unifying logo
- 12) Allison – whatever we call it needs to be the bigger group connection – one partnership
- 13) Tagline – “a member of The Rangelands Partnership”
- 14) Mark – what are we going to call the partnership and how to unify the state sites?
- 15) Is it possible to have a common banner; or a common banner
  - If site hosted at Arizona would owners of the site have access – yes at the Drupal level but not to modify CMS etc.
  - Larger text for highlights etc. requested by Pat
  - Question about “Sign up for Services” – deal breaker for Jeff if have to involve social media
  - Jeff – early on the site was just links; link to fact sheet or do we have it on our server – yes, can upload a pdf, image, etc.
  - MSU extension content was lost; links lost so Jeff would prefer to have a hosted site if that would help.

**6:30 p.m.** – Dinner at the Woodlands - Pitchfork fondue!; Presentation of 2011 WRP Trailblazer Award to Colin Kaltenbach for his support and advocacy for WRP over the years; Presentation by Jim Stone, Chair of the Blackfoot Challenge and owner-operator of the Rolling Stone Ranch; Cowboy Poet performance by Rick Kuntz.

## Tuesday, May 24, 2011

**8:45 a.m. – Benefits of Range Scientist / Librarian Collaboration** - Rachel Meador and Dave Kruger

Both are committed and get things done; Dave said has to be both top down and bottom up; Dean of Libraries is supportive (LGU library deans should want to have their library involved); Both see the expertise that each other has; Rachel sees him as information scientist – bounce ideas off of each other. Divide and conquer – looked at what they needed to do and they each play their part. For the website, they look together at what their clientele needed. Dave deals with web design and gets the library involved. Problem when Paul Meiman left and the librarian who originally was involved was not interested. They had them meet each other’s dean. They meet fairly regularly.

Discussion: Jeff – deans designating someone to be involved; but partnership with Library has been weak due to turnover over Libraries. Strategic plan of library to support LGU is important and then they should support the effort. AES Director asked for funds for the Librarian from request from John Tanaka; Merrita – dean of libraries was excited about the workshop in SRM and their collaboration.

## 9:15 a.m. – WRP Business Meeting

WRP Chair Amy Shannon opened the business meeting; thanked Rachel Frost for successful meeting arrangements; acknowledged generous donations for meeting meals and refreshments from Montana Experiment Station (Dr. Jeff Jacobsen, Dean & Director), Montana State University Extension (Dr. Doug Steele, VP for External Relations and Director of Extension) and Montana State University Libraries (Dr. Tamara Miller, Dean of Libraries).

Secretary Report – Jeanne Pfander.

Compiled and submitted annual meeting minutes and report for WERA; throughout year helped organize and keep notes of conference calls for tech committee and for the annual meeting planning; experimented with email newsletter in January; mostly irregular communications to membership go out through listserv messages.

Financial Report – John Tanaka

Approximately \$3,000 in account held for WRP at Wyoming; whatever is left after Bozeman mtg will go to next meeting organizers (AZ).

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

WERA update - Colin Kaltenbach

WERA 1008 terminates September 30, 2011. Renewal was approved in March for 5 years (Oct.1, 2011-Sept.30, 2016). John Tanaka will be administrative advisor, effective Oct.1. If someone is not on Colin's list, they need to sign up with their Experiment Station Director. Report will be sent out via listserv for folks to take to their directors.

Upcoming annual meetings:

Arizona will host for 2012 (March 11-13). Alaska is offering to host in 2013, May or early June. Perhaps California in 2014? Dave Kruger, WY has a planning document for hosting WRP meetings that he will pass on to Arizona team.

Governance:

Amy Shannon was thanked for her service as Chair and rotated to Past-Chair. Mark Thorne moved into Chair position and Jeanne Pfander rotated to Vice-Chair. Rachel Mealor was welcomed as newly elected Secretary for the Western Rangelands Partnership.

**10:00 a.m. – The new Global Rangelands/RW database search and data entry system** – Matt Rahr and the Arizona Team presented new GR/RW database system; Review of data entry tip sheet; Discussion & feedback. Questionnaires distributed. See Appendix A for responses to questionnaires.

**12:00 p.m.** – Lunch (prepared by MSU Meat Science Lab). Presentation on the Rocky Mountain Digital Herbarium by Larry Schmidt, University of Wyoming Libraries.

**1:30 p.m. – Brainstorm Session** – Attendees used post-it notes to write comments/ideas for poster sheet categories as follows: Communications; Website Content; Membership; Marketing; Funding. Transcription of brainstorm comments is attached below as Appendix A. Brainstorm comments were used in the Action Planning discussion at 3:30 p.m.

**2:30 p.m. – New Proposal/Project and Funding Opportunities**

- Annual award from NIFA / nominations for partners awards program; Jim D -go for it, the time is right, big feather in cap to get it. Prior to our web site there was very little information on the web. We've had a lot of impact.; Colin-innovative programs section may be the best area to apply under.; Karen L. will take the lead on applying for this.
- SARE Funding – Research and Education – Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>; PDP – March?
- ? NIFA Renewable Resources Extension Act Proposal – June 16<sup>th</sup> – innovative C.E. ways to serve clientele; Social Media proposal – AZ & WY; Have youth interview ranchers and take videos; use a variety of ways of social media to collect and get the info out
- Another NIFA/ISE? – January deadline. Arizona can't be lead on second ISE grant
- NIFA Rangeland Research grants (50/50 match) – release soon – not sure what the priorities are; research-oriented
- Foundations - Hewlett is one to look into
- 1994 institutions and bring them on board into the Partnership and then tap into that capacity building – NMSU and TAMU-K
- Need to link with the integrated groups doing research to give them the outreach parts (invasive species on rangelands; makes sense for them to tie in with us and our outlets)
- Yearly funding like \$2,000 per year for the Partnership from Deans (ag & library)
- Could look for library digitizing RFPs
- Arizona site will have a sponsorship section for donations

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

## 3:30 p.m. – Action Planning

Mark Thorne suggests the logical place for action/next steps is in the committee structure described in the Bylaws. We should establish goals for upcoming year, things we should focus on, driving goals.

John Tanaka says someone else will need to step up and take leadership for eXtension Rangelands CoP. Amy reports that Sherm says he is willing to get back into leadership for Rangelands CoP. John says it will require attendance at eXtension mtg for training on Drupal. Lovina said she would be willing to go if no else can.

Amy suggests we consider short-term task forces instead of committees (like AgNIC is doing).

Mark read list of committees. Pat J. says there aren't enough people to populate this many committees.

Karen L. agreed with concept of task forces.

Barb's 2011 commitments for WRP: finish RREA proposal; meet on weekly basis to get GR/RW launched by end of summer; work on local arrangements for WRP 2012 in Tucson; work on marketing campaign for Deans after web portal launch. Others might have goals for their state sites such as add 20 new records...

Karen described another organization where they have a minimum commitment of 10 hrs on the website...

Rachel Frost asks how we hold each other accountable. It helps to have a local partner (ex. Wyoming – Rachel and Dave; Arizona team).

Discussion on committees. Can we combine or eliminate some? Which are the most critical? Need to keep tasks minimal.

Norm suggests re: communications – top priority: directory of members and mid-year newsletter.

John feels that a website for the membership would be helpful venue for both of above (newsletter & directory) plus more. He volunteered to set up this website. Rachel Mealor as WRP Secretary will be involved.

### Actions/Next Steps\*:

\*See also Appendix B: Action Item Table

#### Communications (Rachel Mealor, Beth Burritt; John Tanaka; Executive Committee)

- Need mid-year reminder to kick-start communication. Members liked the email newsletter - could be the mid-year communication. Rachel will determine how often (2-4 times a year?) – Rachel M. (with help from Beth Burritt)
- short email reminders (humor, etc.) – Rachel M.
- Directory of all the members and contact info – Rachel M. and Beth
- Need separate website for the partnership – grants, directory, related activities etc. more static; links the dynamics – do a feed people could subscribe to...(John T. and Rachel M. will take the lead)
- Set up mid-year online meeting with state updates – A doodle calendar will be sent to executive comm for a date for mid year meeting. Once date chosen date will sent to membership.– Exec. Committee

#### Membership (Exec Committee)

- Revise bylaws (including revision for international partners; committees, etc.) and send to membership for consideration at the next meeting or possibly the mid-year online meeting.
- Invite Native American institutions and others (invite ICARDA scientists?)



# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

- Consider asking institutions to contribute dues as members, possibly ~\$150/year. Could ask Extension directors to give \$1000 off the top from RREA funds. Bylaws cover some of these issues. Exec comm will think about dues and membership requirements as part of bylaws revision.

## Marketing (John Tanaka, Amy, Barb)

- Update/report to deans
- Karen will modify the one-page document she has from a grant as “elevator speech / talking points for deans, etc. (this will help the new people too such as Felix)
- eXtension will do the marketing for new Rangelands CoP site
- Wikipedia article on WRP - Barb, John T, Amy
- Name: Umbrella for the whole organization; stick with what we have now; State name - with a tag line “- a member of the Western Rangelands Partnership”
- Connect with our AgNIC partners and ag related repositories

## Assessment and Impact (John Tanaka; Jim D.)

- Google Analytics (task force to look at this)
- State sites need to collect some stats (as defined)
- John to work with NIFA, AES, and CE about assessment
- Compile info on “hits” – John T. with NIFA & Directors
- Value of website – Beth & Executive Committee

## Funding (Mel, Barb, etc.)

- Mel and Felix will submit a proposal to UC Mexus(?) for funding to get Mexico into international project

**4:30 p.m. – Wrap-Up & Meeting Adjournment.** Thank you to Rachel Frost and the Montana hosts for a great meeting location!

**6:00 p.m. –** Informal group dinner at Famous Dave’s.

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

## APPENDIX A: Responses to RW/GR Database Search & Record Entry Survey Questions

### Responses to questionnaire re: Rangelands West home page

#### Question 1

- blank
- you can probably use up more of the empty space to enlarge blocks, lettering, graphics, etc.
- blank

#### Question 2

- yes
- yes
- yes

#### Question 3

- yes
- it seems to me that the current items are tools as opposed to topics one might be interested in learning more about. Perhaps this could change to Topics (grazing management, Riparian issues, etc.) and the next page for each could provide actual information and any tools.
- delete SRM - no content on learning about rangelands

#### Question 4

- no
- no, I don't think it is unfortunately. I don't have a good suggestion for making more clear
- no, I'd assume it is just another set of links. I'd suggest a box for partner content (global, RSIS, eXtension)

#### Question 5

- blank
- yes, but I don't like the wording for "sing up for services". I think it implies too much.
- yes, but it is not clear how they are used. I'd assume with the Facebook button would ask me to "like" or become a "fan" of a WRP page.

#### Question 6

- I like the idea, but graphics are too small. Use up some of your open space to enlarge
- looks good
- I'd leave these to the state sites or eXtension

#### Question 7

- international journals (eg. Australia, Southern Africa)
- looks good
- Soil and Water Conservation Society; Ecology; Ecological Applications; Journal of Wildlife

Question 8 - no responses, probably did not see the back side of paper

### Responses to questionnaire re: State Sites (6 forms returned)

1. Do you have any suggestions for changes or improvements to the design of the state site home page template?

-Could there be a pop-up box (or something similar next to where it says "search databases" explaining what the user is searching? It is clear to me what they are searching but I don't know if it would be clear to users new to the site. (KS)

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

-Switch Local Resources w Hot Topics & move Get Involved to where Local Resources is now ( see next page). Local Resources is the most important aspect of state sites.

-In general, I feel not enough graphics to grab audience. Boxes seem to take too much space.

Lettering too small (e.g. under Hot Topics)

2. Do you like the placement and size of the pictures in the center?

-Yes, maybe larger photos if possible (Montana)

-Yes (KS)

-Too small

-Yes, breaks up the page

3. Do you want to be able to add your own photos to the center picture display?

-Yes (Montana)

-Yes! (KS)

-Yes

-Yes

-Definitely need to be able to add pictures relative to state. Link to categories soil, vegetation, animals, issues (resource)

4. Do you want to be able to add your own banner?

Maybe (Montana)

-Yes! (KS)

-Yes

-No, just have a common wording -- "Arizona Rangelands ...A Member of the WRP" (or whatever)

-Definitely need to add own banner. Sorry to lose state graphic (picture in shape of state).

5. Do you like the placement of the blocks or do you have suggestions for changing them?

-Looks good (Montana)

-Partner sites block seems larger than needed, rotating partners

6. Are the block content headings appropriate for your state content?

-"Hot topics" and "highlights" seems to have too much overlap. Instead, change "Hot Topics" to "Topic Areas" and hot topic Info could be included in the Highlights section. (Montana)

-The RSS feed from RW on a state or regional basis

-Don't see headings for general categories soils, vegetation, animals, issue, distribution of rangelands

7. What should be listed in the "Local Resources" and how should they be organized? For Instance: Academic could be links to departments, courses, etc.; Agencies could be links to local groups, associations, NGOs, etc.; and Partners could be the logos and links for your local partners.

-Extension personnel and locations, agencies, other groups (CNIPM (weed warriors))

8. What do you want to put in "Contact Information", "Social Media", etc.?

-Person responsible for site maintenance (email, general address locations)

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

## 9. Other questions or suggestions?

-I'm not interested in having K-State's site hosted but visually I like this much better than what we currently have. Would it be possible to get the template & CSS that I could mess around with and use on the K-State site? Also, I like the "Search Databases" functionality. Could I get the code w/a Kansas search and the other two search boxes to put on the K-State site w/o you hosting our site? Looks great! Thanks! Livia Olsen ([livia@k-state.edu](mailto:livia@k-state.edu))

-Seems to remove creativity aspects of individuals, however would allow some sites to get moving again

## Responses to questionnaire re: Global Rangelands home page

### Question 1

- change "more options" under search button to "advanced" or "advanced search". I agree with Amy about needing more than one box under the advanced search. They can be very handy and sometimes less confusing than one search box.
- include world map and give greater focus
- see comments on next page. The text is rather far away from the bullets. Also the text seems rather small in many places
- RW map looks cartoonish compared to rest of page. Sponsors rotating is distracting. I'm not into animations and you have three areas changing at the same time.
- need to be able to click on some icon to get to rangelandswest.org; map for RW should be same map that is on the rW.org page

### Question 2

- it didn't bother me so it must be fine
- It might be better to have multiple partner blocks in that space and have them scroll across rather than disappear and replace.
- a bit fast but I think it is fine
- rotates ok given above. Need to get right UW logo.
- too many rolling images. Could partners be a click to a list where the list is linked to a specific resource? Not clear what the rolling icons are at the bottom of the page - partners? Sponsors?

### Question 3

- definitely need heading for tag cloud.
- blank
- Rangelands of the World should take to regional or state content sites
- blank
- blank

### Question 4

- newly updates state sites? New tools? Relevant news?
- blank
- yes, front and center. Meetings and other big items (eg. The CEAP report) but this should always be current and relevant
- it's ok but takes a large amount of space. If this large, maybe should highlight projects WRP is doing - RW, Extension, RSIS, HEC, etc.
- the placement is good, but it is difficult to read the text

### Question 5

- needs to be updated regularly (also #4). How will we assign duties, make sure new content is added on a regular basis?
- blank

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

- no specific comments
- this duplicates what is on extension
- blank

## Question 6

- blank
- blank
- not at this time
- blank
- I like the plant photo sites in the "image" tab. But it is not clear plant pictures are in this link. How about "images of rangeland plants? Not clear what "outreach for development" will be.

## Question 7

- rephrase "sign up for services"
- blank
- good question. On a site like this I suppose people should be directed to professional organizations like SRM and/or the state contacts for the Rangelands West pages
- unless someone is going to update it, probably best is to pull in info from partner Facebook pages
- long list of social media. I think too many. Takes up too much space.

## Question 8

- blank
- blank
- I can't think of any
- define sponsors as separate from partners. A lot of the sponsors look like partners.
- why can't sponsors and partners be the same?

## Other comments

- 1) can we multi-select on hot links such as authors, states, etc.?
- 2) I think the background map should be something like the NASA backdrop but not mapped regions (i.e. the revised Kuchler's map). This is to take people to the state sites. It should be straightforward at the same time.
- 3) it is difficult to read the text in the Feature's box.
- 4) I am not a big fan of the cloud. It looks like a cluttered mess.
- 5) in the metadata form, the "promote to front page" app - how to control content?
- 6) the advanced search - click on author - get list of articles with long list of authors for each article. These authors are in a long list, one another in each line. This is too long, takes up too much space. Karen
- 7) watch each page. Some pages get pretty long. Could two columns be used?
- 8) need more descriptive terms and description on the "add content" form. For example, "citation" is confusing.
- 9) browse topics- add best of best synthesis papers. Push to top. Karen
- 10) too many rolling logos. Not clear how partners and sponsors are different. Karen
- 11) hard to read features text. Karen
- 12) don't like tag cloud. Too busy. Karen
- 13) images/plant pictures - make sure range plant sites are on the list. Karen
- 14) rangelands of the world map - click to range types. Karen

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

## Appendix B: Brainstorm Notes

### Funding:

- Initiate sponsorship opportunities for each state. Should there be the same option on Rangelands West site?
- Mel & Felix will submit proposal to UC Mexus for funding to get Mexico into International Project.
- SARE – Technology for Ranchers & Land Managers
- Another ISE grant?
- Any more eXtension grants?
- RREA?
- Adding on as Extension/Outreach component of NIFA/AFRI grants

### Marketing:

- Name:
  - The Rangelands Partnership (an umbrella name)
  - Rangelands West Partnership (RWP)
  - World-wide Rangelands Partnership (WRP? WWRP?)
  - Global Rangelands Partnership (GRP)
  - Global Online Rangelands Partnership (GORP)
  - The Online Rangelands Partnership (TORP)
  - The Rangelands Partnership (TRP)
  - WERA 1008 document 2006-2011 has confusion. Sometimes called “Rangelands West Partnership”; sometimes referred to as “Western Rangelands Partnership”. Hopefully new WERA document 2011-2016 doesn’t retain this confusion.
  - For the name of the partnership, I suggest sticking with whatever the 2011-2016 WERA document uses as the name.
  - Name of the partnership that is an umbrella for all our activities. – what we call ourselves & that others can connect with
  - [State name] Rangelands: [tag line] A member of the Western Rangelands Partnership
- Entry for Rangelands West on Wikipedia?
- Continue SRM liaison and/or work on committees & presentations at Annual Meeting
- Develop an “elevator speech” that explains, very briefly, what Rangelands West is. This would be particularly useful for new people such as myself. Maybe this already exists somewhere?
- When Global Rangelands (GR) goes live, register with CIARD RING
- Develop talking points on the value of Rangelands Partnership to share with Library Deans
- With re-launch of RW (and new GR) communicate to LGU Deans
- Market new GR/RW to Deans (both library and ag/range) – send report with letter
- Give webinar(s) on “new” Rangelands West when it is “live” and populated (market to SRM? AgNIC? Also for those partners who were unable to attend WRP meeting)
- Need to market roll-out of eXtension
- Write a marketing plan
- identify (again) our audience in light of changes (how we have evolved)
- reconnect with AgNIC (insure records show up in AgNIC database)

### Assessment/Impact

- Is there a mechanism for “counting” number of hits and/or determining amount of info accessed?
- Need to identify groups of potential users and have a trial session for them to access the sites and obtain information – and provide critique for improvement
- How faculty (specialists and librarians) can measure impact from their involvement in all of the different activities
- Google Analytics reports should be compiled on a regular basis for annual reports (& other reports)
- Annual survey of users re: 1) value of website; 2) the things users like; 3) suggested improvements

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

- Create a plan for what stats we need, want, are shooting for
- Create a space to collect anecdotal info on how sites are use. This would be good for marketing and fundraising.

## Website Content / Issues

- Link herbarium websites to Rangelands West and/or Global Rangelands website
- Identify more journal backfiles
- More video of sites
- Uniformity (to a certain degree) between state sites – brand recognition as discussed earlier in the meeting
- (Global Rangelands) Glossary of acronyms; new range-specific courses; study abroad options
- Hot topics on RW. How to update if want to keep this service
- Consider using WRP funds (or grant) to hire student to enter items to db. Then specialists/librarians could add subject terms
- I like the idea of highlighting the best publication on different range topics. At least one of those publications should be an extension publication, not just scientific articles.
- Add research stations such as CATIE in Costa Rica. Do you want all U.S. research stations?
- Leave the Google search in. Can you prioritize by .edu, .gov, .org, .net and .com last?
- Rangelands of the World map: what should it look like? When you click on it, what does it do / where does it go?
- How do we validate authors?
- Google search results. Do we limit the results to certain domains?
- Keeping information current
- List ecosystem services in browse topics: carbon, GHG, climate change, water quality, biodiversity, etc.
- Group formed to work on moving state sites to lib guides

## Communication (for WRP members)

- Flickr photos for WRP
- What works for everyone? Is email really the best way to go? Would it work to have some sort of “group space” via new site or some sort of google tool?
- Rangelands (internal) blog: for communicating what’s up across partners; for staying abreast of steering committee work/decisions
- Mid-year reminders of progress, intentions, goals
- I enjoyed receiving newsletter. It condensed the information into an easy to read format. Maybe two per year.
- Communicate with partnership members a few times a year
- Need a website just about the partnership – more static information, not the dynamic database website
- “About Section” for loading reports, PPTs, photos
- Short emails
- Email; newsletter 2-4 times/year
- Bi-monthly email newsletter; IT update – progress, responses to questions people have had; project updates (one paragraph); report on statistics (google analytics) once sites are up; membership update

## Membership

- If we are talking globally, invite ICARDA scientists (Mounir Loharchi; Barbara Rischkowsky)
- Need directory of partners on site
- Need to update the bylaws to reflect current officer titles/duties (e.g. secretary-treasurer) and to reflect any possible changes to name of partnership
- Revise bylaws
- Review bylaws for inclusion of international partners and expand to accommodate a variety of relationships; Reinstate participation, outlining a range of levels of participation
- 1994 institutions; Native American institutions

# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

## Appendix C: Action Item Table

Name(s)	Category	Task	Timeline	Comments
All WRP members	WERA	Make sure you are on the WERA list; if not contact your Experiment Station Director	ASAP	
Jeanne Pfander	WERA	Prepare WERA annual report. Make available to WRP partners to share with their Exp Stn Directors.	Send to Colin by August 2011	
Rachel M & Beth B	Communications	Online newsletter	2-4 times/yr - TBD	
Rachel M & Beth B	Communications	WRP membership directory	TBD (by March 2012)	Include names, contact info (mailing address, etc.) of WRP members; post on web.
John T & Rachel M	Communications	WRP membership website	By March 2012	For directory, newsletter, photos, presentations, etc. with RSS feed option
Executive Comm/ Steering Comm (EC/SC) (Mark T, Jeanne P, Rachel M, Barb H, etc.)	Communications	Mid-year virtual mtg for check-ins re: state sites, grants, projects, etc.	By November 2011?	EC will choose date and inform membership
EC /SC	Membership	Revise / update bylaws	By November 2011?	Including possible institutional mbr dues
EC/SC	Membership	Invite new members	By March 2012	Native Am, Intl
Karen L	Marketing	One-page talking points document	By March 2012	For Deans, new members, etc.
Barb H., Karen L, Amy	Marketing	Wikipedia article on WRP, RW, etc.	By March 2012	
IT team (AZ & EC)	Marketing	Follow-up on discussion re: state site template, etc. (see page 5 above)	ASAP	
John T., Jim D.	Assessment/Impact	work with NIFA, AES, and CE about assessment	TBD	Google analytics, hits, etc.
Beth and EC	Assessment/Impact	Value of RW web portal / websites	TBD	
Mel and Felix	Funding	proposal to UC Mexus	?	
John T	Finances/Funding	Check balance available after Bozeman mtg and	By October 2011?	



# Western Rangelands Partnership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 22-24, 2011

		transfer(?) remainder to AZ for 2012 WRP mtg		
Dave K	Annual Mtg Planning	Hand-off planning document for hosting WRP meetings to AZ for 2012 mtg	By October 2011?	
John T		Confirm re: new lead for eXtension Rangelands CoP (Sherm? Lovina?)		