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- News from the SD Section of the Society for Range Management

By: Emily Helms

The South Dakota Section of the Society for Range Management held its annual chapter meeting on Monday, October 18, 2021 via Zoom. Members and non-members signed in for a morning of informative presentations, followed by the Business Meeting in the afternoon. (While the Zoom format is convenient, we hope to move back to an in-person annual meeting in 2022.)

Presenters for the day were Patrick Kozak, Krista Ehlert, and Jeff Martin. Patrick Kozak is currently a PhD student at South Dakota School of Mines. His presentation covered the salinity issues that have begun to occur as the result of stock dams and water impoundments in Western South Dakota. Krista Ehlert is the State Extension Range Specialist and faculty member at South Dakota State University. Krista talked about the work that she, along with The Nature Conservancy, NRCS, and other partners are doing to restore riparian areas using beaver dam analogs and other low-cost strategies. Jeff Martin is the director of research for the newly formed Center of Excellence for Bison Studies at South Dakota State University. Jeff provided an overview of the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies and talked about a few upcoming studies they will be working on.

Awards Chair, Jessica Michalski, announced Excellence in Range Management awards winners. South Dakota is split into four different areas for awards. Area III had two winners this year: Lower Brule Farm Corporation and Jonathan and Sheena Rohrbach. Area IV had one winner: David Gutierrez. The overall Excellence Range Management award is to be decided. That winner will have a poster showcased at that Annual SRM Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico in February. Look for spotlights of the ERM winners in upcoming issues!

Nominations were also held during the meeting. Outgoing president Matt Odden handed over his position to Carmen Drieling. Jameson Brennan moved up to 1st Vice President, and Tyler Swan was nominated as 2nd Vice president. Matt Stoltenburg retired from the Board of Directors and was replaced by Jessica Michalski.

We're looking forward to continued support of youth activities, as well as the upcoming in-person International Meeting February 2022 in Albuquerque, New Mexico!



Patrick Kozak (top), Krista Ehlert (middle), and Jeff Martin (bottom) gave an update on the latest research they are working on in South Dakota.