**Where:** Jordan VFW Hall

**Opening:** 10:05 am

**Attendance:** 27

**Self-Introduction:** Bill Milton asked everyone to introduce themselves and what makes a good story. Attendees around the room gave various answers such as: relatable characters, evocative language, emotional connections, happy or twist endings, inspirational for the audience, passionate voice, comic relief.

**CMR CWG Partner Reports/Updates:**

* **Ranchers Stewardship Alliance Conservation Committee (RSA):**Kelsey Molloy announced a Low Stress Animal Handling Workshop hosted by RSA and Tom Curtin being held in Malta on Nov 13th. Marisa Sather reported on grant funding for analysis of big game migrations and wildlife friendly fencing, mostly focusing on Pronghorn.

[Link to the Low Stress Livestock Handling Workshop Flyer](http://www.cmrcwg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Tom-Curtin-Workshop.docx)

* **Charles M. Russell Refuge CMR*:*** Paula Gouse reported that there is nothing new to report.
* **World Wildlife Fund (WWF):** Andrew Horvath reported that they are approaching the end of the first year for their sustainable beef pilot project. The project focuses on the supply chain from calf to table. There are 7 ranchers currently enrolled in the project who will receive data from the feedlot and on the carcass.
* **Agricultural Community Enhancement and Sustainability** (**ACES):** Diane Ahlgren reported that the group has an active conservation committee. They are working on a NFWF grant for $125,000 towards on the ground projects and about $75,000 in administrative grants. The group has received their 501(c)3 non-profit designation. The Winnett Community Center project will have their next public meeting on October 16th at 7pm.
* **Range Monitoring Group *(*RMG)*:*** Bill Milton reported on this long term project with the goal of having committed producers agree to some targeted monitoring practices in regards to soil, plants, and birds (such as mesonet stations or grassland bird surveys). This data is then used to gauge how the land responds to specific or new management practices (such as radio collar fencing). Currently there are 15 landowners and a few federal land managers and NGOs that have agreed to monitor and share the data.
* **Interactive Mapping Project –** Mark Werley reported on his interactive map project. The map has tools that provide data about the communities, the region, and their statistics. It covers things such as precipitation, cattle statistics, population demographics, and other tools and data. The goal is to provide a method for landowners to access tools and information that would be challenging to access without knowledge of GIS.
* **Saltcedar Project:** Casey Gallagher report that 450 acres of Hutton Bottoms were surveyed and treated for Saltcedar. 360acres in Bell and Manning Bottoms were then surveyed and treated. Rock Creek, Slippery Ann, and Duvall Coulee were also surveyed. The original plan was for just Hutton Bottoms; however the crew made fantastic progress so additional work was able to be completed.
* **Other topics discussed:** There was lively discussion after several reports. Topics discussed included: Prairie dog populations, land owner incentives, and interactions with plague (including treatment). Scaling back the focus on Black footed Ferrets as the reason to keep prairie dog towns. Antelope populations, their migrations, and wildlife friendly fencing. Map tools for proving drought conditions.

**Suzi Taylor, MSU – Storytelling Workshop** – Discovering and Sharing Your Working Lands Story

 Please follow this link to access resources and tools that Suzi recommends we practice to better discover and share our working lands stories.

 [Working Lands Story Resources for Web](http://www.cmrcwg.org/resources-for-discovering-and-sharing-your-working-lands-story/)

Lunch was served at 12:05 pm

Workshop resumed at 12:30 pm

**Next Meeting date: November 7th in Malta**

Adjournment: 3:05 PM