Sangre de Cristo Ranch Owners, Inc. **Membership Meetings** **www.scrocommunity.org**	**Zoom link** Zoom meeting ID: 834 9260 1289 Zoom passcode: 543203

SCRO Quarterly Membership Meeting for Winter 2026
Saturday, January 31, 2026, 10:00am-12:00pm on Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Bracketed numbers show the related time marks within the video recording of the meeting

Call to Order [1:15]

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by the meeting chairperson, Board Member Frase.

Guest speaker [2:40]:

Vision of the Sangre de Cristo Ranches (Community) Facebook Group
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1329908911950844

Mark Jamison, Co-Founder
Sangre de Cristo Ranches (Community) Facebook Group

This Facebook (FB) group was co-founded by Mark Jamison, Melissa Heggen, and Mac Gallegos; there is currently no affiliation between the FB group and SCRO (although this presentation may be a prelude to some sort of relationship). The FB group was established due to a need for an uplifting and welcoming Ranches-related social media presence. The FB group is neighbor-driven community space that strengthens communication, preparedness, and relationships across a geographically dispersed region. The group is designed so that it can continue to exist and thrive even if the founding members are no longer able to manage the group.

The FB group is based on a community hub model. Both members and moderators are encouraged to share information to enable peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, rapid information exchange, storytelling and photos, tips, advice, and informal problem solving. Currently featured content includes a description of how one community member has improved the efficiency of their wood stove, as well as a photo competition. Weather forecasts and notices of upcoming community events are regularly posted.

The FB group is developing a set of guides that focus on off-grid living. Topics include water sources, sanitation, electrical systems, permitting and regulations, property access, trail building, fire mitigation, survival skills, etc. One of the guides is a list of community resources and businesses. Community Member Jamison invited SCRO to post SCRO-related information in the FB group.

Various board members acknowledged all the hard work that has been put into this FB group and expressed appreciation for the commitment to keeping the FB group's content and comments respectful (which would be a requirement of any FB group with

which SCRO associates). Community Member Jamison noted that there are no plans to monetize the group's social media presence nor to incorporate into a legal entity; he emphasized that the FB group is and will not be a competitor with SCRO. Rather, the FB group could be a way for SCRO to amplify any governance and official communication resulting from SCRO's official business, including meeting agendas and minutes. He also offered the use of the FB group to facilitate community discussion related to any pending SCRO business.

Board Member Frase noted that, prior to this SCRO meeting, Community Member Jamison had asked her what outcome she was hoping to materialize by inviting Community Member Jamison to give this presentation; her response was three-fold: 1) Community-focused information to be readily available to the community, regardless the venue/organization utilized for that dissemination; 2) SCRO would be able to provide sufficient benefit to the community in order to justify its membership dues (this may be more challenging if SCRO is not providing community-focused information-sharing; thus, the value-added may need to be created in other ways); 3) the FB group has the freedom to do what they are already doing so well and that SCRO support that information-sharing effort.

Roll Call [41:00]

SCRO board members:
President: Nancy Frase – PRESENT
Vice-President: Jo Way – PRESENT
Secretary: Mike Powell – ABSENT
Treasurer: Mara Rodriguez-Walters – PRESENT
At-Large Member: Scott Cessac – ABSENT
At-Large Member: Margie Palmer – PRESENT
At-Large Member: Position VACANT

Four of six board members were present at roll call.

SCRO general members:
John Baich
Tim Palmer
Troy Way
Glenn Walters

Four general members were present at roll call.

Four board members and six general members are required for a quorum; thus, a quorum was not established.

Community members:
Mark Jamison
Jan Green
Robert Green

Review of Agenda [42:43]

The membership considered requests for modifications to the agenda; no requests were heard.

Review of meeting minutes [42:56]

The membership considered requests for modifications to the minutes from the August 2nd, 2025, annual membership meeting and the November 1st, 2025, quarterly membership meeting; no requests were heard.

Due to the lack of a quorum, a vote could not be held to approve the meeting minutes. The draft meeting minutes will be re-presented at the next membership meeting for approval.

Announcements [43:13]

Board vacancies: The resignations of Board Members Mike Powell and Steve Navratil were noted. Board Member Frase stated that she views the turnover in board membership as an indicator of the board being in the "storming" stage of organizational development; she believes the turnover will allow cohesiveness to form among the remaining/new board members, making way for the "norming" stage of organizational development. Board Member Way accepted an action item (#340) to recruit board candidates to be considered at the 3/5/26 board meeting for the two open positions.

Social activities: SCRO social activities are being postponed indefinitely (at least through the winter).

Membership meeting (public welcome): The next membership meeting is Saturday, May 2nd, starting at 10:00am on Zoom.

Board meetings (public welcome): The next regular board meeting is Thursday, February 5th, 8:30-10:00am on Zoom; the schedule for future board meetings and work sessions will be reviewed and possibly changed during that board meeting.

Strategic planning for SCRO [50:09]

Background: During each SCRO meeting this fiscal year, there has been a consensus that SCRO needs to develop a robust strategic plan to capture the purpose and strategy for fulfilling our mission, especially as we consider establishing a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. During the Nov 1 membership meeting, Board Member Frase accepted an action item to lead the development of that strategic plan.

Discussion led by Board Member Frase: Consider the purpose of SCRO and the direction the board would like to lead the organization and the community, including the potential for an ongoing relationship between SCRO and the Sangre de Cristo Ranches (Community) Facebook Group. Outcomes of that discussion include:

- It was noted that former Board Member Steve Navratil had been leading the effort to potentially migrate from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3); he had prepared a presentation for the board. However, with his resignation from the board and from

SCRO, that presentation is no longer available to SCRO. This provides a renewed opportunity for the SCRO membership to help determine next steps on this front.

- Board Member Frase solicited input on what attendees believe the overarching purpose of SCRO should be and if that purpose is compatible with an 501(c)(3). Input included:
    - Being an enduring and stable resource within the community; a 501(c)(3) status would allow SCRO to engage in larger-scale efforts within the community.
    - Being a reliable and trusted source of information and a sense of community.
    - A practical benefit to the community, especially facilitating vetted opportunities for those with greater resources to offer assistance to more vulnerable members of the community; this may include offering scholarships to cover membership fees when needed, gifting firewood from fallen trees, and a tool library. SCRO can implement such programs without being classified as a 501(c)(3).
    - Moving to a 501(c)(3) status would limit the relationship SCRO could have with governmental organizations; it would affect how "political" that involvement could become. SCRO might be able to provide balanced information on political issues but might not be allowed to advocate for a given position on the issue. It might make sense to keep SCRO as a 501(c)(4) and launch a separate 501(c)(3) that would be strictly non-political.
    - Currently, SCRO does not have the financial resources nor the member base needed to transfer to or launch a new 501(c)(3) organization. It may take months (or years?) to rebuild trust and interest within the community and to grow SCRO to the point that the 501(c)(3) structure is a real possibility. In the meantime, SCRO ought to behave as a 501(c)(3) to demonstrate fitness for becoming or associating with a 501(c)(3) in the future.
    - The existing purpose statements from the restated articles of incorporation (1993), and the bylaws (2024) are still applicable for SCRO as a 501(c)(4); there would be limits on how SCRO might be able to "to provide cooperation with [governmental agencies]" as a 501(c)(3).
    - It is accurate that a 501(c)(3) would allow donations to be tax-deductible. However, it is also accurate to say that most low-dollar donors do not take advantage of tax deductions. Thus, the tax deduction is not really a strong motivator to change SCRO's tax classification. A bigger motivation for the change in tax status would be to attract high-dollar donors (such as large corporations); however, the same tax break may be provided through claiming their donations as advertisement (as long as it doesn't jeopardize SCRO's 501(c)(4) standing). Another significant motivation for the change would be the ability to obtain grants; however, obtaining grants is very difficult and would require a substantial financial outlay to hire a grant writer. Even with a grant writer, the chance of obtaining a grant is very low.
    - If SCRO finds an informational niche that is not already being filled by the FB group, SCRO could "lay claim" to that niche and provide that information to the FB group; an example of this could be updates about governmental agency activity and the availability of water for cisterns.

- SCRO can justify its membership fee through providing a way for individuals to join forces to be a meaningful influence in the community; it provides individuals with an active voice for shaping the community in which we all live.

Input on topics not included in the agenda [1:51:21]

Board Member Palmer requested feedback on the information she provided about newsletter options; Board Member Frase noted that that topic is on the agenda for the upcoming board meeting on February 5th.

Community Member Jamison requested that SCRO place a link to the FB group on SCRO's website. Board Member Frase indirectly accepted an action item (#343) to add that link to the website.

Adjourn [1:52:40]

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52am.