



# California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING February 5, 2014

A teleconference meeting of the Executive Council of the California-Nevada Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society was called to order by Chapter President Rob Roy at 10:10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. Present were Executive Council Members President Rob Roy, Directors: Tom Esgate, Tina Vander Hoek, Bill Elder, Tibor Horvath, Kabir Zahangir, Joe Williams, Walter Bunter, Phil Hogan and Austin Avwunudiogba. A quorum was present.

### **I. Welcome**

Chapter President Roy welcomed all.

### **II. Approval of Minutes from business meeting in Reno**

Phil Hogan motioned to approve minutes. Austin Avwunudiogba seconded the motion which was carried without objections.

### **III. Financial Report**

Tom Esgate Treasurer reported that there was an error on the interest but Tom made the correction. There was only one expense since the last meeting which was a \$100 advance to Walt which had previously been approved. Rob brought up the Strategic Plan in which it states that there should be a minimum balance of \$30,000. Tom paid the corporation filing to the Secretary of State out of his own pocket.

### **IV. Scholarship Committee Report**

Tina Vander Hoek reported that we received 4 applications (1-Fresno State, 1-Cal Poly SLO, 1-Humbolt State, 1-UC Riverside). Kabir and Joe volunteered to help evaluate and rank the applications. Rob asked if we had ranking criteria to evaluate the applications. The applicants are ranked based on items such as GPA, leadership activities to name a few. Will select 1 winner and announce at the Annual Meeting.

### **V. President's Report**

Rob attended the CARCD Annual Meeting and gave a presentation on SWCS and what we could do. Approximately 15 people attended the talk. A question was asked regarding the official chapter address. Walt reminded the Board that the Davis address is the official location. Rob had good discussions outside of the talk and in particular with Tom Wehri regarding the Farm Bill position paper. Placer RCD signed on with the paper as

well as CARCD. Rob faxed the paper to the six committee members. Rob spoke to Tahoe/Nevada RCD who wanted to incorporate more urban conservation into the paper but it was a late suggestion that wasn't incorporated. This dialogue will go a long way in the relationship between the chapter and the RCD. Ladi will craft a discussion for the newsletter on the position paper and the Farm Bill.

## **VI. Unfinished business –**

Annual Meeting- Rob put together a sub-committee to come up with a location, date and topic. Possibly schedule a May or June meeting date that would be earlier than the National SWCS meeting. Rob discussed a recent meeting he attended regarding drought and the effects of groundwater pumping and subsidence. This could be a good topic for the annual meeting. The sub-committee members are Tom, Phil and Joe.

Bylaws- Joe reported that he submitted the resigned bylaws to the national SWCS office. Walt will replace the signed bylaws on the website. Walt also suggested that the bylaws could be changed to reflect voting electronically vs. paper voting for council office elections. Rob will put this item on as a future agenda item and contact Mike Simmons, current Elections Chair about this.

Annual Chapter Report- Joe will compile and submit before next week's deadline.

Leopold Award- Ladi hasn't heard back from Karen Sweet but will have an update for the next meeting. Rob has a good nominee.

## **VII. Newsletter and Website Report-**

Walt gave an update on the newsletter. He would like to go to print this week. Walt would like assistance with the website and this might be discussed further with the Communications Committee.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **Next election of Board Members-**

Tibor is the Nominating Committee chair. Tibor was absent but did email Rob information. Currently we have 4 positions up for election. Walt mentioned that ballots should be mailed out 60 days before the Annual Meeting. Phil and Kabir are willing to serve again. Send all nominations to Tibor. Rob will be in office until 2015. The President-Elect will serve for one year and then will assume the position in 2015.

**Update on Strategic Plan-**

Rob thought the Board should consider updating it. Rob asked if the committee needed to get together separately which Ladi agreed. Ladi thought it would be a good idea to look over the National SWCS Strategic Plan to incorporate or mirror that plan. Austin will chair the committee. Walt suggested that after the meeting and make changes Joe could send out to the Executive Board to review and vote to approve at the next meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

Motion by Rob to adjourn the meeting at 12:00. Joe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
s/Joe Williams, Secretary

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