



# California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING March 13, 2009

A teleconference/meeting of the Executive Council of the California-Nevada Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society was called to order by President Lisa Hokholt at 10:17 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009. The following Executive Council Members were present: Erik Beardsley, President-Elect; Dave Rose, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Ladi Asgill, Andrea Casey, Bill Daily, and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Council Directors Eric Berntsen, and Ken Trott. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. A quorum was present.

It was moved by Rose, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2009, Executive Council meeting as distributed.

Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Council Members Financial Reports as of February 20, 2009, and March 13, 2009, and the Chapter Budget for FY 2009, which was adopted at the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting (copies attached). The beginning balance of all funds on January 1, 2009, was \$33,526.20. Total income received during Fiscal Year 2009 as of March 13<sup>th</sup> was \$716.96, which included new income of \$606.64 from SWCS for Chapter dues collected for 91 members from July 1 to December 31, 2008, received during the period of January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 20<sup>th</sup>; and \$51.27 from interest income during the period of February 20<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup>. The total of expenses during Fiscal Year 2009 as of March 13<sup>th</sup> was \$163.96, of which \$2.00 was expended during the period of January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 20<sup>th</sup> in payment of sales taxes to the State for 2008, based on the sale of one logo vest at \$35; and, during the period of February 20<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>, \$161.96 spent for envelopes and postage, divided equally between the election and the Bass Lake Conference. The balance of all funds on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, was \$34,189.89; and on March 13, 2009, \$34,079.20, a decrease of \$110.69 from the February report. Bunter also added that the Chapter's scholarship CD was renewed on March 3rd for one year at a 2.00% APY after \$1,000 was transferred to the Chapter's checking account for payment to the 2009 scholarship winner. He pointed out that, if we waited until April or May to withdraw the money, the early withdrawal penalty would exceed the loss of interest by having it in the checking account during that period. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's February 20<sup>th</sup> report; and moved by Beardsley, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's March 13<sup>th</sup> report.

The only Correspondence reported was a request received by Bunter from Louie Marty, a college student, to publish an article in the Chapter newsletter. This request will be considered upon receipt of the article.

Regarding the Chapter's Plan of Work (POW), President Hokholt reported she had received from Bunter a draft 2009 POW, which she requested him to send to all members of the Executive Council to review, with comments to be returned to Bunter by the next meeting.

Reports were then given on the following Committees:

➤ Annual Conference – Erik Beardsley, Chair

Beardsley reported that interest in the Annual Conference is gaining and NRCS employees are waiting to receive the California Bulletin with more details regarding requirements for agency-approved attendance, which Hokholt has completed and sent to Rachel Lopez for signature. Beardsley also reported that, during a NRCS Leadership Team teleconference yesterday, District Conservationists were encouraged to present posters at professional conferences. Regarding presentation of posters

at the SWCS Conference, Daily submitted an updated article for the next issue of *Runoff*. In addition, Bunter has prepared a news release about the conference for distribution to selected newspapers and magazines. The NRCS Civil Rights Committee is proposing to meet at The Pines Conference Center the same week as the SWCS conference and has been invited to participate in the program. Although scheduling a NRCS Leadership Team meeting that week is probably not realistic, according to Beardsley, if the Assistant State Conservations for Field Offices for all four areas attend, an informal NRCS Senior Executive Team meeting might materialize. Beardsley added that Rob Roy is finalizing one of the panels on the conference program and will be providing the necessary visual-effects equipment for the whole conference.

Hokholt announced that an article on the conference, which she had submitted, appears in the current issue of *Conservogram*. She appealed to those on the teleconference to participate in the conference and encouraged each Executive Council member to promote attendance, with which Beardsley concurred, adding that it will be a great opportunity for networking and training. Daily will talk to the Nevada NRCS State Conservationist about the conference. In his Financial Report, Bunter noted he had mailed conference materials to 200 people. According to Hokholt, 50% of the total contract is now due (60 days prior) The Pines Conference Center, payment of which will be taken up under the proper order of business.

➤ Awards – Vacant

Grover raised the question of nominations for awards scheduled to be presented following the banquet on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although Hokholt likes the ceremony and the recognition of people and programs, someone else would need to take on the lead, including the task of soliciting nominations. Asgill agreed to help by emailing out the requirements for each category, which will be provided by Bunter, and inviting nominations with a deadline of two weeks prior to the conference. Although former Awards Chairman Phil Hogan is unable to attend the conference, Bunter suggested he might be able to prepare and print the program. It was also suggested that Past President Mark Steffek, who has been a member of this committee, be asked to assist. Hokholt will contact Hogan and Steffek.

➤ Bylaws – Mike Simmons, Chair

Simmons was unable to participate; no report.

➤ Communications – Anita Brown, Chair

Brown was unable to participate. Hokholt thanked Bunter for preparing the conference news release with assistance from the NRCS Public Affairs staff.

➤ Financial Oversight – Ken Trott, Chair

Trott was unable to participate – no report.

➤ Leadership Development – Erik Beardsley, Chair

Beardsley reported he has written another article for the next issue of *RUNOFF*. His quarterly articles address questions which have been asked of him.

➤ Membership – Andrea Casey, Chair

Casey reported that the Chapter membership is holding steady.

➤ Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor; Walt Bunter, Publisher

Rash was unable to participate; Bunter had no report.

➤ Nominations – Dave Rose, Chair

Rose reported he had worked with Steffek in developing the list of nominees on the ballot mailed by Bunter to the 168 members on the Chapter roster received February 24<sup>th</sup>. According to Bunter, 34 ballots have been returned to date. The nominees are: President-Elect, Andrea Casey; Secretary, none (to be filled by write-in); Treasurer, Tom Esgate; Director (three seats), Ladi Asgill, Tina Vander Hoek, Michael Hogan, Dan Martynn, and Rob Roy (withdrew). Rose also shared that his wife was recovering slowly at home from her surgery after experiencing a seizure.

➤ Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair

Asgill reported that the committee is “re-grouping” as Trott is unavailable, but he would have something tangible at the next Executive Council meeting. Hokholt expressed the opinion that this is an exciting, but untapped resource of the Chapter, and she will be interested in being involved with it after she is president.

➤ Professional Development – Phil Hogan, Chair

Hogan was unable to participate. Bunter reported that Hogan sends him professional development information for distribution. Regarding the CPESC and CPSWQ training and exams being offered at the Annual Conference, Hokholt inquired into the number and cost of workbooks that are ordered. Bunter replied that 15 will be ordered, but any that are not used may be returned for a refund.

➤ Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair

Vander Hoek announced that she received applications from five candidates, one of which is a student member of SWCS – three from Humboldt State and one each from Cal Poly – Pomona and Chico State. However, although criteria including student membership are established, a selection has not yet been made. Vander Hoek will email the name of the selectee with the reasoning for the selection to members of the Executive Council for approval next week. Action on payment of some of the selectee's expenses to attend the Annual Conference, as has been done in the past, was tabled until the next Executive Council meeting. Vander Hoek inquired about the need for a permit to have a silent auction and raffle at the Annual Conference to benefit the Scholarship Fund; Bunter will obtain. Bunter also suggested using items from the Chapter's inventory of logo clothing as fundraisers.

➤ Student Chapters – Vacant

➤ Student Chapter Representative – Vacant

Unfinished Business items discussed and/or transacted during the meeting were as follows:

➤ 2009 Planning Meeting/Plan of Work –

As was agreed at the January 30<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Meeting, the 2009 Planning Meeting will be incorporated into the Annual Business Meeting, which is being scheduled for Wednesday evening, April 22, 2008, during the Annual Conference. After the draft 2009 POW is finalized by the Executive Council at its next meeting, it will be distributed to Chapter members during the Annual Business Meeting for review and adoption.

➤ 2008-2012 Strategic Plan –

Copies of the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, adopted by the Executive Council on September 19, 2008, will be distributed to members during the April 22, 2009, Annual Business Meeting.

➤ Chapter Membership Survey –

Discussion/action regarding a Chapter Membership Survey was tabled.

➤ Annual Chapter Report –

The Annual Chapter Report, which is required of each SWCS Chapter, was submitted to National by Grover prior to the February 15<sup>th</sup> due date.

The following New Business was brought before the Executive Council at this meeting:

➤ The Pines Conference Center Payment –

It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to pay 50% of the Chapter's contract obligation, estimated to be approximately \$5,700, to The Pines, as stated in the contract (60 days prior to arrival). Bunter pointed out that a \$1,000 deposit has already been made. However, he will close-out one CD and deposit the proceeds in the checking account in order to cover the required amount, as determined by The Pines and Hokholt.

➤ Election Committee Appointment –

In accordance with Article IV – Elections, Sec. 3, of the Chapter Bylaws, President Hokholt appointed Bunter and Grover as the committee to count the ballots.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was scheduled for **Friday, April 3, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.