



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING March 28, 2008

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 Dave Rose at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2008. The following Executive Council Members were present: Lisa Hokholt, President-Elect, Mark Steffek, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Ladi Asgill, Andrea Casey, Ken Trott, and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Council Directors Steve Perkins and Bruce Williams. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. A quorum was present. Also participating was Don Wysocki, SWCS Western Regional Representative.

It was moved by Bunter, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2008, Executive Council meeting with the following corrections: Bunter is arranging for the CPESC and CPSWQ exams mentioned in the Annual Conference report to be given on *Wednesday* not *Friday*; Membership Chair Casey will begin sending letters to *RCDs* not *RCSs*; and the word *sent* should be deleted from the first line of Scholarship Chair Vander Hoek's report.

Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Council Members a Fiscal Year 2008 report as of March 26, 2008 (copy attached). Total income received since 1/01/08 is \$977.10, which includes new income of \$842.56 as result of \$133.01 CD interest income plus \$609.55 in dues received from the Society for 90 members, and \$100 which included payment for logo clothing, shipping, and a \$6.90 donation to the scholarship fund. The total of expenses since January 1, 2008, is \$2,624.36, of which \$1,597.61 are new including a \$1,237.50 payment to the conference coordinator, \$155.37 in election costs related to 173 ballots, and \$186.74 for printing and mailing the Winter issue of *RUNOFF*. The balance of funds on March 26, 2008, was \$34,753.58, a decrease of \$737.05. Bunter added that he had closed out the Money Market account because the interest rate was so low and we were no longer having interest income transferred into it, but keeping the interest in the CD accounts, as it can be withdrawn as needed with no withdrawal penalty. It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to accept the financial report.

Under correspondence, Grover reported receipt of a notice that the Land Designers in Redding have moved to 1975 Placer Street, Suite A, and Bunter reported he had received a letter from the California Secretary of State requesting that Paragraph 3 on the Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation, regarding Article VI, be deleted. In addition, 48 election ballots have been returned to date.

Following discussion of the 2008 Plan of Work as distributed, a review was tabled until the next Executive Council meeting to allow distribution of the most recent update of the Plan to the Council members.

The following committee reports were made at this time:

➤ Annual Conference – Lisa Hokholt

Hokholt reported that she had been informed that California NRCS State Conservationist Ed Burton, regrettably, would no longer be able to support the SWCS Annual Conference scheduled for May due to Congressional inaction regarding the Farm Bill and appropriations. As Trott had received a similar message from State agencies, the Conference Planning Committee recommended to the Executive Council that the conference be re-scheduled for April 21-23, 2009, at The Pines Resort & Conference Center in the Bass Lake area. The facility has confirmed these dates, Tuesday through Thursday, with no penalty for the conference postponement; however, a new contract will be

negotiated and the \$1000 deposit retained by The Pines Resort. Bunter has drafted a letter, for President Rose to sign and mail, cancelling the agreement with the Yosemite Sequoia RC&D for the services of the conference coordinator, but there will still be one more billing from the RC&D. According to Hokholt, the work that has been done on the conference can be transferred to next year, and Conference Coordinator Hazel Lavender is preparing an executive summary of her contributions. Trott expressed appreciation for Hokholt's leadership and has advised the Secretaries for California Food and Agriculture and the California Resources Agency, A.G. Kawamura and Mike Chrisman, respectively, who were to be keynote speakers, of the change.

- Awards – Vacant
Phil Hogan, who had agreed to take the lead for this committee, is still receiving nominations, and Bunter recommended making the awards at the Annual Business Meeting to be scheduled for this year.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons
Simmons was unable to participate.
- Communications – Vacant
Rose reported he had contacted Anita Brown regarding chairing this committee, but had received no response. Bunter pointed out that the Communications Plan Paul Laustsen had developed was very ambitious and had sent a draft Plan to Rose for review while Trott suggested focusing on key activities.
- Financial Oversight (Audit) – Ken Trott
Trott reported he and Hank Wyman had met with Bunter to audit the books and determined Bunter was doing an exceptional job as Treasurer. They also reviewed the recommendations made last year, which have pretty much been completed, with the exception of adding new names to the bank signature cards within 10 days of the election and following up on the financial status of the Nevada Chapter. According to Bunter, the Nevada Chapter never submitted tax returns and a final report needs to be filed to close the Chapter's EIN number. Trott is waiting for input from Wyman before completing the audit report, which will include three new duties for the Treasurer.
- Leadership Development – Erik Beardsley
Beardsley was unable to participate. Rose reported that the federal and state budget situations may have a negative effect on leadership development, and Beardsley wants to give it more thought before implementing the Leadership Development Program approved by the Executive Council.
- Membership – Andrea Casey
Casey reported she needs to update the draft letters she sent to Executive Council Members for review now that there will be no conference this year, but will begin sending the letters to new members, non-renewed members, and RCDs/RC&Ds, as appropriate, soon. According to the last Chapter roster, we have gained one or two new members, so are keeping a balance on the total membership. Casey wants to be pro-active regarding renewals by sending reminder letters.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash (Editor), Walt Bunter (Publisher)
Rose reported that the Winter issue of *RUNOFF* is out with revisions regarding the Annual Conference. According to Bunter, the deadline for the next issue is May 16, 2008.
- Nominating – Mark Steffek
Steffek announced that April Stinson was unable to run after all, but Eric Berntsen had agreed to be nominated. He added that there are several members who might be interested next year. Ballots have been mailed to members with a return deadline of April 11, 2008.
- Policy – Ladi Asgill
Asgill reported the direction of the committee is to focus on preparing a policy document by the end of the year. Bunter has sent him copies of previous documents developed by the Chapter – one on Land Use in 1979 and another on Land and Water Use in 1985. Need to develop a process for members to provide input to add value to the document as, according to Trott, you should not develop papers in a vacuum. Asgill suggested holding a one-day meeting with experts from different areas on a subject, for example ag- and farm-land conversion, and then, based on the input, prepare a policy paper, such as a 10-page brochure. He would like the Executive Council to decide today the timing and the topics to be emphasized. Topics suggested by Trott were working landscapes and climate change.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan
Hogan was unable to participate.

- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek
Vander Hoek announced the committee's recommendation of Rosemary Records, a Rangeland Resource Science major at Humboldt State University, as this year's recipient of the Chapter's 2008 \$1000 scholarship.
- Strategic Plan – Kay Joy
Joy was unable to participate. Rose will contact her.
- Student Chapters – Bruce Williams
Williams was unable to participate. Casey reported that she and Rose recently made an outreach visit to the Ag Department at California State University, Chico. They met with an enthusiastic Outreach Coordinator of the Agriculture Department to discuss SWCS student memberships and chapters. Trott suggested holding a future meeting in Chico and arranging public recognition of the scholarship recipient at Humboldt State.
- Student Representative – Vacant
- SWCS Western Regional Representative – Don Wysocki
Don made the following announcements:
 - 1 – Norm Berg has passed away; former Berg Fellows are developing a memorial to honor him, such as re-establishing the Berg Fellows Program.
 - 2 – The annual Budget Meeting of the SWCS Board of Directors will be held on April 23rd; send any items to Don.
 - 3 – The House of Delegates meeting at the Annual Conference, at which resolutions and other business will be considered, will be followed by an Open Forum/Town Hall meeting, which anyone can attend to hear the "State of the Society" discussed.
 - 4 – The law suit filed by SWCS to recover the cost of damages (~\$200,000) sustained during the flooding of the Headquarters building two years ago is in mediation.
 - 5 – Letters soliciting bids for marketing the Society are being considered in an effort to increase membership.

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

- 2008 Plan of Work –
Rose had distributed a draft 2008 Plan of Work as developed at the November 9th meeting to members of the Executive Council for review. However, it was not the update Grover had prepared. She will forward the latest update to Rose for re-distribution to Council members for consideration at the April meeting.
- 2008 Annual Conference –
The emergency email vote to reschedule the 2008 Annual Conference for April 21-23, 2009, but to schedule an Annual Business Meeting within 2008 was passed unanimously.
- Chapter Membership Survey –
Beardsley, who was involved with the two previous surveys, was unable to participate in the meeting to lead a review and discussion of the results of the last survey. Prior to the next meeting, Rose will distribute copies of the 2003-04 Chapter Membership Survey and the results to members of the Council for review and discussion with Beardsley.
- Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation –
Bunter reported the Certificate is still not complete. He will follow up on the reasoning for the request that Paragraph 3 on the Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation, regarding Article VI, be deleted.

The following New Business was brought before the Executive Council during the meeting.

- 2008 Scholarship Recipient –
It was moved by Trott, seconded, and passed to accept the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee to award the 2008 Scholarship to Rosemary Records and to present it to her at the Annual Business Meeting if she is able to attend (date to be determined).
- 2008 Election Committee –
President Rose appointed the following members to serve on the Election Committee: Ken Trott, Chair; Walt Bunter; and Pat Grover. The Committee will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17th, to count the ballots.
- 2008 Annual Business Meeting –
Following a short discussion, this issue was tabled until the next meeting of the Executive Council as President-Elect Hokholt was no longer participating in the teleconference. In the meantime,

President Rose will discuss the subject with her. The general consensus of those still participating was to hold the Annual Business Meeting later this Spring, such as the first week in June, at which time new officers would be installed; awards, including the scholarship, presented; and other business of the Chapter addressed, in addition to possibly offering some technical training. However, a Profession Development Meeting in the Fall will also still be considered by Hogan, Trott, and Asgill.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 18, 2008. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

DAVID ROSE, PRESIDENT