



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING April 18, 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 1:10 p.m. on Friday, April 18, 2008. The following Executive Council Members were present: Mark Steffek, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Andrea Casey, Ken Trott, and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were President-Elect Lisa Hokholt, and Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Steve Perkins, and Bruce Williams. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. A quorum was present. Also participating was Erik Beardsley, Chair of the Leadership Development Committee.

It was moved by Trott, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2008, Executive Council meeting with corrections to the following committee reports: Annual Conference – replace *financial problems within the agency* at the end of the first sentence with *Congressional inaction regarding the Farm Bill and appropriations*, and the word *change* at the end of the paragraph with *conference postponement*; Leadership Development – insert *Federal and State* in front of budget in second sentence; Student Chapters – replace *Soil Science instructor who is advisor for the Plant Science Club* with *Outreach Coordinator of the Agriculture Department*.

Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Council Members a Fiscal Year 2008 report as of April 16, 2008 (copy attached). Total income received since 1/01/08 is \$1077.10, which includes new income of \$100.00 as result of the sale of a logo vest to Tom Esgate plus shipping and a donation of \$60.40 to the Scholarship Fund. Bunter reported that the bank statement had not yet come so there was no interest income to report. The total of expenses since January 1, 2008, is \$2,675.19, of which \$50.83 are new including \$4.60 to ship the logo vest to Esgate; \$43.00 to file our 2007 California Exempt Organization Information Return Form 199 (\$10.00, filing fee and \$33.00, Use Taxes for items purchased out of state), and \$3.23 to mail the 199 Return and two Federal Form 990-EZ Returns. The balance of funds on April 16, 2008, was \$34,802.75, an increase of \$49.17 over the March report.

Bunter added that the Federal 2007 Form 990-EZ Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax for both the California and Nevada Chapters were mailed on April 10, 2008, and that this was the final (and first) report for the Nevada Chapter. It was also reported by Bunter that a Certificate of Deposit (CD) had matured April 15, 2008, and he had deposited \$2500.00 of the proceeds into the checking account while reinvesting the remaining \$7598.00 in a seven-months CD. Upcoming expenses to be withdrawn from the checking account include the renewal of the service agreement with our webmaster, payment of the final billing for the Conference Coordinator, and the purchase of award plaques and certificates. In addition, at the end of the month, \$1000 will be withdrawn from the Scholarship Fund to be awarded to our 2008 recipient. It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to accept the financial report.

Under correspondence, President Rose acknowledged receipt of an email from Sue Ann Lynes, SWCS Executive Assistant/Corporate Membership, informing him that the California-Nevada Chapter has been chosen to receive the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Outstanding Chapter Award. The Award

will be presented to the Chapter's representative in Tucson, Arizona, at the Awards luncheon on Tuesday, July 29, 2008. The Executive Council and Committee Chairs had also received a congratulatory email from Don Wysocki, Western Region Director, SWCS, regarding achieving this award for Region 8. It was pointed out that Bunter had completed the application form and Grover had submitted the application, but that it was Rose who had written the narrative section of the application covering the Chapter's 2007 activities.

Action regarding the most recent update of the 2008 Plan of Work, which had been distributed to members of the Executive Council and Committee Chairs, was tabled for discussion under Unfinished Business.

The following committee reports were made at this time:

- Annual Conference – Lisa Hokholt
Hokholt was unable to participate, but Rose reported that he had sent the letter Bunter had prepared cancelling the agreement with the Yosemite Sequoia RC&D for the services of the conference coordinator. However, there will still be one more billing from the RC&D. Rose has been unable to talk to Hokholt regarding planning a short Annual Business Meeting to be held relatively soon. Sometime during the first or second week of June in either Sacramento or the Bay Area was proposed. Grover suggested a dinner meeting featuring a good speaker, the installation of officers, and the presentation of awards and the 2008 scholarship. Possible topics mentioned by Trott were climate change and the role of agriculture and carbon sequestration.
- Awards – Vacant
Phil Hogan, who had agreed to take the lead for this committee, was unable to participate, but had sent some nominations to Committee Member Steffek, who then sent a spreadsheet listing the nominees to members of the Executive Council. Steffek will review the nominations and send his recommendations to Hogan. It was pointed out that only Chapter members are eligible for the Distinguished Service and Chapter Recognition Awards while Merit, Media, and Honor Awards may be presented to non-members. Extension of the deadline for submitting nominees was suggested.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons
Simmons was unable to participate.
- Communications – Vacant
Rose reported he had been unable to contact Anita Brown regarding chairing this committee.
- Financial Oversight (Audit) – Ken Trott
Trott reported he had talked to Committee Member Hank Wyman, but has not yet received the report information for which he has been waiting from him. Trott will have the report, which will include three new duties for the Treasurer, at the next meeting.
- Leadership Development – Erik Beardsley
Beardsley reported that he had contacted Committee Member Steve Perkins, who in his new position is now unable to participate in daytime teleconferences, but had not been able to contact the other member, Mike Simmons. One suggestion that has been considered is to request the position be made a collateral duty for the person selected; however, it is questionable that State and/or Federal agencies would allow this now. The Committee will hold off writing a position description, but would welcome feedback. Trott suggested checking with Wysocki regarding other states having such a program, but Beardsley has not seen any in reading other State Newsletters. According to Rose, the program has a lot of potential.
- Membership – Andrea Casey
No report.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash (Editor), Walt Bunter (Publisher)
The deadline for the next issue of *RUNOFF* is May 16, 2008.
- Nominating – Mark Steffek
Steffek reported that the work of the 2008 Nominating Committee had been completed.
- Policy – Ladi Asgill
Asgill was unable to participate, but Trott reported he had been emailing Asgill and Hogan regarding this subject and they have three definite ideas. According to Trott, the Committee will meet to develop a policy.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan
Hogan was unable to participate, however, with the help of Bunter, he has emailed members some

- opportunities.
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek
Vander Hoek reported she is sending letters to all who applied for this year's scholarship. The recipient, Rosemary Records, will be invited to attend the Annual Business Meeting, and Vander Hoek will advise her when the date and place have been determined with information regarding reimbursement, which will be determined by the Executive Council at a latter date.
- Strategic Plan – Kay Joy
Joy was unable to participate.
- Student Chapters – Bruce Williams
Williams was unable to participate.
- Student Chapter Representative – Vacant

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

- 2008 Plan of Work –
Rose had distributed the 3/28/08 update of the 2008 Plan of Work developed at the November 9, 2007, meeting to members of the Executive Council for review. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to adopt the 3/28/08 update of the 2008 Plan of Work.
- 2008 Annual Business Meeting –
Rose will talk to Hokholt regarding suggestions made during the Annual Conference Committee report.
- Chapter Membership Survey –
Discussion and action regarding a new Chapter Membership Survey was tabled to the next meeting. Rose or Beardsley will distribute copies of the 2003-04 Chapter Membership Survey to members of the Council for review and discussion with Beardsley at that time.
- Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation –
Bunter has completed the Certificate as requested and sent to Grover and Rose for signatures. Grover has signed and forwarded to Rose, who will sign and return to Bunter for submission.
- 2008 Election Committee –
Committee Chair Trott announced that 60 valid and 2 invalid (no return address) ballots were received with the following election results, as certified by Committee Members Bunter and Grover:
 - President-Elect – Erik Beardsley, 39 votes
 - David Heilig, 20 votes
 - Chapter Directors (3 to be elected, 1 from Nevada) –
 - Eric Berntsen, 49 votes
 - Andrea Casey, 47 votes
 - Bill Daily (NV), 55 votes

It was agreed by general consent that Nominations Chair Steffek would advise candidates not participating in this meeting of the election results.

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

- 2008 Scholarship Donation –
It was agreed by general consent that Scholarship Chair Vander Hoek will acknowledge receipt of a donation to the Scholarship Fund by Tom Esgate.
- Website Service Agreement –
Bunter reported that the current Website Service Agreement expires April 25, 2008, but he has not received a response to an email regarding the agreement, specifically the amount, sent to the webmaster. When Bunter has an agreement for the coming year from the webmaster, Rose will email it to members of the Executive Council for approval.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2008**. It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.