



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING April 23, 2009

A breakfast meeting of the Executive Council of the California-Nevada Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society was called to order by President Erik Beardsley at 7:10 a.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2009, during the Chapter's Annual Conference at The Pines Conference Center in Bass Lake. The following Executive Council Members were present at the meeting: Andrea Casey, President-Elect; Lisa Hokholt, Past President; Tom Esgate, Treasurer; and Ladi Asgill and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Council Directors Eric Berntsen, Bill Daily, and Dan Martynn. The positions of Secretary, Casey's seat as a Director, and Student Representative are vacant as this time. Also participating were Walt Bunter, Pat Grover, Terry Huff, Wendy Rash, Dave Rose, Mike Simmons, and Mark Steffek. A quorum was present.

It was moved by Hokholt, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2009, Executive Council meeting as distributed.

Immediate Past Treasurer Walt Bunter reported that checks in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$3,589 have been issued to the 2009 scholarship recipient and The Pines Conference Center, respectively, leaving a balance in the Chapter's checking account of \$14,842 plus \$564 in the cash box. Income received during the Conference includes \$60 from the sale of a vest and a shirt and \$248 from the purchase of raffle tickets to benefit the scholarship fund. Bunter added that he will be sending an invoice to NRCS for its employees who are attending the Conference (15 were initially approved) plus \$300 for expenses incurred relating to the meeting of the Civil Rights Committee being held in conjunction with the Conference. It was noted that an audit of the books needs to be completed by the Financial Oversight Committee before the books are turned over to the new treasurer, Esgate, who suggested a meeting with Bunter after the audit.

Correspondence reported during the meeting included a letter sent to the 2009 scholarship recipient, Sarah Schutte, by Bunter with her \$1,000 check enclosed; and an email received from Stewart Wilson, a new student member of the Chapter, inquiring what actions our organization can take to help save the soils and range program at Humboldt State University.

The following Committees Chairs were then named:

- Annual Conference – President-Elect Andrea Casey, in accordance with Article VIII, Section 4, of the Chapter Bylaws.
- Awards – Director Ladi Asgill, who had served as Acting Chair for the selection of recipients to be honored at the 2009 Annual Conference.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons agreed to continue in this position.
- Communications – This position was not filled at this time; suggestions made will be explored by President Beardsley.
- Financial Oversight – Mark Steffek, who served as president of the Chapter in 2006-2007.
- Leadership Development – Dave Rose, who served as president of the Chapter in 2007-2008.
- Membership – This position was not filled at this time; new Director Dan Martynn was suggested for it and President Beardsley will follow-up with him.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor, and Walt Bunter, Publisher, both agreed to continue in their respective positions.
- Nominations – Past President Lisa Hokholt, in accordance with Article VIII, Section 8, of the Chapter Bylaws.
- Policy – Director Ladi Asgill agreed to continue in this position.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan, who is a past president of the Chapter, will be requested by President Beardsley to continue in this position.

- Scholarship – Director Tina Vander Hoek agreed to continue in this position.
 - Student Chapters – This position was not filled at this time; Director Bill Daily was suggested for it and President Beardsley will follow-up with him.
- Beardsley will solicit members for these committees through the newsletter.

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

- NACD Guest Speaker Expenses – Hokholt reported that, by way of email responses to her inquiry, the Executive Council supported, by general consent, providing Conference registration, with two meals included, to Johnny Sundstrom to attend (the Conference) as a speaker for one of the sessions on Thursday. Rob Roy had previously reported to Beardsley that NACD agreed to pay the air fare and lodging for Sundstrom, who is the National Leader for the Joint Forestry Team MOU, to speak at the Conference if the Chapter could waive or pay his registration and meals. Hokholt had estimated the out-of-pocket expense to the Chapter to be about \$70, the cost of lunch and dinner on Wednesday.
- 2009 Plan of Work (POW) – The 2009 POW, as recommended by the Executive Council, was adopted by Chapter members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting held last evening. Beardsley announced that the Plan will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Executive Council.
- Chapter Membership Survey – In an effort to get more people actively involved in the Chapter, Beardsley stated that a survey of the Chapter membership needs to be developed and administered by the end of the summer, and requested each Council member to email him a couple of questions or problems to be included on the survey. Use of the software program *Survey Monkey* to tabulate the results of the survey was suggested.

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

- Chapter's Delegate/Alternate to 2009 Parent Society HOUSE OF DELEGATES
According to Article X, Section 1, of the Chapter Bylaws, the Chapter's official delegate to the Parent Society HOUSE OF DELEGATES shall be the President-Elect. As Casey is unable to attend the 2009 SWCS International Meeting in Dearborn, Michigan, the Executive Council selected Ladi Asgill, delegate, and Tom Esgate, alternate, by general consent. Both Asgill and Esgate were already planning to participate in the meeting with their expenses covered.
- 2009 SWCS International Meeting Silent Auction Donation – It is traditional for the host Chapter of the SWCS International Meetings to request donations from other Chapters for a silent auction held during the meeting. It was moved by Hokholt, seconded, and passed to approve the expenditure of up to \$100 by the Chapter Delegate or Alternate for a gift donation that reflects the State of California.
- Appointment of Director – With the election of Andrea Casey as President-Elect, the remaining year of her term as a Director is vacant; this, according to the Bylaws, shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Council. At the Annual Business Meeting held last evening, Hokholt announced that a count of the ballots cast during the last election, resulted in a tie between Dan Martynn and Michael Hogan for the last open Director's seat. To resolve the problem, the two candidates agreed between themselves that Martynn would assume the two-year elected term while Hogan would accept an appointment by the Executive Council to complete the one year remaining of Casey's term as a Director. Therefore, it was moved by Hokholt, seconded, and passed to appoint Hogan to the vacant position.
- Appointment of Secretary – As there were no candidates for the office of Secretary on the ballot for the last election and the members whose names were written-in on ballots were either elected to another office or declined, this position is also vacant and shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Council. Immediate Past Secretary Pat Grover agreed to serve for a short time as the Interim Secretary until an appointment is made.
- Fall Technical Meeting
A proposal was made to have two or three technical meetings a year rather than an Annual Conference. President Beardsley said he would be collecting ideas regarding this proposal.
- Registration Refunds
It was moved by Esgate, seconded, and passed to refund \$30 for an over-registration payment to Keith Hamblin and \$240 for a CPSWQ training, which was cancelled, registration payment to John Heal, as proposed by Bunter.

➤ Keynote Address Partnership Points –

It was suggested by Esgate and agreed by general consent to request from Gayle Norman a version of the “partnership points” she included in her keynote address and post it on the Chapter’s website.

The next regular meeting of the Executive Council and Committee Chairs will be a teleconference/meeting at **10 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2009**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

ERIK BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT