



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING April 25, 2013

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 Tibor Horvath at 10:03 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2013. Present were Executive Council Members President-Elect Robert Roy, Treasurer Tom Esgate, and Directors: Tina Vander Hoek, Kabir Zahangir, Wendy Rash, and Walter Bunter. A quorum was present. Mark Steffek Regional SWCS director also called in to discuss the proceedings on the 2013 International Conference held in Reno, NV and to report on the SWCS Board of Directors Meeting took place in Des Moines, IA.

I. Welcome

Chapter President Horvath welcomed all.

II. Approval of Minutes

Rob Roy moved to accept the last teleconference minutes, seconded by Kabir and carried to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2013 meeting.

III. Financial Report

Tom Esgate Treasurer had no changes to his recent financial report – just three weeks ago – but reported his work on the organization of the Social Event for the International Conference. Tom recruited a band to present and several donors to finance the performance and their travel costs.

IV. Preparation for the 68th International Conference in Reno, NV

Director Phil Hogan notified President Horvath that he is working on the SWCS Fellows Policy Forum to be held on Sunday July 21 at 4 pm.

Tibor Horvath reported the final plans for the three different tours:

Tour 1 – organized by the Carson Valley Resource Conservation District/Michael Hayes to visit a couple of ranches where they installed conservation practices and **Steve Lewis, Douglas County, NV Extension Educator** will present the great success with the Eagles and Agriculture Program. The Nevada Ranchland Protection Program also discussed to save our natural resources from the ever increasing development pressure. Approximate tour time 4 Hours.

Tour 2 – Perrazzo Watershed and US Forest Service Aspen/Forest Restoration Projects
- Tom Esgate

District Ranger Quentin Youngblood and his staff from the Tahoe National Forest will lead a bus tour that will visit the Perrazzo Watershed Restoration Project, just north of Truckee, California, where the project has restored stream sinuosity and montane meadow function. The stream/meadow system was ditched in the early 1900's to provide for grazing associated with early dairy operations. There will be a good discussion involving water rights, "Plug & Pond" watershed restoration techniques, and the removal of historic railroad grades to restore watershed function.

In addition, there will be stops to view fuel reduction projects as well as aspen restoration. The aspen restoration projects are within and adjacent to streams/meadows and discussion will focus on timber harvesting techniques associated with sensitive areas.

The tour participants will have to walk up to a ¼ mile from the bus stop areas so please bring comfortable footwear.

Total tour time: 8 hours 45 minutes with a return to the hotel planned for 4:45PM

Tour #3: Mount Rose Summit Snow Survey and Lake Tahoe Conservation District Tour and Lake Tahoe Forestry Restoration Tour with Michael Hogan

The bus tour visits the Mount Rose Summit with spectacular views and stops at the snow survey spot to listen to Dan Greenlee NRCS Hydrologist's presentation on the Nevada SNOWS Program. The amount of snow pack observed each year gives a good indication of the coming crop year's success or failure. The tour participants would have to walk about ¼ mile from the bus stop area to the snow survey spot so please bring comfortable footwear.

Doug Martin and his staff from the Lake Tahoe Conservation District will present a Low Impact storm water infiltration basin design by the district for a subdivision in Incline Village, NV to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and very close by the tour will stop at a successful stream bank restoration site.

Box lunch will be served at the Incline Village, NV Village Park in a pristine environment.

The bus continues to Lake Forest just east of Tahoe City, CA where join soil scientist and restoration practitioner Michael Hogan, one of the authors of the Watershed Management Guidebook and one of the leading innovators in the Tahoe region for a thought provoking and lively tour of the Truckee and north Tahoe areas.

The first stop will take place at a large meadow/stream restoration project near the shores of Lake Tahoe where we will discuss the concept and process of the Outcome-Based Management and the newly published Watershed Management Guidebook in the context of the projects that we are visiting.

The tour will continue on route 89 and will stop at a couple of test plot sites where Michael can explain that soil is the foundation of successful restoration, along with re-vegetation, erosion control, range management and mitigation that has created a new paradigm in environmental work. This tour will visit a number of sites that track and demonstrate the development of a number of innovative, soil based techniques. We will share information on soil enhancement techniques and assessment methodology. We will demonstrate simulated rainfall and runoff tools which have been used to enhance our understanding and measure the benefits of treatments. Lake Tahoe has been a focal point for environmental innovation for over 10 years. From application of pine needles (recycled) as long lasting mulch to research on soil preparation techniques and soil organic amendments, researchers and practitioners have been working with public and private entities to open up a whole range of successful new practices.

Route: Peppermill Hotel to 395 to 431 to Incline Village, NV then Route 28 to Tahoe City, CA then Route 89 to Truckee, CA and Interstate 80 back to Reno, NV.

Total route is 118 miles and tour time is 8 Hours 30 minutes.

Volunteers -

Wendy Rash reported on the volunteer's topic. Wendy is recruiting student volunteers from the University of Nevada – Reno Campus to help us organizing the International Conference. Wendy pointed out that volunteers have a 6 hours minimum commitment to serve for receiving the reduced registration fee. Wendy is sending out more emails and letters to recruit more volunteers.

Silent Auction -

Rob Roy reported on the Silent Auction organization

Rob contacted all Chapter Presidents and President-Elects asking for material or financial donation for the silent auction and for the international conference. Rob also contacting private organizations and state agencies to promote the conference and to collect more donations.

V. Chapter Officers Election

Walt Bunter reported that 38 ballots have returned so far and Walt will count the ballots on May 14th with Pat Grower. The number of ballots returned indicates that we will most likely able to fill all empty seats. The election results will be discussed at the next teleconference.

VI. Scholarship Committee Report

Tina Vander Hoek reported four applications from different colleges with soil and water related majors for our scholarship program. Tina asked the council to consider reimbursing the awardees for their travel to come to our annual meeting in Reno, NV.

VII. Newsletter and Outreach

Walt Bunter submitted the bill for the elections mailing costs and for the RUNOFF Newsletter. Rob moved to pay for these expenses, Tina seconded and the motion was carried.

WIII. Unfinished business – Mark Steffek Regional Director of SWCS reported on the SWCS Board Meeting where they decided about the re-organization of SWCS Regions, reducing the regions to 5 from 8. Mark reported the SWCS Boards concern on the alarming membership decrease during the few last year and the lack of NRCS HQ support to our society. Jim Gulliford is planning to visit the acting NRCS Chief soon to solicit more support towards SWCS.

IX. Adjourn

Kabir made the motion to adjourn the teleconference, Rob seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
s/Tibor Horvath, President

SWCS Annual Conference Dates to Remember

July 21 – 24, 2013 Reno, Nevada
July 27 – 30, 2014 Chicago, Illinois