



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING May 4, 2007

A 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 7:30 a.m. on Friday, May 4, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Sacramento Northeast. The meeting was held in conjunction with the California Chapter's Annual Conference with the following Executive Council Members present: Lisa Hokholt, President-Elect; Mark Steffek, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Ladi Asgill and Ken Trott, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Council Directors Steve Perkins and Bruce Williams, and Student Representative Richelle Leggett. A quorum was present. Also participating were the following members of the California-Nevada Chapter, SWCS: Corinne Brooks, West Region Representative on the SWCS Membership Committee; Phil Hogan and Kay Joy, Past Presidents of the California Chapter; and Andrea Casey and Tina Vander Hoek, California Chapter Membership and Scholarship Chairs, respectively. Bill Daily, a conference registrant from Nevada who plans to join the newly created California-Nevada Chapter, was also in attendance.

Following a welcome by newly-elected President Rose, it was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2007, Executive Council teleconference/meeting, as distributed. Trott then moved to approve, as distributed, the minutes of the special Executive Council teleconference/meeting held on April 23, 2007, which was seconded and passed.

Treasurer Bunter announced he will email to Council Members an updated Fiscal Year 2007 report as of May 3, 2007 (copy attached). In the interim, he reported that the balance of all funds on January 1, 2007, was \$42,179.04. New income received since 4/06/07 totaled approximately \$4,449.00, as a result of interest from various accounts, 2007 conference registrations, scholarship fund receipts from raffle and silent auction, and the sale of logo clothing. Expenses since 4/06/07 totaled approximately \$8992.64, which included the payment of costs related to the Conference, purchase of awards certificates and plaques, renewal of the website agreement, purchase of the logo clothing, purchase of a State raffle permit, payment of California tax, and payment of the 2007 scholarship. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to accept the interim financial report.

As Chapter Committee Reports were made during the Annual Business Meeting on May 3, 2007, there were none given at this meeting. However, President Rose confirmed the appointment of the following committee chairs for the 2007-2008 year:

- Annual Conference – Lisa Hokholt
- Communications – Paul Laustsen
- Financial Oversight (Audit) – Ken Trott
- Membership – Andrea Casey
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash (Editor), Walt Bunter (Publisher)
- Nominations – Mark Steffek
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek.

Committee chairs still to be confirmed are Awards, Bylaws, (Rose will talk to Mike Simmons regarding continuing), and Website. Grover recommended re-establishing a stand-alone committee for Student Chapters rather than grouping it under Membership; Rose will discuss with Council Director Bruce Williams, who previously chaired this committee. In an effort to increase the number of student chapters in California and Nevada, the following contacts will be made: Chico State University, Rose and Casey; Humboldt State University, Williams; University of Nevada – Reno, Bill Daily. Hokholt suggested giving a student membership to the scholarship recipient.

The establishment of other committees was also discussed. Steffek reported that Hogan had suggested a Farmland Conversion Committee, in which Daily also indicated an interest, while Trott recommended a Policy Committee, which would track technical resources and determine which issues the Chapter should follow. Other ideas submitted were SWCS participation in the NRCS State Technical Committee (Hokholt) and identifying expertise outside SWCS (Asgill). It was approved by general consent that the Executive Council recommend the Chapter President establish a Policy Committee.

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

- 2007 Plan of Work (POW) –
A work item under Strategic Issue 2 of the POW, implement an education and outreach program to inform members and the public on conservation activities and policies and scientific advancement, calls for a presentation to be made to each NRCS Assistant Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC/FO) by selected Executive Council members by July 2007. President Rose volunteered to contact Area I ASTC/FO Lin Brooks, and Corinne Brooks will contact Area II ASTC/FO Daniel Mountjoy. In addition, Hokholt will arrange to participate in an NRCS Leadership Team meeting. Later in the meeting, Steffek reported that NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Jim Kocsis encourages more involvement in professional organizations by NRCS employees. A review of all the work items in the 2007 POW will continue during the next meeting of the Executive Council.
- 2007 House of Delegates –
Rose reported that the new President-Elect, Lisa Hokholt, will be the Chapter's representative at the meeting of the 2007 House of Delegates during the Society's 2007 Annual Conference, July 21-25, in Tampa, Florida. Past President Steffek is submitting a paper at the Conference and has been approved by NRCS to attend.
- SWCS Embroidered Clothing –
It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to contribute earnings from the sale of the SWCS embroidered clothing to the Scholarship Fund. The current price to purchase a vest is \$35, and a shirt, \$25. However, as the cost to the Chapter in obtaining the items is more than originally anticipated, an increase in prices to purchase will be discussed at the next Executive Council meeting.

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

- Appointment of Directors to Fill Vacant Positions –
With the approval of the amendments to the Chapter's Bylaws at the Annual Business Meeting held yesterday, May 3rd, Article VIII, Section 1, increased the number of Council Directors from five to six, with the provision in Section 2 that at least one Council Director reside in the State of Nevada. Article XI, Section 4 of the Bylaws further provides for appointment by the Chapter Executive Council when vacancies in office occur between elections. As a current member of the Council already resides in the State of Nevada (Perkins), it was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to appoint Tina Vander Hoek to fill the vacant two-year position of Council Director.

In addition, with the resignation of Kristen Hughes, who had only completed one year of her two-year term, a one-year position of Council Director is vacant. It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed that the Executive Council appoint Andrea Casey to fill the vacant one-year position of Council Director.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was tentatively scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2007, or on one day the following week with the exception of Friday, May 25th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

DAVID ROSE, PRESIDENT