



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING May 17, 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, May 17, 2013. Present were Executive Council Members President Tibor Horvath, Treasurer Tom Esgate, and Directors: Tina Vander Hoek, Wendy Rash, Phil Hogan, Ladi Asgill 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.

I. Welcome

Chapter President Horvath welcomed all.

II. Approval of Minutes

Phil Hogan moved to accept the last teleconference minutes, seconded by Ladi and carried to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2013 meeting.

III. Financial Report

Tom Esgate Treasurer reported on the finances of the chapter outlining the checking account balance of \$26,492.39. Tom also reported about 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. According to Tom, the sponsors for the social event will not receive a free entry, and suggested to pay for their tickets from the chapter's funds. Tom thought it would be appropriate to charge the sponsors for an entry fee who donated 250 – 1,000 dollars for this event. Tom made the motion to pay for the sponsor's social event tickets from the chapter funds donated by the sponsors of the event up to \$6,000.00. Wendy seconded it, and motion carried with no objection.

Tom made a motion to approve the \$388 payment for our web site fee, Wendy seconded it, carried.

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

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

Tour #1: – 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 #2: Mount Rose Summit Snow Survey and Nevada 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 (re-cycled) 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 267 to Truckee**, CA and Interstate 80 back to Reno, NV. Total route is 118 miles and tour time is 8 Hours 30 minutes.

Tour #3 – Eagles and Agriculture Program 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.

Volunteers -

Wendy Rash reported that she received 14 volunteer registrations 9 being NRCS employees from different states including Oklahoma and Michigan. 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. The volunteer's registration form will be sent out on May 22nd by Kim Johnson and Wendy will distribute that form among all volunteers.

Silent Auction -

Rob Roy reported through an email 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.

Fellows Forum –

Phil Hogan reported that the Fellows Forum selected their theme: Water Quality Implications of Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) for natural gas and oil extraction from shale.

Phil asked the chapter to present a small gift for the panelist at the Fellows Forum and the council agreed to give chapter logo hats to the panelists.

House of Delegates –

Wendy made a nomination to elect Ladi Asgill as our representative for the House of Delegates meeting at the International Conference and for Rob Roy as the alternate.

Tina seconded and the council voted with no objection, carried.

V. Chapter Officers Election

Walt Bunter reported that 41 ballots have returned and Walt and Pat Grower will count the ballots on May 22nd and the election results will be discussed at the next teleconference.

VI. Scholarship Committee Report

Tina Vander Hoek reported that from four applications from different colleges with soil and water related majors and Kabir Zahangir and Tina selected [Lillian Adams, a sophomore from UC Berkeley majoring in Society and Environment as a recipient](#) for the 2013scholarship program. Wendy moved to accept the scholarship recipient, Phil Hogan seconded and the council voted to accept the 2013 scholarship recipient.

VII. Newsletter and Outreach

Walt Bunter reported that the next RUNOFF Newsletter will cover the 68th International Conference and our annual Chapter Business Meeting.

WIII. Unfinished business –

Wendy reported that her request to attend the SWCS International Conference was denied for budget restriction reasons. The CA-NV Chapter will reimburse Wendy for her travel cost and lodging cost and also the chapter has to decide during our next teleconference who else from the volunteers should receive similar reimbursement. The council were discussing travel details, how the volunteers could car-pool from California to Reno in NRCS vehicles.

VIII. Adjourn

Phil Hogan made the motion to adjourn the teleconference, Tom Esgate 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