



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING May 22, 2009

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 Erik Beardsley at 10:20 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2009. The following Executive Council Members participated in the teleconference: Andrea Casey, President-Elect; Lisa Hokholt, Past President; Tom Esgate, Treasurer; Pat Grover, Interim Secretary; and, Bill Daily, Michael Hogan, and Dan Martynn, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, and Tina Vander Hoek. The position of Student Representative is vacant as this time. Also participating were Walt Bunter, Newsletter Publisher, and Dave Rose, Leadership Development Chair. A quorum was present.

It was moved by Hokholt, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2009, Executive Council meeting as distributed.

Immediate Past Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Executive Council Members a Financial Report as of May 22, 2009. The beginning balance of all funds on January 1, 2009, was \$33,526.20. Total income received during Fiscal Year 2009, as of May 22nd, was \$5,664.94, which included \$4,536.71 in new income during the period of April 3rd to date as follows: conference registration fees; \$253.00, scholarship raffle; \$60.00, logo clothing sales; and \$80.00, new one-year SWCS membership. The total of expenses during Fiscal Year 2009, as of May 22nd, was \$6,197.11, of which \$5,561.06 was expended during the period of April 3rd to date for the \$1000.00 scholarship, the \$385.00 website services agreement renewal fee, and the conference. The balance of all funds on May 22, 2009, is \$32,994.03. In addition, the current value of unsold logo clothing is \$730 plus a \$71.72 credit for future clothing purchases. It was moved by Daily, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

Bunter had also emailed Executive Council members a report on registration fees and other income generated at the Bass Lake Conference. The total conference income received, excluding scholarship raffle income and logo clothing sales, was \$4,365.00; however, \$270.00 was refunded, for a net conference income of \$4,095. He reported that the total attendance at the conference was 46, of which 19 were SWCS members and 27 were non-members. Regarding conference expenses, Bunter noted that The Pines plans to bill the Chapter an addition amount for unused room nights that had been contracted, and that \$2,462.50 was spent in 2008 in preparation for the 2009 conference.

There was no correspondence on which to report at this meeting.

Appointment of the following Committees Chairs was discussed.

- Student Chapters – Director Daily had been suggested for this position and is considering it.
- Membership – Director Martynn had been suggested for this position and accepted the appointment.
- Communications – This position was not filled at this time; a member suggested at the last meeting has been contacted by President Beardsley, but no response has been received. Daily is possibly interested in chairing this committee.
- Professional Development – President Beardsley has not yet had an opportunity to request Phil Hogan, who is a past president of the Chapter, to continue in this position.

The only committee report made during this meeting was as follows:

- Financial Oversight – Treasurer Esgate announced that Chair Mark Steffek has arranged to have the

Chapter financial records audited on May 28, 2009. New signature cards with the Chapter's financial institution (Chase) will be initiated that day and completed with President Beardsley on Thursday, June 4th.

The following Committee Chairs were appointed at the April 23rd meeting, but had no reports at this time:

- 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.
- Leadership Development – Dave Rose, who served as president of the Chapter in 2007-2008.
- 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.
- Scholarship – Director Tina Vander Hoek agreed to continue in this position.

Beardsley will solicit members for these committees through the newsletter.

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

- Chapter Member Survey –
President Beardsley had emailed a draft of recommended Chapter Member Survey questions to Executive Council members to review. He explained that these questions mirrored previous surveys, and the results will be tabulated on a bar graph which shows the amount of interest and will be used to guide the shaping of future activities. It was suggested by Bunter that a question regarding meeting location be added, and that the Survey be inserted into the next issue of the newsletter, *RUNOFF*. Although tonight is the deadline for newsletter articles, an insert could be submitted later, according to Bunter. The following schedule for finalizing and distributing the Chapter Member Survey was agreed to by general consent:
 - May 29th – feed-back on draft questions due Beardsley,
 - June 1st – final draft to Executive Council for approval,
 - June 5th – approved Chapter Member Survey to Bunter for inclusion in next issue of the newsletter,
 Ten days after receipt by members – deadline for members to return completed Surveys to the Chapter.
- 2009 Plan of Work (POW) –
The 2009 POW was adopted by Chapter members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting held April 22nd. Beardsley tabled reviewing the Plan to the next meeting of the Executive Council and requested Council members to review items in the meantime.
- 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 vacant and shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Council, as provided for in the Chapter Bylaws. President Beardsley requested that he be advised of any prospective appointees to this position. Immediate Past Secretary Pat Grover agreed to serve for a short time as the Interim Secretary until an appointment is made; following which she offered and was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian/Historian for the Chapter.
- Fall Technical Meeting
Beardsley suggested waiting until feed-back on the Chapter Member Survey is received to plan the meeting. According to Bunter, NRCS State Resource Conservationist Diane Holcomb has some ideas for a technical meeting. Martynn mentioned a meadow-restoration project in his area as a possibility, and Hokholt suggested combining a meeting/tour with a university, such as, The University of Nevada/Reno. Daily will follow-up on Hokholt's suggestion and report at the next Executive Council teleconference/meeting. It was agreed by general consent to wait to see what comes out of the survey before proceeding.

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

- Annual Conference Planning Guidelines
A Synopsis of Conference Planning Guidelines Suggested by Members had been sent by Beardsley

to Executive Council members to discuss via email prior to the teleconference. Synopsis suggestions included reducing the length of the conference and working with partners. Some of the suggestions would require amendments to the Chapter Bylaws, according to Grover, who recommended the President appoint an ad hoc committee, chaired by Casey, to meet and develop a framework, using survey results, ahead of further discussion. Acting on this recommendation, Beardsley appointed Casey chair of an ad hoc committee; Rose and Beardsley volunteered to serve on the committee.

The next regular meeting of the Executive Council, with Committee Chairs encouraged to participate, will be a teleconference/meeting at **10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2009**. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

ERIK BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT