



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING June 15, 2007

ROSE, 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 Dave Rose at 10:05 a.m. on Friday, June 15, 2007. The following Executive Council Members were present: Lisa Hokholt, President-Elect; Mark Steffek, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Andrea Casey and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Steve Perkins, Ken Trott, and Bruce Williams. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. A quorum was present.

Following a welcome by President Rose, it was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2007, Executive Council meeting, as distributed.

Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Council Members a Fiscal Year 2007 report as of June 15, 2007 (copy attached). He reported that the balance of all funds on January 1, 2007, was \$42,179.04. Total income received since 1/01/07 is \$7,845.17 including new income of \$1,747.45 as a result of an additional \$1,722.45 in income from the 2007 conference (\$1,575 from NRCS for registrations and \$147.45 food-credit reimbursement from the Holiday Inn) and \$25 from the sale of a logo shirt. According to Bunter, this report does not reflect the sale of a vest and shirt to Diane Holcomb nor \$125 in Conference registration fees for two additional participants. The total of expenses since January 2, 2007, is \$12,512.92, which includes new Conference expenses of \$946.66, for the payment of \$840.00 for CPESC workbooks and \$106.66 for keynote speaker expenses, and \$136.21 reimbursement of some of Walt Bunter's conference expenses. The balance of funds on June 15, 2007, is \$37,511.29. Bunter also reported we have two CDs maturing in July. It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to accept the financial report.

A question had been raised at the May 24th meeting regarding a policy previously set by the Executive Council establishing the minimum balance of funds before the Chapter would engage in special fund raising. Bunter reported that the amount set was \$30,000.

Under correspondence, Grover summarized an email from new Nevada member Bill Daily regarding duties he had been assigned at the May 4th breakfast meeting of the Executive Council:

- 1) Delivered award to Cub Wolfe and obtained name of contact at University of Nevada – Reno (UNR), Dr. Bruce Perryman, regarding establishment of a student chapter on that campus; Daily will follow-up with him this summer. This information will also be forwarded to Student Chapter Committee.
- 2) Delivered Tahoe Conservation District Education Award to Chris Freeman via Dan Kaffer, RC&D Coordinator in Carson City, NV.
- 3) Arranged to have the book Steve Perkins won at the Conference delivered to him at the Great Basin Plant Materials Center in Fallon, NV; Perkins was pleased to receive it.

The following committee reports were made at this time:

- Annual Conference – Lisa Hokholt, Chair
Hokholt has not yet had a Conference Planning Committee meeting, but is sending an email to prospective members setting up a teleconference for Tuesday morning, June 26, 2007, and invited

members of the Executive Council to become part of the committee and participate. To date, she has been unsuccessful in meeting with NRCS State Conservationist Ed Burton, to obtain the support of SWCS from NRCS, and with NRCS State Resource Conservationist Diane Holcomb. Rose, Steffek, and Grover volunteered to be part of the Conference Planning Committee at this time while Bunter said he will participate later. Hokholt would like to get many members involved in the planning of the conference.

- Awards – Vacant
As Phil Hogan has stepped down as chair of this committee, Rose will appoint a new one. Hokholt has been unable to check with previous chair, Nancy Stein, who had become inactive due to medical reasons, but has retained an interest, to see if it would be appropriate for Rose to contact her regarding the position.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons
Simmons was unable to participate. Rose has provided SWCS West Regional Representative Don Wysocki and headquarters with a copy of the amended bylaws, but has had no response.
- Communications – Paul Laustsen
Laustsen was unable to participate. Rose has not yet been able to check with Mark Parson, who is still on detail to Washington, DC regarding his remaining Webmaster for the Chapter.
- Financial Oversight (Audit) – Ken Trott
Trott was unable to participate. He had pointed out at the May 24th meeting the need for the Nevada Chapter to report its current financial status to the California Chapter in order to facilitate the merger of the two chapters. It was reported later in the meeting that Perkins has been trying to contact Nevada Interim President CubWolfe regarding this matter.
- Membership – Andrea Casey
Casey reported that the Chapter has three new members plus Bill Daily; Nevada did not show-up on the May membership report. She has updated the “welcome” letter sent to new members and sent it to Rose for his signature. Corinne Brooks, West Region Representative on the SWCS Membership Committee, has sent Casey information addressing contacting Native American Tribes regarding involvement in SWCS.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash (Editor), Walt Bunter (Publisher)
Rash was unable to participate and Bunter had left the teleconference. Steffek suggested submitting an article to the SWCS *Conservogram* regarding the merger of the California and Nevada Chapters. Rose will discuss with Communications Chair Laustsen. Submission of information regarding the 2008 Chapter Conference was also encouraged by Grover.
- Nominating – Mark Steffek
No report at this time.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan
Hogan was unable to participate.
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek
No scholarship report at this time.
- Student Chapter – Vacant
Rose has not yet confirmed the appointment of Williams, who had previously chaired the committee, as the current committee chair. However, he did report that he had met with new member April Stinson and she is very interested in re-establishing a student chapter at UC-Davis. In addition, Daily will be contacting UNR regarding a student chapter on that campus.
- Student Representative – Vacant
Vander Hoek, who had volunteered to follow-up on the status of the Cal Poly Student Chapter and find out who is the advisor for it, reported that Dr. Chip Appel is the advisor, but she had not been able to get in touch with him yet

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

- 2007 House of Delegates –
According to the Chapter Bylaws, President-Elect is designated to 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, and Hokholt will be attending. She will check to confirm that she is listed as the official delegate for the California-Nevada Chapter. The only resolution on which there will be vote at the meeting has been introduced by the Missouri Chapter and pertains to consideration of a membership category, in which the member would not receive the magazine. As it is presently written, Hokholt does not support the resolution and proposed an alternative of reduced membership rates for retirees. It was agreed by general consent that the Chapter delegate not be "instructed" on how to vote on the resolution as there could be amendments that would change it.
- Committee Chair Appointments –
Rose will follow-up on the appointment of chairs of the Awards and Student Chapter Committees.
- 2007 Annual Conference –
Bunter had emailed the following attendance report for the Conference:
52 Total Attendance (6 "no-shows")
35 paid registration, 17 complimentary
21 California SWCS members, 1 Nevada
19 CPESC/CPWQ training attendees (1 also SWCS member)
2 CARCD attendees (1 also SWCS member)
The following financial report was also included in the email:
Total Conference Income: \$5,962.45 (+ \$125 billed)
Total Conference Expenses: \$7,823.68
Income less Expenses - \$1,861.23 (-\$1,736.23)
Grover requested that a financial report on just the CPESC/CPWQ training and exam be prepared for consideration in determining whether or not to offer the training at future conferences.
- 2007 Plan of Work (POW) –
The work items in the 2007 POW were briefly reviewed by the Executive Council. Items that were noted for needing immediate action were: 1) Make presentation to each NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (Rose has met with Lin Brooks, Area I ASTC/FO, who is very supportive); 2) Review criteria for selecting people (emerging leaders) to attend national meeting (Steffek will provide copy of 2006 criteria); 3) Develop proposal for Leadership Development Program for California-Nevada Chapter (Rose to appoint a special Leadership Development Program Committee). In the future, Rose will include review of the POW as a regular agenda item for each Executive Council meeting.
- 2008-2012 Strategic Plan –
Grover reminded the Executive Council members of the need to develop the California –Nevada Chapter's Strategic Plan for the next five years. Volunteers to serve on the committee to do so were initially requested by then-President Steffek at the March 7, 2007, Executive Council meeting. The current Strategic Plan goes through 2007, and a new plan needs to be developed and presented for adoption at the 2008 Annual Business meeting.

No New Business was brought before the Executive Council during the meeting.

The next regular teleconference/meeting of the Executive Council was tentatively scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 19, 2007, as the third Friday of the month (July 20th) will be a travel day for those attending the Society's Annual Conference in Florida. **[6/22/07 Update: President Rose has cancelled the meeting scheduled for July 19th; the next meeting of Executive Council is now scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 17, 2007.]** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

DAVIDPRESIDENT