



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE July 11, 2008

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 Lisa Hokholt at 1:10 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2008. The following Executive Council Members were present: Erik Beardsley, President-Elect; Pat Grover, Secretary; and Ken Trott, Council Director. Unable to participate were Past President Dave Rose, Treasurer Walt Bunter, and Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, Andrea Casey, Bill Daily, and Tina Vander Hoek. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. As a quorum was not present, no official action could be taken. Also participating was Mike Simmons, who is remaining as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.

Although no official business could be conducted, President Hokholt suggested using the teleconference time for information sharing by those participating. She reported following-up on the appointment of the following chairs who were unconfirmed at the last meeting and, as yet, has not received responses: Awards – Nancy Stein, Professional Development – Phil Hogan, 2008-2012 Strategic Plan – Kay Joy, and Student Chapters – Corinne Brooks. However, Wendy Rash has agreed to continue as Editor of *RUNOFF*, the Chapter's newsletter.

Reports were then given on the following Committees:

➤ Annual Conference

Hokholt, who was chair of the postponed 2008 Annual Conference, recommended taking advantage of the work that has already been done. Although the Chapter has made a \$1000 deposit to The Pines Resort, the resort still needs to be contacted regarding signing a new contract. The Yosemite RC&D also needs to be contacted regarding the position of a Conference Coordinator; Hokholt will initiate a conversation on the subject with RC&D Coordinator Robyn Smith. It is assumed by Hokholt that the 2008 Annual Conference Committee members will continue working on the 2009 Conference, which is scheduled for April 21-23 at The Pines Resort.

Trott pointed out that the proposed theme for the 2008 Conference, *Working Landscapes*, was the same topic used by the Council on Biodiversity at a meeting just prior to when the SWCS conference was scheduled to be held. Chairman of the 2009 Annual Conference, Beardsley, suggested getting input from the supporting agencies regarding training possibilities, and Hokholt added the Ag Leadership Program. Hokholt and Beardsley will meet with NRCS State Conservationist Ed Burton and State Resource Conservationist Diane Holcomb on this subject, and address it further at the first Conference Committee teleconference/meeting, which was targeted for 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 25, 2008.

➤ Bylaws

Chair Simmons had nothing to report at this time.

➤ Financial Oversight

Chair Trott reiterated that Treasurer Bunter will not be continuing in his position after the 2009 Annual Conference, and requested members to be looking for someone to assume those duties. Names should be submitted to Past President Dave Rose, who is chairman of the 2009 Nominating Committee.

- Membership
Although Chair Casey was unable to participate, Hokholt had talked to her, and sent a letter to the Chapter's new member.
- Newsletter
In the absence of both Editor Rash and Publisher Bunter, Hokholt reported she is preparing an article for the next issue and requested other Executive Council members to also submit articles. August 22, 2008, is the deadline for articles to appear in the next issue.
- Leadership Development
Chair Beardsley had nothing to report at this time.
- Policy
In the absence of Chair Asgill, Trott reported on the response to the article in the newsletter requesting (1) preferences on policy papers and (2) willingness to participate. Seven responses were received with water being the first preference, following by land use (2), and climate change (3). A meeting is being arranged of a work group, at which time it may be decided to address more than one topic. Hokholt recommended contacting new Director Berntsen regarding the meeting. Another consideration is to issue policy statements with a broader range in addition to a policy paper, which would be an in-depth study.

Unfinished Business items discussed during the meeting were as follows:

- Fall Technical Meeting –
Hokholt reported that the Lawrence Livermore Lab, which had been suggested for a Fall Technical Meeting, is willing to do a tour for a larger group and provide a resources staff person as a speaker. The goal of the meeting is to provide information and training. Those participating in the teleconference agreed that October would be the best month for the meeting and would allow the necessary time for attendees to get clearance from the Lab. Hokholt will continue discussing this proposal with the Lab regarding preferred days of the week, etc. and work with Professional Development Chair Hogan on details of a one-day meeting.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 15, 2008**. In an effort to avoid not having a quorum in the future, Hokholt will query Executive Council members and Committee Chairs regarding what days are good for them to have teleconferences and what time of day is best, mornings or afternoons.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

LISA HOKHOLT, PRESIDENT