



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING August 17, 2007

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 10:10 a.m. on Friday, August 17, 2007. The following Executive Council Members were present: Lisa Hokholt, President-Elect; Mark Steffek, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; and Andrea Casey, Tina Vander Hoek, and Bruce Williams, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Treasurer Walt Bunter and Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Steve Perkins, and Ken Trott. 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 June 15, 2007, Executive Council meeting, as distributed.

Although Treasurer Bunter was unable to participate, he had emailed to Council Members a Fiscal Year 2007 report as of August 17, 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 \$8,244.02 including new income since June 15, 2007, of \$398.85 as result of \$313.85 from CD interest income and \$85.00 from the sale of one logo vest and two shirts. According to Bunter, he is still waiting for responses from the second billing sent to two people for their Conference registration fees totaling \$125. The total of expenses since January 1, 2007, is \$12,797.53, an increase since June 15, 2007, of \$284.61 due to \$254.61 for printing and mailing the Spring issue of *Runoff* and a \$30.00 reimbursement to Mark Steffek for the Chapter's donation to the silent auction at the 2007 SWCS Conference in Tampa. The balance of funds on August 17, 2007, is \$37,625.53, a net increase of \$114.24 from June 15, 2007.

In his written report, Bunter also stated that one of the CD accounts was closed on maturity with \$4,310.06 transferred to the Money Market account to cover expected costs for delegates to the 2007 SWCS Conference in Tampa, and \$1,936.25 reinvested in an existing CD, bringing its balance to \$10,000. This CD matured on July 15th and was renewed for nine months at 5.35%. It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to accept the financial report.

The following correspondence was read by Grover:

- A thank-you note from Julie Fallon following the presentation of the SWCS California Chapter's *Conservation Education Award* to her by Margy Lindquist and Susan Litteral during a Farm Water Quality Planning course field session.
- A thank-you letter from Walt Bunter to the Executive Council for nominating him for a 2007 SWCS Commendation Award, which was awarded to him at the Tuesday Awards Luncheon at the 2007 SWCS Conference in Tampa in July, and for the Council's offer to help cover his expenses to attend the Conference.

The 2007 Plan of Work was reviewed with discussion on the following items:

- Hold Fall Planning Session – to be scheduled during the CARCD Conference to be held November 1-4, 2007, in Rancho Cordova.
- Increase Membership by 20 members – Membership Chair Casey has requested a new roster of members from SWCS; some new members have been gained, but she is unaware of the number of members lost.
- Visit at least two (2) selected university departments to re-establish faculty liaisons and to encourage student memberships (and chapters) – Williams agreed to chair the Student Chapter Committee with assistance by the following: April Stinson, UC Davis; Bill Daly, UN Reno; Casey and Rose, Chico State; and Vander Hoek, Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo; while he will work with Humboldt State.
- Publish four issues of *Runoff* – Editor Wendy Rash is working on the next issue (Fall), which will be the third this year.

- Maintain Web Site – Site needs to be updated; President Rose will talk to Mark Parson regarding his remaining Webmaster for the Chapter.
- Make presentation to each NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC/FO) – Rose has talked to Lin Brooks, Area I ASTC/FO, and Corinne Brooks, West Region Representative on the SWCS Membership Committee, had previously said she will contact Daniel Mountjoy, Area II ASTC/FO; need to select an Executive Council member to contact Curtis Tarver and David Heilig, Area III and Area IV ASTC/FO, respectively.
- Consider and incorporate ideas from membership questionnaire into Chapter activities – Grover will try to locate the results of the last survey and send to members of the Executive Council prior to the next teleconference.
- Conduct Fall Technical Workshop – Rose will discuss this item with Professional Development Chair Phil Hogan.
- Develop proposal for Leadership Development Program for the Chapter – Rose announced that Erik Beardsley had accepted an appointment as chair of the Leadership Development Program Committee; Beardsley joined the teleconference in progress

The following committee reports were made at this time:

- Annual Conference – Lisa Hokholt, Chair
Hokholt reported that the Conference Planning Committee had a good discussion during a teleconference on Tuesday, August 7th, but no decisions were made except to hold the 2008 Annual Conference in Central California and to meet for a retreat on Wednesday, August 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Local Partnership Office in Livermore. One item on the agenda for that meeting will be the consideration of hiring an event coordinator to handle conference arrangements, with the possibility of such a proposal being made to the Executive Council at a future meeting.
- Awards – Vacant
As Phil Hogan has stepped down as chair of this committee, Rose will appoint a new one. Hokholt called previous chair, Nancy Stein, who had become inactive due to medical reasons, but she was not at work; other possibilities will now be considered. Hokholt also reported that SWCS West Regional Representative Don Wysocki was looking for a West Regional Representative on the SWCS Awards Committee and she suggested Past President Mike Singer. Grover also recommended California Chapter Awards Committee Member and Past President Steffek, who agreed to consider it if the position has not been filled.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons
Simmons was unable to participate.
- Communications – Paul Laustsen
Laustsen was unable to participate. Rose reported that Laustsen is leaving NRCS to accept a position with USGS as of October 1, 2007; however, he will continue his activities with SWCS. Rose will discuss updating the Web Site with Parson.
- Financial Oversight (Audit) – Ken Trott
Trott was unable to participate. Nevada Chapter still needs to report its current financial status to the California Chapter in order to facilitate the merger of the two chapters.
- Membership – Andrea Casey
Casey reported that Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils may join SWCS at the non-profit level with dues of \$100.00 per year, a portion of which is returned to the Chapter. The name of a contact person must be provided and the benefits are the same as for an individual, i.e., only one person would receive a discount at the SWCS Conference.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash (Editor), Walt Bunter (Publisher)
Neither Rash nor Bunter was able to participate, but Hokholt reported that the deadline to submit items for the next issue of *Runoff* is the end of this week.
- Nominating – Mark Steffek
No report at this time.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan
Hogan was unable to participate.

- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek
Vander Hoek reported she is getting ready to send out the announcements regarding the 2008 Scholarship with applications in mid-September. Completed applications must be returned postmarked no later than January 31, 2008. The announcement and application will also be posted on the Chapter web site; Vander Hoek will advise Bunter. Rating of applications will be as follows: 50%, grades; 25%, activities with special emphasis on professional societies, particularly SWCS membership; and 25%, need.
- Student Chapters – Williams
Williams will send information regarding establishing student chapters to the contacts identified during review of the Plan of Work (Stinson, Daly, Casey, and Vander Hoek).
- Student Representative – Vacant
Vander Hoek reported that she had not been able to get in touch with Dr. Chip Appel, the advisor for the Student Chapter at Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo. It was also reported that Jenna Brazil, a student at Humboldt State, is working for NRCS in Eureka. The suggestion was made to talk to her regarding joining SWCS as a student member and then serving as “acting” Student Representative on the Executive Council until a bona fide representative of a Student Chapter is determined.

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

- Committee Chair Appointments –
With the appointment of Beardsley and Williams as chairs of the Leadership Development Program and Student Chapters Committees, respectively, the only Chair that is still vacant is that of the Awards Committee.
- Chapters Merging News Release –
Rose has requested Laustsen to submit a news release to the *Conservagram* regarding the merging of the California and Nevada Chapters.
- 2007 House of Delegates Report –
Hokholt, California-Nevada Chapter delegate, reported that the only resolution on which there was a vote at the meeting had been introduced by the Missouri Chapter and pertained to consideration of a membership category, in which the member would not receive the magazine. National SWCS did a cost analysis on the proposal and found it would only amount to a reduction of about \$7 or \$8 per member. Delegates agreed it was not a good membership option and unanimously voted the resolution down.
- 2008-2012 Strategic Plan –
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 action was taken on the matter at this time.

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

- 2007 SWCS Conference Report –
Hokholt reported that it was a great conference with lots of opportunities for networking, during which she met Rob Roy, a new member of the California-Nevada Chapter. One of the highlights of the conference was a presentation by former NRCS Chief Norm Berg, following which, Hokholt, Steffek, and Roy had their picture taken with him! According to Hokholt, the Leadership Development session was good. She also attended the Western Regional Meeting, where the July 2008 SWCS Conference, which will be held in Tucson, was discussed and the California-Nevada Chapter was invited to participate.

Hokholt noted that, while NRCS paid her expenses to attend the Conference at the government per diem rate, the only accommodations she was able to get at the Conference site exceeded that rate. The Executive Council agreed by general consent to reimburse Hokholt the difference as the expenses of the Chapter's delegate to attend the Conference are included in the budget.

- 2007 Annual Planning Meeting –
The 2007 California-Nevada Chapter Annual Planning Meeting will be held during the CARCD Annual Conference, which is being held in Rancho Cordova, November 1-4, 2007. Rose will contact CARCD Executive Director Taci Currey regarding specific arrangements.

The next regular teleconference/meeting of the Executive Council was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 17, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.