



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING September 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 1:10 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2007. The following Executive Council Members were present: Lisa Hokholt, President-Elect; Mark Steffek, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; and Andrea Casey and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Treasurer Walt Bunter and Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Steve Perkins, Ken Trott, and Bruce Williams. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. A quorum was present. Also participating was Erik Beardsley, Leadership Development Chairman.

Following a welcome by President Rose, it was moved by Hokholt, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2007, Executive Council meeting, as corrected. The September 17th Executive Council Meeting was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. not 10:00 a.m. as stated in the initial distribution of the minutes.

Although Treasurer Bunter was unable to participate, he had emailed to Council Members a Fiscal Year 2007 report as of September 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 \$8,657.44 including new income since August 17, 2007, of \$413.42 as result of \$58.42 from CD interest income and \$355.00 from SWCS for dues paid by 52 members from January through June. The dues included two at the President's Club level, three at the Leader's level, and 47 at the Conservationist's Level; from these the Chapter receives dues at the rate of \$12, \$8.50, and \$6.50 respectively. 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 \$14,589.54, an increase since August 17, 2007, of \$1,792.01 due to \$182.83 for printing and mailing the Summer issue of *Runoff*; a \$50.00 reimbursement to Lisa Hokholt for several gift items the Chapter donated to the Florida Chapter's silent auction at the 2007 SWCS Conference in Tampa; and reimbursement of \$148 to Lisa Hokholt and \$1,411.18 to Walt Bunter for travel expenses to attend the 2007 SWCS Conference in July. The balance of funds on September 17, 2007, is \$36,246.94, a net decrease of \$1,378.59 from August 17, 2007. It was moved by Hokholt, seconded, and passed to accept the financial report.

The following correspondence was noted by the Secretary:

- An email from former Student Representative Richelle Leggett regarding a prospective new Student Representative, Renee Nall, who is listed in the *Conservagram* as a new student member of SWCS along with Leggett.
- An invitation to the California Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils' 2007 Fall Conference, "Partnering for Sustainability: Establishing a Viable Non-Profit Organization," being held October 3-5 in Morro Bay.

The only item in the 2007 Plan of Work reviewed at this time was *Maintain Web Site*; the need to update the site will be reported to Bunter and Mondy Lariz, with whom the Chapter has a Website Service Agreement for maintenance.

The following committee reports were made at this time:

➤ Annual Conference – Lisa Hokholt, Chair

Hokholt reported that the 2008 Conference Planning Committee had a meeting on Wednesday, August 22nd, at the Local Partnership Office in Livermore. Following a good discussion regarding a theme and the content of the Conference, a sub-committee of Trott, Asgill, and Rich Casale was appointed to work on a recommendation to the full committee. Under consideration are the challenges of global climate change, such as, how conservation affects it, the role of agriculture, SWCS involvement, and doing our part through land stewardship. The goal of the conference would be to develop a policy paper to use with our partners. Beardsley suggested looking into the impact of practices being used on climate change, and the impact of climate change on water reduction, referring to an article he had read, which he will share with Executive Council members.

Another item discussed at the meeting was contracting the services of a Conference Planner or Coordinator to handle conference arrangements to reduce the workload of volunteers, obtain vendors and sponsors to reduce financial liabilities, extend out-reach to increase attendance, and perform other related duties. Tacy Currey, CARCD Executive Director and a member of the Conference Planning Committee, was recommended for the position. The Committee agreed to submit a proposal, to be prepared by Currey, to the Executive Council at its September 17th meeting. However, Currey has not yet completed the proposal.

As suggested by Committee Member Rob Roy, the Bass Lake Resort will be explored as a possible location for the Conference, which is tentatively set to be held in March or April. Final arrangements will be made by the Conference Coordinator if the proposal to contract for the services of one is approved by the Executive Council. Hokholt also reported that she had finally been able to meet with NRCS State Conservationist Ed Burton and gave him the gifts he was unable to be present to receive at the 2007 Annual Conference in Sacramento. According to Hokholt, Burton supports the 2008 Annual Conference.

➤ Awards – Vacant

As Phil Hogan has stepped down as chair of this committee and Nancy Stein, a previous chair who had been suggested for the position, apparently is not available, Rose will explore other options. Rose reported he had contacted Past President Mike Singer regarding the position of West Regional Representative on the SWCS Awards Committee, but has not yet received a response from him.

➤ Bylaws – Mike Simmons

Simmons was unable to participate.

➤ Communications – Paul Laustsen

Laustsen was unable to participate.

➤ 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.

➤ Leadership Development – Erik Beardsley

Beardsley reported he had discussed this committee with Mark Parson which led to the suggestion of developing criteria for selecting an SWCS representative to the NRCS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This would be a two-year opportunity for leadership development and the concept could later be expanded to other agencies. Beardsley will commit this suggestion in writing to submit to the Executive Council and then, with its approval, to the Newsletter. He will also recruit other committee members, starting initially with members of the Executive Council; Rose volunteered.

➤ Membership – Andrea Casey

Casey reported that the last end-of-month membership report she has gotten was for July, which she received on August 1st. She is preparing special packets for Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), which will be available at the CARCD Conference in November. RCDs 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. Hokholt reported that she had asked Rash to include in the last Newsletter a box containing a thank you to NRCS State Conservationist Ed Burton for supporting our Chapter by approving NRCS employees to attend the SWCS Conference in Tampa, Florida. As it did not appear, Hokholt suggested that President Rose write a thank-you note to Burton. Also, a picture of former NRCS Chief Norm Berg with several California-Nevada Chapter members who attended the Conference was submitted for publication, but was not printed; Hokholt will discuss with Rash.
- 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 has not yet sent out the announcements regarding the 2008 Scholarship with applications. Completed applications must be returned postmarked no later than January 31, 2008.
- Student Chapters – Williams
Williams was unable to participate.
- Student Representative – Vacant
Vander Hoek reported that she had talked to the NRCS SCEP employee in her office, Angie Quintana-Jones, who is a student at Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo, and confirmed that Dr. Chip Appel, is the advisor for the Student Chapter on that campus. Grover will forward to Vander Hoek the email she had received from Leggett regarding filling this position. Rose reported that a person from Eureka has joined SWCS.

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

- Committee Chair Appointments –
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. No update at this time.
- 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.
- 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 7-10, 2007. Rose will contact CARCD Executive Director Tacy Currey regarding specific arrangements.

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

President Rose reported he had participated in a recent Western Region Chapter Presidents' Teleconference. The next such teleconference is scheduled for September 27, 2007, at 11:00 a.m.

The next regular teleconference/meeting of the Executive Council was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 26, 2007. It was announced that the toll-free telephone number used to join this teleconference, **866-857-8711**, should be used for all future teleconferences. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

s/ PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

s/ DAVID ROSE, PRESIDENT