



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING September 19, 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 10:15 a.m. on Friday, September 19, 2008. The following Executive Council Members were present: Erik Beardsley, President-Elect; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Bill Daily and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Past President Dave Rose and Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, Andrea Casey, and Ken Trott. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. A quorum was present. Also participating in the meeting were the following committee chairs: Mike Simmons, Bylaws, and Corinne Brooks, Student Chapters.

It was moved by Bunter, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2008, Executive Council meeting.

Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Council Members a Fiscal Year 2008 report as of September 19, 2008 (copy attached). Total income received since 1/01/08 is \$1,981.33, which includes new income of \$359.54 since August 15, 2008, as a result of \$323.50 received from SWCS Headquarters for Chapter dues collected during the first half of 2008 from 37 members, \$25.97 in interest, and a \$10.07 State tax refund. The total of expenses since January 1, 2008, is \$5110.54, of which \$423.44 was expended since August 15, 2008, for the following: \$20.00 filing fee for our California SI-100 Statement of Information report; \$30 for a Stop Order on the original scholarship check sent to Rosemary Records, which was lost; \$273.61 to reimburse Mark Steffek for travel expenses to represent the Chapter at the SWCS Annual Conference in Tucson in July; and \$99.83 to reimburse Corinne Brooks for the silent auction items our Chapter donated to the Arizona Chapter for use at the SWCS Annual Conference in Tucson. The balance of funds on September 19, 2008, is \$33,271.63, a decrease of \$63.90 from the August report. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

There was no Correspondence on which to report.

President Hokholt had reviewed the 2008 Plan of Work and made the following notes:

- (1) presentations still need to be made to three of the four NRCS Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations;
- (2) Bunter has done a good job of updating the web-site, including posting the form for the Fall Technical Workshop, which was emailed to the Executive Council and Committee Chairs today and needs to be completed and returned. An in-depth review of the 2008 Plan of Work will be conducted at the annual November planning meeting.

Reports were then given on the following Committees:

➤ Annual Conference – Erik Beardsley, Chair

Beardsley reported he, Hokholt, and Professional Development Chair Phil Hogan had met with NRCS State Resource Conservationist Diane Holcomb to discuss 2008 Annual Conference. The original plans developed for the 2008 Conference, which was postponed to April 21-23, 2009, will be retained, but a new training track will be developed for the second day. Hokholt again stressed the need for additional members on the 2009 Annual Conference Planning Committee, noting that Trott, who had contributed a great deal during the 2008 Conference planning, has received a temporary promotion and is swamped. At this time, no date has been set for the next Committee teleconference.

- Awards – Vacant
No report.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons, Chair
Simmons reported he had noted the suggestion in the minutes of the last meeting requesting the Bylaws Committee take a look at the Bylaw Section regarding a quorum for Executive Council meetings. He will do some research on this subject and report at the next Executive Council meeting. An in-depth review of the current bylaws will also be conducted at the annual November planning meeting.
- Communications – Anita Brown, Chair
Brown was unable to participate. President Hokholt reported she will try to meet face-to-face with Brown next week.
- Financial Oversight – Ken Trott, Chair
Trott was unable to participate – no report.
- Leadership Development – Erik Beardsley, Chair
Beardsley reported he had submitted an article for the next issue of *RUNOFF*. He has met with committee members Rose and Hank Wyman; the latter will assist when he returns to Davis. The committee is looking at developing individual leadership development plans.
- Membership – Andrea Casey, Chair
Casey was unable to participate. In her absence, Hokholt reported that the Chapter is gaining new members, who are being welcomed with the Chapter's new-member letter signed by the President. Brooks reported she is no longer the regional representative on the national Membership Committee as it is no longer a viable committee.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor; Walt Bunter, Publisher
Rash was unable to participate. Hokholt reported the next issue will be going out soon and will include information about the Fall Technical Workshop. Publisher Bunter had no report.
- Nominations – Dave Rose, Chair
Rose was unable to participate – no report.
- Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair
Asgill was unable to participate, but Hokholt again reported that the committee (Asgill, Trott, Hogan) met on August 5, 2008, but she has received no report.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan, Chair
Hogan was unable to participate; however, President Hokholt thanked him and Bunter for working with her on the Fall Technical Meeting at the Lawrence Livermore Lab on October 30, 2008, which had also been discussed during the meeting with Holcomb.
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair
Vander Hoek announced that Bunter had posted the updated scholarship announcement on the website, but it is not yet in the mail to the colleges and universities. Hokholt and Grover requested Vander Hoek to email them copies of the application.
- Student Chapters – Corinne Brooks, Chair
Brooks reported she had the names of contacts at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo and Chico and Humboldt State Universities, and will start recruiting at these universities. She plans to attend a meeting of the Earth, Soil, and Water Conservation Club at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. Daily inquired about the University of Nevada at Reno, which he had contacted earlier. A suggestion was made to give a gift student membership to the scholarship recipient. Bunter pointed out the Chapter's policy regarding payment of the second-year membership fee (\$25) for student members, which reads as follows:
Student Membership Subsidy –
The California-Nevada Chapter will pay an additional year of student membership for current and future student members and members of student chapters.

Bunter will follow-up with Casey regarding implementation of this policy. Daily suggested including this information in the welcome letters sent to student members.

- Student Chapter Representative – Vacant
Grover emphasized the need to fill this position on the Executive Council, which has been vacant for over a year. She suggested the possibility of approaching Nathan Laurie, the student intern with NRCS in Minden, NV, who contacted Rose. Although he is not yet a student chapter member of SWCS, he is president of the Earth, Soil, and Water Conservation Club at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, which is usually a source of SWCS student chapter members on that campus. Brooks will pursue filling this position with members of the Student Chapter at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.

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

- Fall Technical Meeting –
Effects of Climate Change on Soil and Water Resources in California's Agricultural Landscapes is the title of the Chapter's Fall Technical Meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2008. The professional development workshop will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, and will feature a tour of the National Ignition Facility, the world's largest and most energetic laser, and the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center. The tour of the Advisory Center will include a talk by Celine Bonfils, a prominent research scientist and post-doctoral researcher of the Lab's Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison. In addition, NRCS State Resource Conservationist Holcomb will outline some of the newer tools that conservationists can use in the field. Bunter pointed out that the registration fee is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members with a maximum of 33 participants allowed on the tour. Lunch will be available for purchase in the Lab's Central Café.
- Chapter Membership Survey –
Due to the absence of Asgill, discussion/action regarding a new Chapter Membership Survey was again tabled.
- 2008-2012 Strategic Plan –
Bunter had prepared a draft 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, which he had sent before the meeting to the members of the Executive Council and Committee Chairs for review. Grover noted that the years included in the last sentence of the first paragraph under **INTRODUCTION**, should be 2008 through 2012. Following further discussion regarding adoption of the Strategic Plan, it was determined by Bylaw Chairman Simmons that, although the Chapter membership usually votes on adopting the Strategic Plan, the Executive Council has the authority to do so in this case rather than waiting for it to be presented at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting. It was then moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to adopt the draft submitted by Bunter with the years changed as noted. The Chapter membership will be advised of this action in the Fall issue of *Runoff*.

There was no New Business to be brought before the Executive Council at this meeting.

Attached to these minutes is a news release regarding the Agriculture Water Summit to be held in Winnemucca, Nevada, on November 14, 2008, which Daily had announced at the June 13th Executive Committee meeting. The purpose of the Summit is to bring water users together to talk about the future of Nevada's water. The Summit is sponsored by the Agricultural Council of Nevada, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Department of Agriculture, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Nevada Agricultural Foundation, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 17, 2008**. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

LISA HOKHOLT, PRESIDENT