



# California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING September 25, 2009

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 Erik Beardsley at 10:05 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009. The following Executive Council Members participated in the teleconference: Lisa Hokholt, Past President; Tom Esgate, Treasurer; Pat Grover, Interim Secretary; and Bill Daily and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were President-Elect Andrea Casey and Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, Michael Hogan, and Dan Martynn. The position of Student Representative is vacant as this time. A quorum was present. Also participating were Walt Bunter, Newsletter Publisher, and Rebecca Hale, candidate for appointment to the office of secretary of the Chapter.

It was moved by Esgate, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2009, Executive Council meeting as distributed.

Treasurer Esgate had emailed members of the Executive Council copies of his Financial Report as of September 25, 2009. He noted that the only activity since his last report dated August 28, 2009, was interest earned as follows: CD179-18 – 9/15/09 Interest of \$37.05 (two separate interest payments due to timing of statement) for a balance of **\$5,578.68**; and CD876-11 (Scholarship) – 9/15/09 Interest of \$21.74 for a balance of **\$12,950.99**. Therefore, the balance of all funds of the Chapter, as of September 25, 2009, is **\$28,548.52**. In addition, the current value of unsold logo clothing is \$730 plus a \$71.72 credit for future clothing purchases. Esgate also noted he had received forms from Immediate Past Treasurer Bunter to report the Chapter's raffle proceeds to the state, which he will complete and submit this week. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

Regarding correspondence, Grover reported that the Chapter had received a letter from Lesley Gianetti, on behalf of Port Sonoma Associates, LLC, regarding use of the company's 500 oak trees on a small ranch for environmental restoration and site reconstruction, and inquiring if SWCS is interested in purchasing locally-grown oak trees for projects in the North Bay Area. The letter will be sent to Communications Chair Daily to respond, indicating that the Chapter has no projects at this time, but could be used as a communication venue.

Beardsley also reported on an email he had received from Deborah Blanton of Hampton, Virginia, regarding soil loss concern after visiting California and traveling through the northern half of the state, particularly the San Joaquin Valley. He had forwarded the email to members of the Executive Council for information and, following some discussion on the issue, Daily agreed to respond to the email after consulting with Vander Hoek and Beardsley

The following Committee reports were tabled until the next Executive Council meeting:

- Annual Conference – Andrea Casey, Chair
- Awards – Ladi Asgill, Chair
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons, Chair
- Communications – Bill Daily, Chair
- Financial Oversight – Mark Steffek, Chair
- Leadership Development – Dave Rose, Chair
- Membership – Dan Martynn, Chair

- Nominations – Lisa Hokholt, Chair
- Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair
- Student Chapters – Vacant

However, reports were given during the meeting for the following Committees:

- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair  
Vander Hoek reported that she has prepared the application for the 2010 scholarship, but has not yet distributed it. In addition, she will submit information on the scholarship to *RUNOFF* Editor Wendy Rash for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor, and Walt Bunter, Publisher  
It was reported that Rash is looking for articles to include in the next issue, which will be late.

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

- Appointment of Secretary –  
President Beardsley reported that Rebecca Hale has agreed, if appointed, to serve as Secretary of the CA-NV Chapter, and presented her name for appointment to the office by the Executive Council, as provided for in the Chapter Bylaws. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to appoint Rebecca Hale as Secretary of the Chapter, effective November 20, 2009. The effective date was selected to give Hale an opportunity to become more familiar with the Chapter's activities and to meet members of the Executive Council and Committee Chairs at the planning meeting scheduled for that day.

When asked for biographical information, Hale responded she has been a grassroots volunteer on environmental issues near Lake Tahoe. She is also involved with Project Learning Tree in the area of teacher-training for environmental education. In addition, she creates visual information which she provides to media outlets. Information provided by Mark Steffek, the previous Nominations Chair, included participation with several Citizens' Advisory Boards for watershed health while working towards a Masters in Education.

- Fall Planning Meeting –  
During the August 28<sup>th</sup> teleconference, Grover pointed-out that the annual Fall Planning Meeting for Executive Council members, Committee Chairs, and interested members is traditionally held in November and, when feasible, is scheduled in conjunction with the CARCD Annual Conference to encourage greater participation. It was subsequently reported by Casey that the CARCD Conference is scheduled for November 19-21, 2009, at the Resort at Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, California. Beardsley contacted Tacy Currey, CARCD Executive Director, who has tentatively scheduled such a meeting as a break-out session on the CARCD program from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Participants would also have the opportunity to attend the buffet luncheon and student speak-off following the meeting, which could continue in the assigned room following the luncheon if necessary. It was agreed by general consent to confirm holding the Fall Planning Meeting, as proposed. For more information, such as lodging, check-out the CARCD website's conference link. Grover also reminded the Executive Council that, following a review of the current 2009 Plan of Work (POW) at the planning meeting, the first draft of the next year's POW (2010) is developed by those participating..

- Fall Technical Meetings –  
In lieu of one Fall technical meeting, Beardsley has suggested promoting several short sessions in different areas of the state which would not only be educational, but give members an opportunity for networking at a minimal amount of expense. Updates on the ideas that were previously proposed are as follows:

North Coast – No date has been set for a self-guided tour of the Schatz Energy Research Group Hydrogen Fueling and Gasification Demonstrations at the Humboldt State University Campus in Arcata, according to Beardsley. However, he is looking at October 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>, and a researcher would be provided to accompany participants.

Lake Tahoe – Michael Hogan has contacted Martynn regarding a tour of a number of restoration sites where innovative work has been done on erosion and sediment source control with monitoring data that may help inform the CPESC process. Daily will call Hogan and pursue setting up such a tour.

Central Valley – No update from Asgill, who is researching ideas.

Southern California – No update from Beardsley, who was to contact Simmons for a suggestion. Participation in the sessions will be encouraged through the Chapter's newsletter and website, and direct contact with others who might be interested.

The following items of Unfinished Business from the previous meeting were not addressed during this meeting:

➤ Annual Conference Planning Guidelines –

President Beardsley has appointed Casey as chair of an ad hoc committee to meet and develop, using Survey results, a framework of Annual Conference Planning Guidelines with Rose and Beardsley as members of the committee. Discussion and/or action on this item had been tabled at a previous meeting.

➤ Humboldt State's Proposed Dropping of Soil and Range Undergraduate Program

During the June 30<sup>th</sup> teleconference, it was agreed by general consent to have President Beardsley send a letter to Humboldt State University supporting the retention of the Soil and Range Undergraduate Program at the University.

No New Business was brought before the Executive Council at this meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Executive Council, with Committee Chairs encouraged to participate, will be a teleconference/meeting at **10 a.m. on Friday, October 23, 2009**. According to President Beardsley, it will be a full-fledged meeting, complete with reports by each Committee Chair. Any member with an item of New Business to be included on the agenda is requested to submit it to the Chapter President prior to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

ERIK BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT