



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING October 23, 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, October 23, 2009. The following Executive Council Members participated in the teleconference: Tom Esgate, Treasurer; Pat Grover, Interim Secretary; and Bill Daily, Michael Hogan, Dan Martynn, and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were President-Elect Andrea Casey, Past President Lisa Hokholt, and Council Directors Ladi Asgill and Eric Berntsen. The position of Student Representative is vacant as this time. A quorum was present. Also participating was Rebecca Hale, secretary-appointee of the Chapter.

It was moved by Esgate, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2009, Executive Council meeting as distributed.

Treasurer Esgate had emailed members of the Executive Council copies of his Financial Report as of October 22, 2009. He noted that the only activity since his last report dated September 25, 2009, was interest earned as follows: CD179-18 – 10/15/09 Interest of \$18.02 for a balance of **\$5,596.70**; and CD876-11 (Scholarship) – 10/15/09 Interest of \$21.78 for a balance of **\$12,972.77**. With a checkbook balance of **\$10, 018.85**, the balance of all funds of the Chapter, as of October 22, 2009, is **\$28,588.32**. In addition, the current value of unsold logo clothing is \$730 plus a \$71.72 credit for future clothing purchases. It was moved by Daily, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

Regarding correspondence, Beardsley reported on the following two items received:

1. An email from Wenchong Weng seeking help regarding a visiting request to SWCS's CA Chapter on behalf of a Chinese soil and water conservation delegation in mid-November;
2. An email received by Director Hogan from Tanna McTee, National Sales Manager, Reno-Tahoe, America's Adventure Place, regarding help in obtaining an opportunity to bid on a future Soil & Water Conservation Society of America Annual Meeting. These items will be taken up under the proper order of business.

Also, under correspondence, Daily reported he, with assistance from Vander Hoek, had responded to the following items noted as received at the September 25th meeting: 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; and an email 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.

There were no reports by the following Committees:

- 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
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor, and Walt Bunter, Publisher
- Nominations – Lisa Hokholt, Chair
- Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair
- Student Chapters – Vacant

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

- Membership – Dan Martynn, Chair

Martynn reported he is receiving the membership reports from the parent Society, and has a disk from immediate past Membership Committee Chair Casey, which includes the form letter from the Chapter President to be sent to new members, and one to send to members who have not renewed their membership this year. However, he has not had an opportunity to follow-up with these letters.

- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair

Vander Hoek reported that she has distributed the 2010 scholarship applications, and submitted an article with information on the scholarship to *RUNOFF* Editor Wendy Rash for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter. An email had been received by Vander Hoek from Jacqueline Pohl, creator of the Conservogram newsletter for SWCS, regarding publicizing the California-Nevada scholarship. Pohl inquired if there are any location restrictions on the scholarship, and if applicants need to be from California/Nevada or attending a college in one of these states. According to Vander Hoek, currently there are no guidelines covering this issue unless they are in the Bylaws, which Grover said there are not. It was generally agreed by the Executive Council that the scholarship should be limited to California-Nevada and written guidelines to this effect developed. The University of Nevada at Reno and Las Vegas will be added to the distribution list for scholarship applications.

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

- 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. To date, only one such meeting has been scheduled, which is a guided tour of Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Gasification Systems at the Schatz Energy Research Center on the Humboldt State University Campus in Arcata on Thursday, October 29, 2009, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

There is no fee to attend the tour and no registration form is required; car-pooling is recommended. However, participants are requested to RSVP Beardsley at erik.beardsley@ca.usda.gov or 530-527-2667 x105 as soon as possible. Other locations which are being considered for a technical meeting are Lake Tahoe, the Central Valley, and Southern California.

➤ Fall Planning Meeting –

The annual Fall Planning Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, November 20th, during the CARCD Conference being held at the Resort at Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, California. For more information, such as lodging, check-out the CARCD website's conference link. During the planning meeting, the Executive Council will review the current 2009 Plan of Work (POW) and develop the first draft of next year's POW (2010). **All Committee Chairs and interested members are encouraged to attend and provide input.** Esgate is unable to attend the meeting, and requested that possibly co-sponsoring a mid-June field tour in the Susanville area be included in the POW. He will email information to Grover for the Executive Council's consideration.

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

Beardsley reported that the program has not been dropped for good and has delayed sending a letter to Humboldt State University supporting the retention of the Soil and Range Undergraduate Program at the University.

The following item of Unfinished Business from the previous meeting was 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.

New items of business discussed and/or transacted during the meeting were as follows

➤ Chinese Delegation Request –

The main purpose of the 13-member delegation is to gain a better understanding of soil and water conservation in the United States. The delegates are wondering if the Chapter would like to receive them and share experiences concerning: 1. Current situation of soil and water loss in California and the corresponding solutions; 2. Impact of soil and water loss to economic development; 3. Role government agencies play in soil and water conservation. Their visit is planned for mid-November, but no specific date has been selected.

Director Hogan suggested bringing them to Lake Tahoe and offered to put together a one- or two-day program utilizing experts in the area and possibly from UC Davis during the period of November 11-13, 2009. Beardsley proposed a reply be sent with Hogan's package and time frame. It was moved by Vander Hoek, seconded, and passed to move forward with this proposal. Hogan will send the information to Beardsley, and Daily volunteered to assist if the proposal is accepted. However, it is unlikely that Beardsley would be able to participate.

➤ Reno Request to Bid on SWCS Annual Meeting –

At the request of President Beardsley, Daily has contacted the parent society regarding hosting the SWCS Annual Conference. According to Dewayne Johnson, SWCS Professional Development Director, the conference site is booked for the next three years, with 2013 the next open date. If the Chapter is interested, it will be added to the list, which currently includes five chapters. According to Daily, the financial liability of the chapter hosting the conference has been reduced from the past, but the big issue, particularly if held in Reno, would be recruiting the 30-50 volunteers needed. Grover pointed out that interest in hosting a conference was indicated at a previous meeting and, if it is determined that Reno is not feasible, another city in California could be considered. More information regarding selection of a conference site can be found on the SWCS web site, under the "conference" link. It was moved by Daily, seconded, and passed to consider submitting an interest to host an SWCS Annual Conference at the Planning Meeting on November 20th.

The next regular meeting of the Executive Council, with Committee Chairs and interested members encouraged to participate, will be the Fall Planning Meeting at **9 a.m. on Friday, November 20, 2009, at the Resort at Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, California.** 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 11:00 a.m.

s/PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

s/ERIK BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT