



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

430 G ST #4172 DAVIS CA 95616-4172

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING October 31, 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 10:10 a.m. on Friday, October 31, 2008. The following Executive Council Members were present: Erik Beardsley, President-Elect; Dave Rose, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Eric Berntsen, Andrea Casey, and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Bill Daily and Ken Trott. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. A quorum was present.

It was moved by Bunter, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2008, Executive Council meeting as corrected. In the Communications Committee report, President Hokholt reported she would *try* to meet face-to-face with Committee Chair Anita Brown.

Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Council Members a Fiscal Year 2008 report as of October 31, 2008 (copy attached). Total income received since 1/01/08 is \$2,181.23, which includes new income of \$199.90 since September 19, 2008, in interest earned. The total of expenses since January 1, 2008, is \$5,366.61, of which \$256.07 was expended since September 19, 2008, for the following: \$230.87 to publish and distribute the Summer Issue of *RUNOFF* and \$25.20 to mail out LLNL Tour/Workshop announcements to members without email addresses. The balance of funds on October 31, 2008, is \$33,215.46, a decrease of \$56.17 from the September report. One of the Chapter's CDs will mature on November 15th and Bunter hopes to get a better rate. He pointed out that Washington Mutual is being taken over by J.P. Morgan Chase and the next Treasurer may want to evaluate the possibility of moving our accounts to a different bank. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

There was no Correspondence on which to report.

In reviewing the 2008 Plan of Work, President Hokholt noted several areas that need attention:

- (1) making presentations to each of the four NRCS Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations (ASTC/FO),
- (2) working with partner organizations, and
- (3) scheduling the Fall Planning Meeting.

Regarding item (1), Beardsley reported that all four NRCS areas will be holding a Leadership Team meeting with State Conservationist Ed Burton in the next couple of months and suggested that a presentation on the value of SWCS membership, especially in the field of training, be made at that time. He will have the opportunity to do so in Area 1 while Hokholt will be responsible for Area 2. Rob Roy was suggested for Area 3 and Hokholt will contact him while Rose will ask Area 4 ASTC/FO Dave Heilig to make the presentation in his area. In discussing item (2), Hokholt emphasized the need to make sure the Chapter is a diverse, multi-partner organization. In one effort to achieve this, Casey will contact the Executive Director of CARCD regarding including a flyer about SWCS in the CARCD Annual Conference packets. Scheduling the Fall Planning Meeting will be taken up later in the meeting under New Business. In preparation for an in-depth review of the 2008 Plan of Work at the Fall Planning Meeting, Hokholt requested Executive Council members to review the POW and send notes with their thoughts on it to her

Reports were then given on the following Committees:

- Annual Conference – Erik Beardsley, Chair
Beardsley reported the Conference Planning Committee had a teleconference last week (10/22/08) during which the decision was made to focus on one or two local technical issues. Asgill agreed to chair the Program Sub-Committee, working with Beardsley. Included on the program will be a panel of multi-agency and private participants who will share lessons learned from the response to the Klamath Basin challenges and how diverse agencies came together. Hokholt suggested adding Berntsen to this sub-committee, who agreed. She also reported that Robin Smith is interested in continuing to assist. Beardsley contacted Rob Roy, who agreed to again chair the Tour Sub-Committee, which will consider a broad range of issues and partners including a panel presenting local resource issues. Other sub-committee chairs/members include Robin Smith/Rob Roy – Vendors, Exhibitors, and Sponsors; Hokholt/Grover – Logistics (hotel, support services); Corinne Brooks/Bunter/Grover – Budget; Rose/Daily – Posters.
- Awards – Vacant
No report.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons, Chair
Simmons was unable to participate; however, he advised Hokholt he had no report.
- Communications – Anita Brown, Chair
Brown was unable to participate. Hokholt reported Brown is on vacation and she has not yet had an opportunity to meet with her.
- Financial Oversight – Ken Trott, Chair
Trott was unable to participate – no report.
- Leadership Development – Erik Beardsley, Chair
Beardsley reported there was an article in the last issue of *RUNOFF* requesting input on what the membership needs, and he has received some verbal feedback. He believes all Chapter members are on the committee to provide guidance on focus, and he will prepare a follow-up article for the next newsletter.
- Membership – Andrea Casey, Chair
Casey reported that the Chapter is starting to gain new members, to whom Hokholt is sending the Chapter's new-member letter. During a discussion on retention of members, Grover suggested sending a letter reminding members whose membership is due to expire, followed by a phone call if it is not renewed.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor; Walt Bunter, Publisher
Rash was unable to participate. Hokholt announced that the deadline for the next issue, which will include preliminary information regarding the Annual Conference in April, is November 14th. Publisher Bunter had no report.
- Nominations – Dave Rose, Chair
Rose will submit an article for the next newsletter regarding the offices to be filled and encouraging members to submit their names for consideration. The offices which will be vacant are President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and three directors (Asgill, Trott, Vander Hoek).
- Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair
Asgill was unable to participate. No report.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan, Chair
Hogan was unable to participate; however, he had sent President Hokholt an email citing the great job she had done with the Fall Technical Meeting, having worked really hard at it; and expressing the belief that the whole Council and Chapter will be very proud of her!
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair
Vander Hoek announced that she had sent out the scholarship announcement and application to colleges and universities with copies emailed to Hokholt and Grover, as requested.
- Student Chapters – Corinne Brooks, Chair
Brooks was unable to participate. No report.
- Student Chapter Representative – Vacant

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 was the title of the Chapter's Fall Technical Meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2008, which all participants agreed was great! The professional development workshop was held at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California, and featured a tour in the morning of the National Ignition Facility, the world's largest and most energetic laser. Following a non-host lunch, LLNL's Director of Security Dave Leary gave participants a briefing on the lab and answered questions. The afternoon technical session was convened by President Hokholt, who introduced the panel members and the subject of their presentation, as follows: Celine Bonfils, Ph.D., Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison, LLNL – *Investigating the Changes in Climate, Water Resources and Perennial Crops in the Western United States*; Reed M. Maxwell, Ph.D., Deputy Group Leader, Hydrologic Sciences Group, Atmospheric, Earth and Energy Sciences Division, LLNL – *The Affects of Climate Change on Land Use and Hydrology*; Diane Holcomb, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS – *New Conservation Tools to Consider with Regard to Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs) and Carbon Sequestration*; Ladi Asgill, Agricultural Economist, Sustainable Conservation – *Linking the Future of Climate Change and Agriculture in California*. During the Annual Conference Planning Committee teleconference on October 22, 2008, President Hokholt had requested approval to spend up to \$75 on speaker's gifts (\$15/person), which was approved by a majority of the Executive Council. At today's meeting, in order to cover the cost of additional gifts for others instrumental in making the event such a success, it was moved by Bunter, seconded, and passed to change this amount to *not to exceed \$120.00*. A financial report on the Fall Technical Meeting, which was attended by 25, will be given by Bunter at the next Executive Council meeting.
- Chapter Membership Survey –
Due to the absence of Asgill, discussion/action regarding a new Chapter Membership Survey was again tabled.

The following New Business was brought before the Executive Council at this meeting:

- Fall Planning Meeting –
Following a discussion on the need for a Fall Planning Meeting as stated in the Chapter's Plan of Work, it was agreed that the 3rd, 4th, or 5th of December would work the best for those participating in the teleconference. Hokholt will survey the Executive Council members to determine which of those dates is preferable. Grover will check on the availability of a meeting room at the USDA Lyng Building in Davis on those dates. It was suggested that, in addition to members of the Executive Council and Committee Chairs, members of the Annual Conference Committee be invited to participate in this meeting.
- President's Postage Expenditure –
It was moved by Bunter, seconded, and passed to reimburse President Hokholt the \$42.00 she had expended for postage stamps.

The next regular meeting of the Executive Council will be the Fall Planning Meeting in Davis, date and time of which to be determined. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

LISA HOKHOLT, PRESIDENT