



# California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING January 30, 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 Lisa Hokholt at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, January 30, 2009. The following Executive Council Members were present: Erik Beardsley, President-Elect; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, Andrea Casey, Bill Daily and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Past President Dave Rose and Council Director 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 October 31, 2008, Executive Council meeting as distributed.

Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Council Members a summary report for Fiscal Year 2008 and the first report for the new fiscal year up to January 30, 2009 (copies attached). The beginning balance of all funds on January 1, 2008, was \$36,400.84. Total income received during Fiscal Year 2008 was \$2,931.39, which included new income of \$750.16 during the period of October 30<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> as a result of \$185.16 in interest earned and \$565.00 from the October 30<sup>th</sup> workshop/tour at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The total of expenses during Fiscal Year 2008 was \$5,806.03, of which \$439.42 was expended during the period of October 30<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> for the following: \$311.42 to publish and distribute the Fall Issue of *RUNOFF*, and \$128.00 for gifts to LLNL Tour/Workshop speakers and hosts. The balance of all funds on December 31, 2008, was \$33,526.20, an increase of \$310.74 from the October report, but a decrease of \$2,874.64 from the beginning of the fiscal year. Additional assets of the Chapter include the value of the unsold inventory of chapter clothing totaling \$875.00, and a \$71.72 credit at Screaming Squeegie in Davis for future clothing purchases. Regarding the LLNL workshop/tour, Bunter pointed out that the income was \$565.00 while expenses only totaled \$153.20. He also added that one of the Chapter's CDs was renewed for 30 months on November 17<sup>th</sup> at a 3.75% APY.

In reviewing the January 30, 2009, financial report, Bunter noted that the \$59.05 in new income was all from interest earned. As there were no expenses in January, the balance of all funds is \$33,585.25. However, later today he will be sending \$2.00 to the Board of Equalization for sales tax on clothing sold. Bunter also reported that the Certificate of Deposit designated for scholarships matures on February 28, 2009. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

There was no Correspondence on which to report.

During the review of the 2008 Plan of Work, updates were given on several areas that President Hokholt had noted at the last meeting needed attention:

- (1) making presentations to each of the four NRCS Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations (ASTC/FO) – Beardsley had made a presentation at a meeting of the NRCS State Conservationist's Executive Team which includes all of the ASTC/FOs.
- (2) working with partner organizations – Asgill will pursue making a presentation to the Ag Leadership program participants; he also announced that the program is now accepting applications for the next class – anyone interested should advise him.
- (3) scheduling the Fall Planning Meeting – the meeting had been scheduled for December, but had to be cancelled due to the NRCS financial audit.

Hokholt requested Executive Council members to send updates on the POW to her.

Reports were then given on the following Committees:

- Annual Conference – Erik Beardsley, Chair  
Beardsley reported the Conference Planning Committee had a teleconference on January 13, 2009, during which the proposal was made to scale down the Conference to two days (April 22-23) with no field tour, but to use the facility under contract, which, according to Hokholt, cannot be modified. However, the facility is willing to try to “sell” the sleeping rooms for which SWCS has contracted, but will not be using. A reduction in the food contract due to the shorter Conference was not discussed with the Pines Resort staff at this time.  
It was suggested that the program be a broader technical program with presenters participating at no cost to the Chapter in order to make the Conference more affordable. CPESC and CPSWQ training will still be included with review sessions on the first day and the exams on the second. According to Conference Poster Committee Chair Rose, no proposals have been received; however, that aspect of the Conference will still be included. Hokholt emphasized the need to begin a major outreach effort! The next Conference Committee teleconference is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Awards – Vacant  
Hokholt announced that the SWCS Chapter Award nominations are due February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons, Chair  
Simmons was unable to participate; no report.
- Communications – Anita Brown, Chair  
Brown was unable to participate. Hokholt reported 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 he is working on another article for the next issue of *RUNOFF*. His article in the last issue encouraged members to share experiences. Hokholt suggested Asgill write an article on the Ag Leadership Program, which he agreed to submit after his upcoming trip to Bosnia as part of the program.
- Membership – Andrea Casey, Chair  
Casey reported that the Chapter is gaining new members, as are the Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo and Humboldt Student Chapters. She will review the roster received from the national organization before the next meeting.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor; Walt Bunter, Publisher  
Rash was unable to participate. Bunter announced that the deadline for the next issue is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Hokholt requested a review of a draft of the *RUNOFF* before it is released, noting misinformation regarding the dates of the next Annual Conference in the last issue.
- Nominations – Dave Rose, Chair  
Rose was unable to participate. Casey reported that his wife had experienced a seizure and was to have surgery, possibly on Monday. Concern was expressed regarding Rose’s availability to continue as chair of this committee as stated in the Bylaws, which also provides for two or more members (who are not members of the Chapter Executive Council) appointed by the Chapter President, one of which will serve as Chair if the immediate Past President is not available. Mark Steffek, who was Past President immediately prior to Rose, was suggested as a member of this committee. Hokholt and Bunter will talk to him regarding the need for nominations 60 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The offices which need to be filled are President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and three directors (Asgill, Trott, Vander Hoek).
- Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair  
Asgill reported that a policy paper will be drafted this Spring after the Annual Conference. It has been determined that “Climate Change” is too diverse, so the more specific subject of “Water-Use Efficiency” will be addressed.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan, Chair  
Hogan was unable to participate. No report.
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair  
Vander Hoek announced that she is receiving applications; today (January 30<sup>th</sup>) is the deadline.
- Student Chapters – Vacant  
Corinne Brooks has resigned as Chair of this Committee, having transferred within NRCS from California to Arizona. Vander Hoek will follow-up on the Cal Poly-SLO Student Chapter.
- Student Chapter Representative – Vacant

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

- Fall Technical Meeting –  
An article on the Chapter's Fall Technical Meeting and professional development workshop held on Thursday, October 30, 2008, at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California, was submitted to the national office. However, only coverage of the tour in the morning of the National Ignition Facility, the world's largest and most energetic laser, and a picture were published in the January 2009 *Conservogram*. The afternoon technical session addressing *Effects of Climate Change on Soil and Water Resources in California's Agricultural Landscapes*, other than that four presenters spoke at the workshop, was not mentioned although there was unused space on the page. A letter of concern regarding this omission will be sent to the national office.
- Planning Meeting/2009 Plan of Work –  
As noted earlier, the Planning Meeting scheduled for December 3, 2008, had been cancelled and it was agreed by general consent to incorporate planning into the Annual Business Meeting, which is being proposed for Wednesday evening, April 22, 2009, during the Annual Conference. In preparation for that, Bunter volunteered to draft a 2009 Plan of Work for review at the next Executive Council teleconference/meeting. After the 2009 POW is finalized and adopted by the Executive Council, it will be distributed to Chapter members during the Annual Business Meeting for discussion.
- Chapter Membership Survey –  
Hokholt reported that Asgill is working with Beardsley to develop a new Chapter Membership Survey. Discussion/action regarding it was tabled.

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

- Annual Chapter Conference and Business Meeting –  
Following the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 2009 Annual Conference Committee, Bunter prepared and distributed a revised draft agenda for the Annual Conference scaled down to two days, April 22-23, 2009. It was moved by Bunter, seconded, and passed to hold the Annual Conference at Bass Lake on April 22-23, 2009, with the Chapter's Annual Business Meeting scheduled for after dinner on the first night (April 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- 2008 Annual Chapter Activity Report –  
All SWCS chapters must complete this report which is due in the national office by February 15, 2009. Bunter will prepare the report and send it to members of the Executive Council for comments. February 11<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for sending any comments to Grover, who will incorporate them into the report and submit it.
- 2009 Budget –  
Treasurer Bunter had emailed a draft 2009 Budget to members of the Executive Council for review. It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to adopt the 2009 Budget as proposed by Bunter.
- 2008 Audit –  
Treasurer Bunter reminded President Hokholt that an Audit Committee needed to be appointed. Financial Oversight Chair Trott was appointed as Chair of this Committee by Hokholt, who will also ask Past President Hank Wyman to again serve on it, and encourage Trott to add an additional Chapter member to learn the procedure.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

LISA HOKHOLT, PRESIDENT