



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING February 20, 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, February 20, 2009. The following Executive Council Members were present: Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Andrea Casey, Council Director. Unable to participate were President-Elect Erik Beardsley, Past President David Rose, and Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, Bill Daily, Ken Trott, and Tina Vander Hoek. The Student Representative position is vacant as this time. Also participating was Mark Steffek, Acting Chair of the Nominating Committee. As a quorum was not present, no action could be taken.

However, those participating used the time to discuss the 2009 Annual Conference, regarding which the Executive Council had passed a motion at its January 30th meeting to hold at Bass Lake (The Pines) on April 22-23, 2009. Although President Hokholt expressed concerns regarding attendance at the conference due to the current NRCS and State travel constraints, it was agreed that the Chapter should move forward with the Conference. One proposal that is being made is requesting NRCS to schedule its next Leadership Team meeting at The Pines, possibly as a joint meeting with SWCS. NRCS Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations Jim Spear and Curtis Tarver are OK with this proposal. In Hokholt's conversations with Conference Chairman Beardsley, he pointed out that partnership training, which is the general theme for the Conference, is one of NRCS State Conservationist Ed Burton's priorities. Hokholt will continue to talk to NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Jim Kocsis about this proposal.

Discussion also was held concerning the cost effectiveness of offering the CPESC and CPSWQ training and exams. Bunter will talk to Berntsen to determine whether or not to offer it and, if so, an appropriate fee. Also, regarding fees, due to the delay in making the registration form available, it was recommended that the early-bird, pre-registration date be extended to April 1st. Bunter noted that all NRCS registrations are accepted at the early-bird rate.

In an effort to expedite release of the registration form, Hokholt and Bunter will work with Beardsley to finalize the form and submit it to the Executive Council for review by Friday, February 27th, with the goal of making it available the first week of March. Hokholt will work with Rachael Lopez regarding an NRCS bulletin about the Conference with the registration form attached. The next meeting/teleconference of the Annual Conference Planning Committee is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 9, 2009.

Other items of interest mentioned during the teleconference were that Bunter had sent a financial report, as of February 20, 2009, and the adopted 2009 budget to the Executive Council; and had completed the Annual Chapter Activity Report, which had been submitted by Grover to national prior to the February 15th due date. In addition, Steffek reported the following nominees for the Executive Council: Treasurer – Tom Esgate; Directors (three to be elected) – Ladi Asgil, Michael Hogan, Dan Martynn, Rob Roy, and Tina Vander Hoek. Nominees are still being solicited for President-Elect and Secretary. Director Casey agreed to consider being a nominee for President-Elect. Ballots will be sent out by Bunter next week.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009.**

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

LISA HOKHOLT, PRESIDENT