



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING February 22, 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 Dave Rose at 10:05 a.m. on Friday, February 22, 2008. The following Executive Council Members were present: Mark Steffek, Past President; Pat Grover, Secretary; Walt Bunter, Treasurer; and Ladi Asgill, Steve Perkins, and Tina Vander Hoek, Council Directors. Unable to participate were Lisa Hokholt, President-Elect, and Council Directors Andrea Casey, Ken Trott, and Bruce Williams. 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 December 7, 2007, Executive Council meeting as corrected. John Beyer, referred to in the second paragraph on Page 2, retired from NRCS as an Air Quality Specialist.

Treasurer Bunter had emailed to Council Members a Fiscal Year 2008 report as of February 22, 2008 (copy attached). He reported that the revised balance of all funds on January 1, 2008, was \$36,400.84 due to 2007 interest income received after his January 18th report. Total income received since 1/01/08 is \$134.52 as result of CD interest income. The total of expenses since January 1, 2008, is \$1,044.75 including a \$1,000 deposit paid to reserve the Pines Resort for our May 12-14 conference, \$36 paid in sales taxes based on our clothing sales in 2007, and \$8.75 charged by the bank for new checks with our new Chapter name. The balance of funds on February 22, 2008, is \$35,490.61. Bunter added that \$100 in additional income for clothing sales is yet to be deposited, and the Chapter has been billed, but not yet paid, \$420 for the conference coordinator's work during January.

Bunter had also emailed to Council Members the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget (copy attached) adopted by the Council at the January 18th meeting, which reflected the changes made at that time. However, he pointed out that adjustments being made to Annual Chapter Conference budget were not reflected in this budget. It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to accept the financial report.

The following committee reports were made at this time:

➤ Annual Conference – Lisa Hokholt

Hokholt was unable to participate, but Grover reported for her on the Conference Planning Committee teleconference held on Tuesday, February 19th, following the agenda Hokholt had prepared. The dates for the Conference at The Pines Resort & Conference Center in the Bass Lake area are May 12-14, 2008 (Monday-Wednesday). The Budget Subcommittee (Chair Corinne Brooks, Bunter, and Grover) developed a proposed budget, including registration fees, which Bunter is adjusting based on input from the Committee. Conference Coordinator Hazel Lavender arranged and participated in the site visit on Monday, February 18th, as well the teleconference the next day, and is preparing a flyer this week to be used in soliciting potential exhibitors, sponsors, and registrants. Although she has accepted a position with the Forest Service, she expects to be able to fulfill her responsibilities as stated in the Service Agreement and has offered to volunteer her time if the number of hours specified in the agreement (150) is exceeded. Asgill and Trott were to meet yesterday to finalize the Agenda, which will be completed next week and mailed by Bunter to members the first week of March. Trott is also previewing films to be shown Monday evening after the Chapter's Annual Business meeting; an entertainer who portrays John Muir has been secured at a reduced cost for Tuesday evening. Perkins is working on the Call for Posters to be displayed and judged at the Conference, and Bunter is arranging for the CPESC and CPSWQ exams to be given on Wednesday. Hokholt and Lavender are finalizing fees for exhibitors and sponsor levels/benefits. Two mini-buses (24-passenger) are being reserved for the Tour on Monday afternoon with several

stops being coordinated by Rob Roy and Jenny Gabor. Box lunches on the tour, two dinners with entertainment, and one luncheon will be included in the registration fee, which is \$200 for members; \$225, non-members; \$250 for either after April 21; and \$150 for students. There is no one-day registration, but guests of registrants may purchase individual tour/meal tickets. On-line registration will not be available this year, but may be considered in 2009. The next Conference Planning Committee teleconference is tentative scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11th.

Asgill added that he and Trott did meet yesterday and finalized the Conference theme to be *California Working Lands – Too Good to Just Use Once*. The next step is to put the conference information, which can be updated as speakers are confirmed, on the website; Bunter will handle. Trott is working on obtaining the Secretaries for California Food and Agriculture and the California Resources Agency, A.G. Kawamura and Mike Chrisman, respectively, as Keynote Speakers.

- Awards – Vacant
President Rose reported that Phil Hogan has agreed to take the lead for this committee. According to Bunter, an article on nominations for awards, including the date they are due, will appear in the next issue of *RUNOFF*, which will be out within two weeks.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons
Simmons was unable to participate.
- Communications – Vacant
Rose announced that Paul Laustsen is stepping down as chairman of this committee. Grover pointed out that Anita Brown is listed in the Communications Plan as co-chairman of the committee and suggested asking her about taking it over.
- Financial Oversight (Audit) – Ken Trott
Trott was unable to participate. According to Grover, he is waiting to receive input from Committee Member Hank Wyman before issuing a written report on the 2007 audit and submitting it to the Executive Council for approval.
- Leadership Development – Erik Beardsley
Beardsley was unable to participate. Rose reported he has not yet implemented the Leadership Development Program approved by the Executive Council
- Membership – Andrea Casey
Casey was unable to participate. According to Rose, she is receiving comments on the draft letters she sent to Executive Council Members for review, and will begin sending the letters to new members, non-renewed members, and RCDs/RC&Ds, as appropriate, soon. Bunter reported she had requested a copy of the last Chapter roster, which includes renewal dates, in order to send a reminder letter to members in a pro-active effort.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash (Editor), Walt Bunter (Publisher)
Rose reported that the deadline for the next issue of *RUNOFF* was February 15th, and it will be out soon. Bunter added that it will include the Chapter membership list.
- Nominating – Mark Steffek
Steffek announced the following slate of candidates for the California-Nevada SWCS Chapter's 2008 election: President-Elect – David Heilig, Erik Beardsley; Directors (3) – Bill Dailey (NV), Andrea Casey, April Stinson. According to Steffek, now need to set-up the election process and submit the nominations to the entire Chapter membership for vote.
- Policy – Ladi Asgill
Asgill reported he and Trott are considering how active the Chapter would like to be and what kind of actions it would like to take. Examples he cited were (1) looking at green house emissions and how they can be reduced, leading to possible land-use legislation; (2) providing input on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's strategic planning process as SWCS is recognized in this area. At the next Executive Council meeting, Asgill would like to explore suggestions of areas and issues on which the Chapter would like to take a position or express an opinion. Bunter pointed out the Chapter had developed a land-use policy in the past while Rose mentioned that Hogan is interested in Farm Land Preservation. According to Asgill, a position paper could result with preliminary discussion occurring at the Annual Conference.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan
Hogan was unable to participate.
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek
Vander Hoek reported three applications for the 2008 Scholarship have been received, copies of which she will send to Committee Member Kay Joy for assistance in making the selection. One of

the applicants is a repeat from 2007, and the schools the three applicants attend are Fresno State University, Humboldt State University, and the University of California at Santa Barbara. All of the applications were submitted before the deadline of January 31st, and Vander Hoek recommends that extending the deadline not be considered in the future. Attendance at the Annual Conference by the applicant selected to receive the scholarship was discussed. It was agreed by general consent to offer the recipient conference registration plus two nights' lodging. Bunter will obtain the necessary permit to hold a silent auction and raffle at the Conference to raise funds for the scholarship fund and donations will be requested. He also pointed out that the Scholarship Committee has a \$1100 budget approved by the Executive Committee to cover the scholarship and expenses incurred by the committee.

- Strategic Plan – Kay Joy
Joy was unable to participate. Rose will provide her with the names of the members who have volunteered to serve on this committee.
- Student Chapters – Bruce Williams
Williams was unable to participate. Casey and Rose are planning to visit California State University at Chico at the end of the month. Vander Hoek is still trying to contact Chip Appel, Student Chapter advisor at Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo, but has had no response.
- Student Representative – Vacant

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

- 2008 Plan of Work –
Rose had distributed a draft 2008 Plan of Work as developed at the November 9th meeting to members of the Executive Council for review. Grover had a number of updates, which she will incorporate into the POW and forward to Rose for re-distribution to Council members for approval at the March meeting.
- Chapter Membership Survey –
Beardsley, who was involved with the two previous surveys, was unable to participate in the meeting to lead a review and discussion of the results of the last survey. Prior to the next meeting, Rose will distribute copies of the 2003-04 Chapter Membership Survey and the results to members of the Council for review and discussion with Beardsley.
- 2008 Chapter Reports –
Grover reported that the mandatory Annual Chapter Report and the optional Outstanding Chapter Award, prepared by Bunter and Rose, and reviewed by Rose and Grover, had been submitted on time.

The following New Business was brought before the Executive Council during the meeting.

- 2008 Chapter Nominations –
It was moved by Bunter, seconded, and passed to accept the following report by Chapter Nominations Chairman Steffek: President-Elect – David Heilig, Erik Beardsley; Directors (3) – Bill Dailey (NV), Andrea Casey, April Stinson.

The next regular meeting/teleconference of the Executive Council was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2008. Please note change of date from that on the 2/22/08 meeting agenda. It was moved by Steffek, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

DAVID ROSE, PRESIDENT