



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING March 26, 2010

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, March 26, 2010. The following Executive Council Members participated in the teleconference: President, Erik Beardsley; President-Elect, Andrea Casey; Past President, Lisa Hokholt; Secretary, Rebecca Hale; Treasurer, Tom Esgate; Directors Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, Bill Daily, Dan Martynn, and Tina Vander Hoek. Unable to participate was Director Michael Hogan. The position of Student Representative is vacant as this time. Also participating were Pat Grover; Leadership Development Chair, Dave Rose; Financial Oversight Chair, Mark Steffek; and Newsletter Publisher, Walt Bunter. A quorum was present.

It was moved by Bill Daily, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2009, Executive Council Planning meeting as distributed.

Treasurer Esgate had emailed members of the Executive Council copies of his Financial Report as of March 25, 2010. He recommends moving the checking account balance to a new bank. A CD matured March 1, 2010 and Treasurer Esgate did not renew it. The current bank, Chase, offered a CD rate of 1% for a one year term resolution but Treasurer Esgate recommends moving the funds to Everbank. Additionally, once the remaining Chase CD reaches its term in 2012, he recommends moving those funds to Everbank, fully closing the Chase accounts. With the current checking account balance of \$23,485.94 the money would earn .7% without any withdrawal penalty and our balance is close to earning an APR of 1.1%. The .7% unrestricted rate would apply to our entire checking account balance, not just the amount we had elected to keep in a CD. Everbank also offers other account amenities such as free online banking. They are FDIC insured and do not deny interest to non-profits. Treasurer Esgate asks that we read and vote on the Everbank Corporate resolution by email in advance of Tuesday March 30, 2010, and he sent us the .pdf. It was moved by Daily, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

Committee reports made during the meeting were as follows:

➤ Annual Conference – Andrea Casey, Chair

No report.

➤ Awards – Ladi Asgill, Chair

No report. However California Small Farms Conference was recognized by National SWCS with a merit award.

Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair

Vander Hoek reports that 8 candidates applied for Scholarships. Based on points, the Committee recommends the awarding of the 2010 scholarship to Ariana Gerhrig.

➤ Communications – Bill Daily, Chair

No report.

➤ Financial Oversight – Mark Steffek, Chair

Steffek reported that he sent the financial audit to all officers for their review. The report will be addressed under new business for action.

➤ Leadership Development – Dave Rose, Chair

Dave has accepted a position in Minnesota. Best of Luck, Dave.

➤ Membership – Dan Martynn, Chair

No report.

➤ Nominations – Lisa Hokholt, Chair

Assuming the Annual Business Meeting is held on June 24th, the nominations must be submitted to the members by April 24th, which is 60 days before the meeting. Positions to be filled are President Elect and three Directors. Current directors whose terms are expiring are Eric Berntsen, Bill Daily, and Michael Hogan.

➤ Newsletter - Walt Bunter and Wendy Rash

➤ No report.

➤ Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair

➤ No report.

➤ Student Chapters – Vacant

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

➤ Bank Accounts – Motion was made and seconded to ask Members to review the Resolution from Everbank and agree to move the funds. People are asked to respond by email to Esgate by March 30.

➤ Chinese Delegation - Chapter SWCS Director Michael Hogan and Chapter President Erik Beardsley organized a program at UC Davis for 13 Water District Directors from China's Yunnan Provincial Department of Water Resources. Beardsley reports the Chinese Delegates told him they felt that workshop was most useful to them because of specifically addressing soil remediation issues, not just endorsing a particular product or project. Hale recommends a 52 minute documentary, "Lessons of the Loess Plateau", an Environmental Education Media Project film, <http://eemp.squarespace.com/film-channel/> which chronicles the remediation of a piece of land in Central China the size of France. Over 71 facilitated screenings of this film have been held around the world and Great Basin Community Food Coop is looking into organizing a screening in Reno.

➤ Plan of Work - It was moved by Bill Daily, seconded, and passed to approve the 2008-2010 Plan of Work.

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

- Financial Oversight – Motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Audit report as prepared by Steffek.
- Fall Technical Meeting - Several suggestions for the technical meeting were made, specifically an organic winery in Napa, a sustainable brewery in Chico, a High Tunnel (wind-related) project in Butte County. No date was mentioned.
- Scholarships - A motion made by Dan Martynn to award the 2010 Scholarship to Ariana Gehrig, was seconded and passed.
- Annual Conference, Training and Business Meeting –

It was informally decided after suggestion by Tom Esgate that the Annual Conference, Training Sessions, and Business Meeting be held at the Susanville Indian Rancheria between June 23 and 25. Tom is facilitating another conference there at the same time, sponsored by the Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative. Consensus was that it will be advantageous to collaborate and partner and gain understanding of the biomass reclamation and restoration processes that are being funded as environmental remediation and loss-mitigation strategies, especially for many of the Western states (California, Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah). This project will also highlight work being conducted across the western U.S. through NRCS National CIG. We will get more information, soon.

The next regular meeting of the Executive Council, with Committee Chairs and interested members encouraged to participate, will be a teleconference/meeting at **10 a.m. on Friday, April 23, 2010.** . 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 11:10 a.m.

s/REBECCA HALE, SECRETARY

s/ERIK BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT