



# California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING June 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 Erik Beardsley at 10:05 a.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2009. The following Executive Council Members participated in the teleconference: Andrea Casey, President-Elect; Lisa Hokholt, Past President; Tom Esgate, Treasurer; Pat Grover, Interim Secretary; and, Bill Daily, Dan Martynn, and Tina Vander Hoek Council Directors. Unable to participate were Council Directors Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, and Michael Hogan. The position of Student Representative is vacant as this time. Also participating were Mark Steffek, Financial Oversight, and Dave Rose, Leadership Development, Chairs. A quorum was present.

It was moved by Martynn, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2009, Executive Council meeting as distributed.

Treasurer Esgate reported no change from the Financial Report submitted by Immediate Past Treasurer Walt Bunter as of May 22, 2009. Therefore, the balance of all funds as of June 30, 2009, remains at \$32,994.03. In addition, the current value of unsold logo clothing is \$730 plus a \$71.72 credit for future clothing purchases. It was moved by Daily, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report. Esgate will follow up on the payment to The Pines of the additional amount billed the Chapter for unused room nights that had been contracted.

Regarding correspondence, Grover reported that Walt Bunter and she will continue to review mail received in the SWCS box at the USDA Lyng Building in Davis, and distribute it to the appropriate Council member. In response to a request from Robin Hockaday, Member Services Specialist at SWCS Headquarters, Grover had submitted the names and email addresses of the 2009-2010 members of the California-Nevada Chapter of SWCS Executive Council. Grover also noted that on April 30, 2009, she had also sent this list with the names of the Chapter's delegate and alternate to the 2009 Parent Society House of Delegates (Asgill and Esgate, respectively) to Don Wysocki and Sueann Lynes.

Appointment of the following Committees Chairs was discussed.

- Communications – Daily is considering accepting the appointment to chair this committee, but not that of Student Chapters. He will confer with President Beardsley regarding this committee following the current teleconference.
- Student Chapters – Daily believes his location in Nevada would not be practical for establishing new student chapters, but he is willing to continue to work with the University of Nevada at Reno (UNR) regarding a chapter on that campus. However, as UNR is currently in disarray due to budgetary problems, he will temporarily delay approaching the appropriate personnel. Rose recommended appointing committee members who are located near college and university campuses to work with whomever is appointed committee chair.
- Professional Development – Phil Hogan, who is a past president of the Chapter, has agreed to continue in this position, according to President Beardsley.
- Archivist – Grover reported that, in the past, the late Fred Collison had served in this position for the Chapter. However, when Collison moved to Sacramento, the Chapter's files had been moved to the warehouse in the USDA Lyng Building in Davis, and Bunter has been unofficially maintaining them. Therefore, she recommended that President Beardsley officially appoint Bunter to this position. The Council agreed by general consent and Beardsley will contact Bunter regarding assuming the position of Chapter Archivist.

Committee reports made during the meeting were as follows:

- Annual Conference – Andrea Casey, Chair  
Casey reported she would review the results of the Chapter Member Survey regarding the next Annual Conference with President Beardsley.
- Awards – Ladi Asgill, Chair  
Asgill was unable to participate. No report.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons, Chair  
Simmons was unable to participate. No report.
- Financial Oversight – Mark Steffek, Chair  
Steffek reported he had met with the committee (Esgate, Bunter, and Diane Holcomb) on May 28, 2009, to audit the Chapter's financial records, and thanked the committee members for their efforts. The transition to the new treasurer is all in order, with the following stipulations: (1) the second checkbook be forwarded to the new president, and (2) the purpose be stated clearly on each check. Steffek commended Bunter for his outstanding work as Treasurer, and noted that Bunter has agreed to help with preparing the Chapter's tax returns. Esgate reported that the new signature cards with the Chapter's financial institution (Chase) have been signed. Copies of the 2008-2009 Financial Audit Report will be sent to all members of the Executive Council for approval at the next meeting/teleconference.
- Leadership Development – Dave Rose, Chair  
No report.
- Membership – Dan Martynn, Chair  
No report.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor, and Walt Bunter, Publisher  
Neither Rash nor Bunter was able to participate. No report. However, it was noted that the Chapter Member Survey was included in the last issue of the newsletter.
- Nominations – Lisa Hokholt, Chair  
No report, but appealed for officer suggestions
- Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair  
Asgill was unable to participate. No report.
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair  
Vander Hoek reported that Bunter has updated the scholarship application on the Chapter Website to reflect the new 2010 dates. She will send out copies of the application to the applicable colleges and universities in September in order to give the applicants time to obtain the necessary documents. In response to Vander Hoek's request for additional committee members, Martynn volunteered, as did Grover, when she has been relieved of the secretarial duties.

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

- Fall Technical Meeting –  
Daily will pursue with UNR, Hokholt's suggestion at the last meeting of combining a meeting/tour with a university after the Chapter Member Survey results are reviewed and UNR's reorganization due to budget cuts.
- Chapter Member Survey –  
President Beardsley is collecting the results from the Survey. To date, eight to ten have been received.
- 2009 Plan of Work (POW) –  
The following Work Items in the 2009 POW adopted by Chapter members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting held April 22<sup>nd</sup> were cited by Grover as needing attention:  
Strategic Issue 1, last Work Item, pertaining to visiting at least two (2) selected universities to re-establish faculty liaisons and to encourage more student members and student chapters, scheduled to be completed by September;  
Strategic Issue 3, 4<sup>th</sup> Work Item, pertaining to establishing guidelines for developing Chapter policies, scheduled to be done in June; and  
Strategic Issue 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Item, pertaining to reviewing SWCS House of Delegates resolutions and action items for International Conference in June; however, according to President Beardsley, nothing has been received to review to date.

- Appointment of Secretary –  
As there were no candidates for the office of Secretary on the ballot for the last election and the members whose names were written-in on ballots were either elected to another office or declined, this position is vacant and shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Council, as provided for in the Chapter Bylaws. Immediate Past Secretary Pat Grover has agreed to serve for a short time as the Interim Secretary until an appointment is made. President Beardsley again requested suggestions of members to fill this position.
- Annual Conference Planning Guidelines –  
At the last meeting, President Beardsley appointed Casey as chair of an ad hoc committee to meet and develop, using Survey results, a framework of Annual Conference Planning Guidelines, ahead of further discussion on the subject. Rose and Beardsley volunteered to serve on the committee, which had no report at this time.

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

- Humboldt State's Proposed Dropping of Soil and Range Undergraduate Program  
In response to an email received from a student member inquiring what actions our organization can take to help save the soils and range program at Humboldt State University, it was agreed by general consent to have President Beardsley send a letter to the University supporting the retention of the Soil and Range Undergraduate Program.
- 2008-2009 Financial Audit Report  
In order to give all members of the Executive Council the opportunity to review 2008-2009 Financial Audit Report before taking action, it will be sent to each member and action on its acceptance was tabled to the next meeting.

For the Council's general information, Daily reported on attending a meeting of a Community Development Group on Alternative Energy, where the development of a prototype of alternative solar panels with agriculture applications was presented. Daily, who is the NRCS point of contact for the Group, will consider preparing an article on the subject for the newsletter.

The next regular meeting of the Executive Council, with Committee Chairs encouraged to participate, will be a teleconference/meeting at **10 a.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2009**. The Chapter's representatives to the 2009 Parent Society House of Delegates meeting will be asked to report on the Society's International Conference at that time. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

PATRICIA GROVER, SECRETARY

ERIK BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT