



# California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING

**Tuesday, August 10, 2011**

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 Bill Daily at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 2011. The following Executive Council Members were present: President, Bill Daily; President-Elect, Tibor Horvath, Treasurer, Tom Esgate; Secretary, Rebecca Hale, Directors Phil Hogan, Tina VanderHoek, Ladi Asgill. Walt Bunter (Communications). A quorum was present.

VanderHoek made the Motion and Hogan seconded to approve the Minutes as corrected from the meeting at the Hyatt on May 27th, as well as the Minutes from the April 12, 2011 teleconference. All approved, none opposed. The Motion was passed.

The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Treasurer Esgate prior to the teleconference via email. Hogan made the Motion and VanderHoek seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. All approved, none opposed. The Motion was passed.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Esgate brought forward two expenses for approval by those present on the call, as follows: pay \$156.49 to Bunter for expenses related to CA-NV Chapter Newsletter, "Runoff" - Esgate made the Motion to pay and VanderHoek seconded, all in favor, Motion passed; pay VanderHoek \$150.00 related to travel expenses for the recent 2011 conference in Reno - Esgate made the Motion and Hogan seconded, all in favor, Motion passed.

### Unfinished Business

#### *2011 SWCS International Conference Delegate -*

Asgill sent the position statement on climate change that was released at the SWCS National meeting in Washington DC to our Chapter email distribution list. He gave a verbal report during the call: the conference was well attended although with slightly fewer participants than the previous year. Note 5 main points in the position statement document (e.g.: 1. Climate Change & Agriculture 2. The Role of Agricultural Conservation in Addressing Climate Change 3. Conservation Practice Systems to Mitigate & Adapt to Climate Change 4. Public Support for Conservation to Mitigate & Adapt to Climate Change 5. Preparation for Future Changes to Agriculture Posed by Climate Change .

### New Business

#### *Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 Technical Tours -*

We are looking for appropriate organizations to partner with, for example: CPESC (Certified Professional Erosion & Sediment Control). We are interested in expanding our policy maker and public outreach in the area of education about the benefits of conservation practices and erosion control. The suggestion was made to plan a technical tour of a large dairy in Central California and create a panel with

a moderator, in addition to or instead of the traditional speaker - power point presentation. Horvath is looking into this. Example - a panel consisting of a representative from a private conservation consulting company, an NRCS employee, a state regulator, and a landowner/farmer. Conservation professionals are being asked to provide more and more quantitative data to backup and justify Best Practices suggestions. ARS (Agricultural Research Service) is the main in-house research branch of the U.S.D.A. Studies measuring erosion as well as nitrogen and phosphorous levels in water and soil are of particular interest, especially in riparian buffer zones and working farms.

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June 2011 Listing of Committees and Chairpersons (reminder):

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson(s)</u>
Annual Conference Committee	Bill Daily, Tibor Horvath, Michael Hogan, Tom Esgate, Ladi Asgill
Awards	Ladi Asgill
Bylaws	Mike Simmons
Communications	Bill Daily
Financial Oversight	Mark Steffek
Leadership Development	vacant
Membership	Dan Martynn
Newsletter	Walt Bunter & Wendy Rash
Nominations	always filled by Past President
Policy	Ladi Asgill
Professional Development	Phil Hogan
Scholarship	Tina VanderHoek
Student Chapter	vacant

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee - Tina VanderHoek, Chair

VanderHoek reports she will stay in contact with this year's winner in hopes the student may be interested in becoming our Chapter's Student Representative. Her timeline for the 2012 Scholarship process is as follows: Make announcement, month of October; set January deadline for all applicants; recruit small committee and review applications, make decision by end of April; deliver award at Annual CA-NV Chapter conference held in 2012 (sometime before July). She will send information to Bunter for him to pass on to the Webmaster so it will be freely available on our website. VanderHoek also requests a link from the CA-NV Chapter website to the Member Form on the National website.

2013 SWCS Annual International Conference, Reno

Some discussion regarding the conference in 2013. Daily reports that other Western States' Chapters have indicated interest in helping with the conference (Arizona, Oregon, and Washington). The suggestion was made that our Chapter have some print collateral materials about the 2013 Reno Conference ready at the 2012 Annual International Conference in Dallas, TX.

Daily reports that SWCS National is preparing to spend \$375,000 on the Annual Conference, in-line with their usual budget for these events. The Peppermill in Reno has already been contracted for the 2013

event. National expects to net \$25,000 after expenses. Our Chapter can keep 15% of any revenues from the conference after National recovers their \$25,000. Chapter may keep all proceeds from the silent auction. The suggestion was made to look further into the tax ramifications of sponsoring an SWCS event. If we are looking to influence policy, how much of that activity is allowable under the traditional IRS 501(c) (3) structure? A 501(c) (4) has more latitude in this area, although donations are not tax-deductible for the donor. We will be reaching out to cash and in-kind sponsors and donors so we want to be as clear as possible. Realizing SWCS is a very old organization and has been in business many years; our Chapter will continue to dialogue with each other and National about these important financial issues which affect everyone involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25AM. The next meeting of the Executive Council, with Committee Chairs and interested members encouraged to participate, is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th, 2011<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. 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.

s/REBECCA HALE, SECRETARY

s/BILL DAILY, PRESIDENT