



# California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

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## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING August 22, 2012

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-Elect Tibor Horvath at 10:10 a.m. on Thursday, August 22, 2012. Present were Executive Council Members President-Elect Robert Roy, Secretary Cathy Dirden and Directors Ladi Asgill, Wendy Rash, Tina Vander Hoek, Phil Hogan, Kabir Zahangir; Member Pat Grover. A quorum was present. Treasurer Tom Esgate was absent. International Conference Representative, Dewayne Johnson was also present.

### **I. Welcome**

President-Elect Horvath welcomed all.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Roy, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2012 meeting.

### **III. CA-NV Chapter SWCS Bylaws Amendment**

Grover read her email response to Bunter's request for clarification of the Bylaws changes. Essentially, according to Article XVI, Sec. 2 of the Bylaws, a written copy of proposed amendments shall be included with the notice of the Annual Meeting, which had not been followed in 2011. However, since the agreement on the two-year term for the President had been noted in the minutes of the May 27, 2011, Annual Business Meeting and a two-year term for both the President and President-Elect were included in the copy of the Bylaws distributed at the 2012 meeting, Grover felt it appropriate to vote at that meeting as was done and the motion passed. Regarding the Past President, a two-year term for that position was considered a logical extension of the original motion making the terms of the President and President-Elect two years.. According to Grover, the copy of the Bylaws as approved on June 24, 2010, distributed at the 2012 meeting should not have shown the two-year term changes as they had not yet been approved. After much discussion it was agreed that the process and acceptance of the changes were within the policy. Grover will prepare the new Bylaws with a notation *Approved May 10, 2012* and distribute to the Executive Council members. These amended Bylaws will then be posted on the website.

### **IV. Fall Technical Tour**

Roy sent out a recommendation for the one day Fall Tour partnering with the Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation (CASI) Workgroup and their Twilight Field Tour and Barbeque on September 13, 2012. It will be a good workshop reviewing overhead irrigation, tillage, and the long term impacts. Johnson clarified the intent of the proposal made during Director's meeting in Ft. Worth, stating the reference was to "partner" and not "merge" with other agencies. The Council discussed signage and displays for the CASI tour. An invitation will be forwarded to all CA-NV SWCS Chapter members. It was moved by Roy, seconded by Asgill, and carried approving a partnership with CASI for the Twilight Field Tour and Barbeque.

#### **V. Financial Report**

Council received for review electronic copies of the Chapter Financial Report as of August 22, 2012. It was moved by Dirden, seconded by Vander Hoek and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report, which will be placed on file.

Council reviewed Dirden's expenses of \$763.13 to attend the Conference. Council discussed prior approval of a travel budgets to eliminate the need to approve individual invoices. It was moved by Asgill, seconded by Hogan carried to approve travel budgets prior to travel with a "not to exceed amount". It was moved by Roy, seconded by Vander Hoek, and carried to approve reimbursement of \$763.13 for Dirden's travel.

Council reviewed Bunter's reimbursement for newsletter publication costs. It was moved by Dirden, seconded by Vander Hoek, and carried to approve Bunter's reimbursement of \$101.94.

#### **VI. 2012 International Conference Report**

Asgill reported on the Delegates meeting which addressed the declining level of attendance at the conferences (approximately 1000 vs. 500) was mainly due to economic factors. One motion that did not pass was to hold the international conferences on alternating years; another option was to partner with other agencies and look at ways to promote the conference. Horvath stated the organization at the national level is healthy. The consensus was to maintain the status quo and form a committee at the national level and share their findings. Johnson stated links for the 2012 sessions will be posted on the website for those conference presenters that wish to share. Asgill will continue with the policy work group.

#### **VII. Preparing for 2013 International Conference in Reno, NV**

Johnson will be contacting the CA and NV State offices recruiting their support and commitment. Asgill reported Shelley Lassiter/Arizona and Cathy McGuire/Washington volunteered as prior conference chairs to assist and meet with Asgill, Steffek, and Dirden. He will resend the notes compiled at the meetings.

Johnson suggested establishing one primary liaison to focus on the 2013 Conference and organize subcommittees. Suggested committees

Volunteer Recruiting - Volunteers will receive a 50% reduction of registration fees; sponsorship should be looked at locally. Rash volunteered to chair the committee.

Registration Desk – Johnson handles at for all conferences.

Audiovisual – responsibility will be for projectors, remote controls, and back-ups.

Sponsorship -

Silent Auction - will need to solicit donations; emailing members and finding sponsors. Requests from all other Chapters; Johnson can also put out requests.

Johnson will organize a trip to Reno in October to help with ground work and solicit support; meet with committee members; do a walk-through of the conference location; discuss how to work as a team. He will work on sponsors, agencies, partner potential; and primarily work with the leads. McGuire/Arizona offered to volunteer. The National Conference Program Committee is responsible for the educational content and the conference theme. So far they are leaning toward conservation during critical conditions; e.g., floods, drought, fire, low snow pack. Invasive species would be a symposia or poster. During his visit, Johnson will meet with Roy's boss at NRCS, Johnson will draft a letter about the October trip stating when, where, and invite State Conservation Reps Jeff Burwell/CA and Bruce Petersen/NV.

An additional Committee is needed for Tours with one key lead and one person for each of 4 tours. National pays for busses, food, etc. Suggestions would be a Tahoe Basin tour and ARS. Roy volunteered to assist with Tours.

Esgate and Asgill will work as co-chairs; and Grover, although not a Council member volunteered to assist with Registration. Johnson oversees Registration but needs a assistance with Volunteer Registration

### **VIII. Committee reports**

Annual Work Plan – Horvath will confer with Andrea and email out a draft for Council review.

**Unfinished business** - None reported.

**New business** - None reported.

### **IX. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Cathy Dirden, Secretary

s/Tibor Horvath, President

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### SWCS Annual Conference Dates to Remember

July 22 – 25, 2012 Fort Worth, Texas

July 21 – 24, 2013 Reno, Nevada

July 27 – 30, 2014 Chicago, Illinois