



California-Nevada Chapter SWCS

430 G ST #4172 DAVIS CA 95616-4172

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE/MEETING August 28, 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 Friday, August 28, 2009. The following Executive Council Members participated in the teleconference: Andrea Casey, President-Elect; Tom Esgate, Treasurer; Pat Grover, Interim Secretary; and Ladi Asgill, Eric Berntsen, Bill Daily, and Tina Vander Hoek Council Directors. Unable to participate were Past President Lisa Hokholt and Council Directors Michael Hogan, and Dan Martynn. The position of Student Representative is vacant as this time. Also participating was Dave Rose, Leadership Development Chair. A quorum was present.

It was moved by Esgate, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2009, Executive Council meeting as distributed.

Treasurer Esgate had emailed members of the Executive Council copies of his Financial Report as of August 28, 2009, (copy attached) and the dues remittance document from SWCS. Activity since his last report dated May 28, 2009, was as follows: Checkbook – Withdrawals of \$4,649.50 (The Pines Resort Attrition Penalties) and \$202.86 (Walt Bunter), Deposit of \$310.50 (SWCS Dues) for a balance of **\$10,018.85**; CD179-18 – 6/12/09 Interest of \$17.73, 7/14/09 Interest of \$18.38, and 8/14/09 Interest of \$17.84 for a balance of **\$5,541.63**; and CD876-11 (Scholarship) – 6/12/09 Interest of \$20.93, 7/14/09 Interest of \$21.68, and 8/14/09 Interest of \$21.00 for a balance of **\$12,929.25**. Therefore, the balance of all funds of the Chapter, as of August 28, 2009, is **\$28,489.73**. In addition, the current value of unsold logo clothing is \$730 plus a \$71.72 credit for future clothing purchases. Esgate was advised it was not necessary to submit copies of back-up material to the Executive Council, but he could if he wished. It was moved by Daily, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

Regarding correspondence, Grover reported that the Chapter had received a letter from Louie Marty indicating an interest in becoming a member of SWCS and requesting a membership form, an updated newsletter, and reading material. Grover replied to his letter enclosing a membership application and a copy of the Spring 2009 *Runoff*. Marty's letter with a copy of Grover's reply was then forwarded to Membership Chairman Martynn for information and action regarding reading material with the suggestion to contact Walt Bunter regarding previous correspondence from Mr. Marty. It was also noted that emails had been received from Martynn and Hogan regarding their unavailability for today's teleconference due to other commitments.

Appointment of the following Committees Chair, as announced during the July 30th teleconference, which was an unofficial meeting due to the lack of a quorum, was confirmed: Communications – Bill Daily. Beardsley had also announced on July 30th that Walt Bunter had accepted the appointment as the Chapter's Archivist.

Committee reports made during the meeting were as follows:

- Annual Conference – Andrea Casey, Chair
No report.
- Awards – Ladi Asgill, Chair
No report.
- Bylaws – Mike Simmons, Chair
Simmons was unable to participate. No report.

- Communications – Bill Daily, Chair
Daily reported he is working on a draft procedure for the Committee. Regarding the Chapter website, which is under this Committee, Grover noted it needs updating.
- Financial Oversight – Mark Steffek, Chair
Steffek was unable to participate. No report. Copies of the 2008-2009 Financial Audit Report have been sent to all members of the Executive Council for approval and will be considered under the proper order of business.
- Leadership Development – Dave Rose, Chair
No report.
- Membership – Dan Martynn, Chair
Martynn was unable to participate. No report. See correspondence report above for related information.
- Newsletter – Wendy Rash, Editor, and Walt Bunter, Publisher
Neither Rash nor Bunter was able to participate. No report. However, Beardsley noted that the deadline for the next issue is the end of August or early September and requested articles.
- Nominations – Lisa Hokholt, Chair
Hokholt was unable to participate. No report.
- Policy – Ladi Asgill, Chair
Asgill reported he had an opportunity to discuss Chapter policies with West Regional Director Don Wysocki while attending the SWCS Annual Conference
- Scholarship – Tina Vander Hoek, Chair
No report. During the June 30th teleconference, Vander Hoek had reported that in September she will send out copies of the application to the applicable colleges and universities in order to give the applicants time to obtain the necessary documents.
- Student Chapters – Vacant

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

- 2009 SWCS Annual Conference House of Delegates Meeting –
Chapter Delegate Asgill attended the meeting as did Esgate, the Chapter's alternate. Two resolutions were introduced. The first, by the Wisconsin Chapter, proposed a change in the bylaws of SWCS to facilitate a change to a seven person Board of Directors; four of whom to be elected at large and three to be selected by the Executive Director and then appointed by the Board. The motion to accept the resolution **failed**. The second, by the National Capital Chapter, recommended a proposal developed by the Chapter to establish "The Norman A. Berg Conservation Leadership & Policy Forum," the intent of which is to continue the Berg Fellowship. A motion to forward the recommendation to the Board of Director's for its consideration **passed**.

New Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) were announced at the Conference with California receiving one. In 2006, California was involved in two and was included with the Western Region in 2008. A new California-Nevada Chapter member had a poster presentation at the Annual Conference, which will be held in St. Louis next year, followed by Washington, DC and Dallas. Asgill suggested getting California in line to host a future SWCS Annual Conference.

- 2008-2009 Financial Audit –
It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to accept the 2008-2009 Financial Audit Report as submitted by Financial Oversight Chair Steffek. (Copy attached)
- Chapter Member Survey –
Beardsley had summarized the responses of the eight responders and emailed the results to members of the Executive Council for discussion. Due to the lack of participation, very little could be concluded from the survey. However, the results will be submitted by Beardsley for inclusion in the next issue of RUNOFF after Daily has clarified the tabulation of the responses for Item 6.
- Fall Technical Meeting –
In lieu of one Fall technical meeting, Beardsley suggested promoting several short sessions in different areas of the state which would not only be educational, but give members an opportunity for networking at a minimal amount of expense. Ideas were proposed for the following areas:
North Coast – The Humboldt State University Marine Research Facility in Trinidad, where alternate sources of energy (solar and hydrogen fuel cell) technology is studied at the aquarium, was proposed by Beardsley;

Lake Tahoe – A number of restoration sites where innovative work has been done on erosion and sediment source control with monitoring data that may help inform the CPESC process, was suggested by Hogan, and Daily offered to assist;

Central Valley – Asgill will research ideas and advise Beardsley;

Southern California – Beardsley will contact Simmons for a suggestion.

It was moved by Grover, seconded, and passed to hold several short Fall technical meetings this year. Beardsley will coordinate the planning and scheduling of the sessions, ideas for which should be submitted to him within two weeks.

➤ Appointment of Secretary –

Steffek, 2008-2009 Nominations Chair, has discussed the possibility of accepting an appointment to the office of Secretary with a new member of the Chapter. However, President Beardsley has not had a recent report from him on this matter. Beardsley will follow-up with Steffek and, if the member is willing to serve, will present her name for appointment by the Executive Council, as provided for in the Chapter Bylaws, at the next meeting/teleconference.

➤ Annual Conference Planning Guidelines –

President Beardsley has appointed Casey as chair of an ad hoc committee to meet and develop, using Survey results, a framework of Annual Conference Planning Guidelines with Rose and Beardsley as members of the committee. Discussion and/or action on this item was tabled.

➤ Humboldt State's Proposed Dropping of Soil and Range Undergraduate Program

During the June 30th teleconference, it was agreed by general consent to have President Beardsley send a letter to Humboldt State University supporting the retention of the Soil and Range Undergraduate Program at the University. No report was made at this meeting.

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

➤ Policy for Approval of Disbursement of Funds

Treasurer Esgate has requested a policy for approval of disbursements of funds between Executive Council meetings, and at the July 30th unofficial meeting had agreed to prepare a draft policy for consideration at this meeting. He had emailed the following policy to the members of the Executive Committee for their consideration:

Procedure for check issuance/Treasurer authorization.

1. *At regular meetings: Treasurer shall submit invoices for payment requests to board via electronic/email submittal prior to the meeting and the board shall approve payment by a majority vote.*
2. *Between meetings: Treasurer or President shall submit invoices for payment requests to the board via electronic/email submittal. Treasurer shall be authorized to issue a check for payment if approved by the President, President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer. The President, President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer shall register their approval by "reply all" email to President, President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer. All must approve for a check to be issued that is not approved at a regular meeting.*

It was moved by Daily, seconded, and passed to approve this procedure. Please note that the term "board" refers to the Executive Council.

The next regular meeting of the Executive Council, with Committee Chairs encouraged to participate, will be a teleconference/meeting at **10 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009.**

Planning ahead, another teleconference/meeting was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 23rd. The annual Fall Planning Meeting for Executive Council members, Committee Chairs, and interested members is traditionally held in November and, when feasible, is scheduled in conjunction with the CARCD Annual Conference to encourage greater participation. Beardsley and Casey will explore this possibility. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.