



Soil & Water Conservation Society

Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Teleconference

February 26, 2010

(“Action Required” Items are in red italics)

- Call to Order:** 9:03 a.m. by – Rebekah Dewind, Chapter President
- Present:**
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Rebekah Dewind | President |
| Jason Kimbrough | Vice President |
| Dan Kesselring | Secretary |
| Mike LaPointe | Region 1 Director |
| Abby Smith | Region 2 Director |
| Kelly Goward | Region 3 Director |
| Carrie Vollmer-Sanders | Region 4 Director |
- Excused:**
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Jean Gagliardo | President-Elect |
| Jay Blair | Treasurer |
| Aaron Lauster | Past President |
- Absent:** None
(7 of 10 present – quorum achieved)
- Others Attending:** None
- Agenda Changes:** Moved by Carrie, supported by Dan, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.
- Minutes of 1/26/2010:** Moved by Abby, seconded by Jason, to accept minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- Treasures Report:** Jay Blair, Treasurer, was not able to be present for the teleconference, but made the following report by email. “There were no deposits or disbursements for January. I did report to IRS on form 990E electronically. I did not do that last year and it looks like I may not get to. I did report in 2007. National SWCS sent out a letter saying if we missed filing 3 years in a row we lose our charity status. At this point we still have the charity status. The electronic form is really easy to comply with, so it is a matter of me remembering to do it each year.
- We did get a dues check from the national office for \$264 and some odd cents. Most of the dues received from individuals were \$6.50. Then there were some odd ones like \$1.25, \$6.26, \$3.50, etc. I am not sure how all that is considered.”

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Old Business:

ANR Week Seminar: Dan reported on developments with the Seminar planning. Registration is coming in slowly. Current status is 17 members and 5 non-members registered for a sub-total of 22 registrations; plus 3 guests and 6 speakers; for total of 31. Since not all speakers will be in attendance at the same time, and will not be occupying seats, we have a total of 25 seats filled out of 50 available.

We currently have 24 registered for the luncheon in the State Room Restaurant Board Room, which is capacity. Dan suggested that officers consider giving up their seat in the Board Room if we get more requests from members. *Dan will keep the Executive Council posted on lunch registrations.*

Dan suggested moving the early registration deadline from February 26 to March 5. The consensus was to do this. *Dan will send out a notice that will also serve as a reminder.*

In addition, Dan had emailed a suggested revision of the impromptu sponsorship policy. This policy is as follows:

\$100 – we will list your organization, along with your logo, as a sponsor in the program handout, and provide an opportunity to distribute materials that you may bring.

\$200 – we will list your organization, along with your logo, in the program handout, provide an opportunity to distribute materials that you may bring and provide the same listing on our web site www.miswcs.org for 3 months, including a link to your web site.

\$300 – we will list your organization, along with your logo, in the program handout, provide the same listing on our web site for 3 months (including a link to your web site), provide an opportunity to distribute materials that you may bring and include a free registration for one to our Seminar.

Kelly moved and Mike supported that this policy be approved. Motion carried.

Dan will make a follow-up contact with the potential sponsors he had contacted previously and provide them the revised policy.

Executive Council Meet-in-Person Date: Rebekah reported that the next Executive Council meeting will take place in person. She suggested that the meeting be held in St. Johns. Dan suggested that the meeting could take place as far north as Mount Pleasant to be a little more centrally located so the 4 officers in the north would not have to travel quite as far. After discussion it was decided to attempt to find a suitable location in Mount Pleasant, and that St. Johns, Ithaca

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and Alma would be potential alternate locations. *Rebekah said she would work on finding a place in Mount Pleasant.*

Kelly said she would also like to arrange for a meeting of the Policy Committee on the same day.

Summer Tour: Mike reported on plans being developed for the Summer Tour in Region 1. A draft agenda was developed and emailed to Council members earlier. The plan is for this meeting to involve an overnight stay. This has been the pattern of previous tours in Region 1, because of the distance most Chapter members would be traveling. It would involve an afternoon field trip, a group dinner, followed by a brief presentation on conservation activities of the Bay Mills Indian Community. The following morning would have a trip to the Sugar Island Culture Camp. The projected dates are August 19 and 20. It was suggested that the registration fee could be in the range of \$30 to \$40. *No vote was taken, but the consensus was that it sounded like a good event and that planning should continue.*

Organic and High Tunnel Tour: Jason and Abby reported on plans being developed for an organic tour. Jason said the alternative dates had been sometime in June or sometime in September-October. Considering what could be seen in the two periods, as well as other possible conflicts, it had been decided that the tour should be early October.

The tour will feature organic production including high tunnel hoop houses. They have identified several organic enterprises including tea, a winery, general cropping and hops and berries.

Carrie asked if this could also be advertised to Farm Bureau members in the area. The consensus was that it should be open to anyone.

No vote was taken, but the consensus was that the concepts sounded good and the planning should continue. President Rebekah's goal is to have an additional Chapter activity this year (4 events rather than 3) and this would fulfill that goal.

2010 Plan of Work: *President Rebekah stated that she had not yet completed the 2010 Plan of Work and would get it out as soon as she could.*

Dirt! The Movie license: Kelly reported that she is still trying to get the details she feels we need to understand the value and limitations of purchasing the video and license for public viewing. Dan suggested that we might consider having a viewing during the evening of the Summer Tour if we have it available. *Kelly will continue to try getting information from the producers.*

Awards: Dan reported that the award recipients, Max Benne and Dr. Kirk Heinze will be attending the ANR Week Seminar on March 10 to receive their awards.



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Dr. Heinze will also be bringing Russ White who is also involved with the program Dr. Heinze is being recognized for.

East North Central Workshop: The workshop is to be held in West Virginia this year. West Virginia has a good program planned, but is waiting to hear from SWCS Headquarters whether they will be sending a representative, and what the cost would be before they determine the registration fee and send out the registration information. Because of several prior commitments, at the moment it appears that Michigan may not have a representative at the workshop.

New Business:

Website and Newsletter Advertising Policy: Kelly reported that the Policy Committee has been working on a policy for allowing advertising in the Chapter Newsletter and on the Chapter Website. The policy has gone through several reviews and is now ready for the Executive Council to approve. After discussion, it was moved by Dan and supported by Carrie to approve the Chapter Advertising Policy.

The Next Meeting will be face-to-face in the afternoon on Friday, April 2, 2010.

Meeting adjourned by the call of the President at 10:06 a.m.

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary