



# Soil & Water Conservation Society

## Michigan Chapter

### Executive Council Teleconference

March 24, 2011

### MINUTES

**(“Action Required” Items are in red italics)**

**Call to Order:** 9:08 a.m. by Jean Gagliardo, Chapter President

**E. C. Members Attending:**

Jean Gagliardo	President
Jason Kimbrough	Vice President
Aaron Lauster	Past President
Dan Kesselring	Secretary
Jay Blair	Treasurer
Scott Hughey	Region 2 Director
Kelly Goward	Region 3 Director

**Excused:** Kent Dankenbring President-Elect

**Absent:** John Freeland Region 4 Director  
Michael LaPointe Region 1 Director

(7 present – quorum achieved)

**Others Attending:** None

**Agenda Changes:** Moved by Kelly, supported by Dan, to approve the agenda as presented.

**Minutes of :** Moved by Jay, seconded by Aaron, to accept minutes as presented if action items are completed. Motion passed.

**Treasures Report:** Jay had emailed monthly reports for the period October, 2010, through February, 2011. The reports show for February there was \$4350.63 in the checking account at the beginning of the month, which consists of \$213.66 in the East North Central Region teleconference account, \$135.19 in the website account, and \$4001.78 in the Chapter Operations Fund. Disbursements during the month were \$46.00 to MACD for luncheon tickets for two SWCS Technical Program speakers; and \$120 for Crome Insurance (Treasurer bond renewal); leaving \$3835.78 in the Chapter Operations Fund. The Scholarship Fund consists of \$5379.96 in the Savings Account; \$4800 in CD #1; \$5001.46 in the Checking Account for a total of \$15181.42.

Jay stated that the \$4800 Scholarship CD was only earning 0.25% interest and suggested looking for alternative investment strategies to improve the earnings. *He will look into alternatives and report back.*



# Soil & Water Conservation Society

## Michigan Chapter

Jay also stated that he was getting the checking account audited.

Moved by Kelly, supported by Dan to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

### Old Business:

**2011 ANR Seminar Wrap Up** – Dan and Kelly reported that the overall numerical ranking in the feedback was a little lower than for the 2010 Seminar, but that comments were generally positive. The necessity to do one of the presentations by Webinar resulted in somewhat lower ranking for that speaker.

The luncheon for all Registrants and available speakers went over very well and received positive comments. Comments concerning the breaks were positive relative to networking, except one participant said they were too long. Morning program timing was a problem because of difficulties getting the webinar working. By afternoon everything was running ahead of schedule.

Also, a PayPal account was established for the Chapter during the registration period. This registration alternative was used by 19 registrants. The consensus was to continue to use PayPal, or a comparable provider, for all future event registration.

The consensus was to do the luncheon in the future; shorten the luncheon time, perhaps to 1 hour; allow 1 hour for each speaker with Q&A; keep breaks 15 to 20 minutes; and eliminate the Q&A at the end of the afternoon unless there is to be a special panel made up of participants other than speakers.

Financially, the Seminar ended up around \$540 in the black. Dan suggested that some of this might be put into the scholarship fund. Aaron commented that it might be better to keep those funds available for future professional development events since there were 3 sponsorships for a total of \$500, and the sponsorships were publicized as supporting professional development. Consensus was to keep the funds available for helping to hold down registration fees in future events.

**2011 East North Central Leadership Development Workshop** – Dan and Kelly reported that those participating in the East North Central Region teleconference two days earlier had decided to cancel the normal face-to-face Workshop this year because of budget and travel restrictions by many of the agencies our participants would be coming from. The Workshop was to be held in Michigan, so Michigan will be the host in 2012.

As a substitute for the Workshop, a web conference is being planned for May 5<sup>th</sup>, which was to be the first day of the canceled Workshop. More information on the web conference will be provided as it becomes available.

### New Business:

**2011 Summer Tour** – There was considerable discussion concerning the 2011 tours. The Annual Plan calls for two tours, like was done in 2010. One of the tours will be held



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## Michigan Chapter

in Region 2 following the established rotation. *Aaron and Jason are on the Region 2 Tour Planning Committee and will recruit more members. Aaron will talk to Karen Blair about joining the Committee.* The other tour can be anywhere in the State. Last year there was a Summer Tour in Region 1 and a Fall Tour in Region 2.

Dan and Kelly suggested that maybe what had been tentatively planned for the ENC Regional Workshop, which was to be held in Marshall, Region 4, could be made into a tour or event. *Kelly will contact Sarah VanDelfzijl, Chapter Member and Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment employee, to see if the proposed Enbridge/ Kalamazoo River Oil Spill could be covered with a tour or field day either in the summer or in the fall and report back to the next teleconference.* Dan suggested that the tour lunch could be at Cornwell's Turkey Farm or maybe Schuler's Restaurant.

**International Conference/House of Delegates Representative** – By consensus, Jean will be the Delegate and Aaron will be the alternate.

**Next Teleconference:** 9:00 a.m., Friday, April 29, 2011

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary