



Soil & Water Conservation Society

Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Teleconference

November 2, 2009

MINUTES

("Action Required" Items are in red italics)

- Call to Order:** 9:04 AM by Rebekah Dewind – President-elect
- Council Members Attend.:**
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rebekah Dewind | President-Elect |
| Kelly Goward | Immediate Past President |
| Jay Blair | Treasurer (called in later) |
| Dan Kesselring | Secretary |
| Kathy Ryan | Region 2 Director |
| Carrie Vollmer-Sanders | Region 4 Director |
- (6 of 10 present – quorum achieved)
- Excused:** Aaron Lauster President
- Absent:** Perry Smeltzer Vice President
Vacant Region 1 Director
Vacant Region 3 Director
- Others Attending:** Sarah VanDelfzijl
Jean Gagliardo
- Agenda Changes:** None. Agenda accepted as presented.
- Minutes of 11/3/2006:** **Moved by Kathy, seconded by Kelly** to accept the minutes as received by e-mail. Motion passed.
- Treasures Report:** Jay had emailed a report for September and a projected status for October, as well as, information concerning previously approved changes in the Scholarship Fund account. Jay and Dan had opened a checking account and deposited two expiring Scholarship Fund CDs in it. The reason was that Chase Bank was offering a \$200 incentive to open a business checking account with at least \$4000. The incentive would be deposited after 6 months if a balance of at least \$4000 is maintained. This was equivalent to a 3.6% CD interest rate for one year which was much better than the interest being earned on the CDs at the present time. In addition, two former Chapter member names were removed from the authorized signature register, and Dan and Jay were set up as authorized. One of the Chase Bank requirements is that the organization Secretary be listed as an authorized signature on the accounts.

Jay's email report also stated that he had set up the October projected reports with new sections to show the East North Central Teleconference fund and the website funds in separate categories so they are easier to track. He also reported that he



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had received a check for \$3989.30 from the Parent Society for the Chapter's share of the International Conference and placed it in the General Fund checking account.

In addition, Jay will be moving the International Conference Silent Auction proceeds to the Scholarship Fund when the Council decides where they should go.

Since Jay was not available to answer some additional questions, **Dan moved, and Kelly seconded**, to table the Treasurer's Report until Jay called in. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Student Chapter Development Committee: The Chair of this committee, Perry Smeltzer, was not available. Committee member Kelly Goward reported that the Grand Valley State University Student Chapter Advisor had changed. Neil McDonald, former Advisor, was now Department Chair at GVSU and had resigned his role as Advisor. The new Advisor is Todd Aschenbach. Kelly had received one email from him, but has not heard from him recently. She noted that Todd was not listed as a member of the Society and suggested that we should look into the Society requirements for Advisors. *Kelly said she would check with Society Headquarters concerning guidelines for Student Chapter Advisors.*

Committee member Rebekah Dewind stated that Perry had been trying to locate someone on MSU Faculty who might be interested in helping to set up a Student Chapter there. Dan said he had recently made a contact with the President of the MSU Agronomy Club. *Rebekah said she would contact Abby Smith, Chapter Member, to see if she knew who was the Advisor for the Agronomy Club.*

Rebekah, Dan and Kelly offered to represent the Chapter for any meetings with MSU Faculty and students.

Annual Meeting: Kelly reported that the MACD Annual Meeting is still on, and the Chapter Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 16. She said Agren is set to come, but that Aaron has all the details. Dan said he needed a description soon for the newsletter that should go out by mid month. *Dan said he would see if he could contact Agren for details.*

ANR Week Planning Committee: Dan reported that the topic had been chosen and the description for the ANR Week publication had been submitted. He requested that the Council set the registration fees so that he could get them published. **Dan moved, Jay seconded**, to set the fees the same as last year: \$20 for students, \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members before a deadline to be determined, and \$30, \$40 and \$50 respectively after the early registration deadline. Motion carried.



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New Business:

Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program – Sarah reported on the amendments to the program that the Council members had suggested. She reviewed the document in detail. **Dan moved and Kathy seconded** that the proposed amendments be approved to submit to the membership for approval with the election ballot to be sent out by November 15. Motion carried. *Sarah will prepare the documents to be sent, including both the proposed amended document and the original and send them to Dan. Since there are several changes, the entire documents will be sent. Dan will place the documents on the Chapter website and include links to them in the election and proposal ballot to be emailed to all members having email, and snail mailed to members without email.*

Nominations Committee: Dan reported that he had just sent out another email soliciting volunteers for candidates, and an additional email to a specific member who had been suggested by a Council member. There is one candidate for each open position now, but it would be good to have additional candidates. *If any additional candidate volunteers come forward, Dan will review them with the Council before completing the ballot.*

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jay Blair was now available, so the tabled Treasurer's Report was brought back up. Dan asked about a possible error on one figure which was then corrected. **Dan moved and Kathy seconded** to approve the September Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Also discussed was the banks where funds are located. At the present the Chapter General Fund is deposited in National City Bank and the Scholarship Funds are deposited in Chase Bank. **Dan moved, Kelly seconded**, to keep the accounts in those two banks until a decision is made concerning handling of the Scholarship Fund.

Jay also read a letter from the International Headquarters thanking Sarah and Kelly for all their good and hard work on the International Conference.

Next Teleconference: 9:00 AM., Monday, December 7, 2009

Meeting adjourned by Dewind at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary