



Soil & Water Conservation Society

Michigan Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society 2006 Annual Meeting

December 6, 2006 – Kewadin Resort and Conference Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

The annual meeting was preceded by a banquet dinner and a slide show presentation by Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, USDA-NRCS. Jerry's presentation was titled "Notill Tales from Belarus" and highlighted his experience traveling in Belarus and teaching a group of farm managers how to use a notill drill.

President Dan Kesselring called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm. There were 15 Chapter members registered and present.

The 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes were distributed and reviewed. Wendy Ogilvie made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Jay Blair. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report for 2006 was presented by Treasurer Jay Blair. The checking account had a beginning balance of \$1364.19, an income of \$9635.59, disbursements equaling \$9292.94, and an ending balance of \$1710.84. The Scholarship fund has \$514.81 in savings and \$9055.54 in Certificate of Deposits for an ending balance of \$9570.55. The ending balance in the Scholarship Income was \$925.35, consisting of \$6.34 in savings account interest, \$259.01 in Certificate of Deposits, \$160.00 in membership dues, and \$500.00 from the Summer Tour. It was noted that when the Scholarship Income reaches \$10,000.00, the Chapter can increase the number of scholarships awarded to two. A motion was made by Roger Howell to approve the Treasurer's Report; Sarah VanDelfzijl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wendy Ogilvie, Past President and Chair of the Scholarship Committee, reported that seven applications were received for scholarships this year from students across the state. One application was incomplete and one was late, leaving five applications to select from. The scholarship was awarded to Bridgette Brown, a senior at Grand Valley State University studying Natural Resources Management. Bridgette was unable to attend the annual meeting.

The Elections Committee Chairperson, Walt Summers, was not present, so the results of the 2006 election were presented by President Dan Kesselring. Dan reported that Walt had emailed the results to him. A total of 18 ballots were received. Kelly Goward was elected President Elect with 16 votes. There were two write-in candidates for the position of Vice President. Rebekah DeWind was elected Vice President with 5 votes and Walt Summers received 1 vote. Randy Melburg was elected Director of Region 2 with 2 votes and Vicki Anderson was elected Director of Region 4 with 5 votes.



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AWARDS

President Kesselring presented the Commendation Award to Walt Summers. Walt was not present, nor was he present at the National Meeting where the Commendation Award was originally presented. President Kesselring highlighted Walt's contributions to organizing summer meetings in the Upper Peninsula.

President Kesselring then passed out the GVSU student chapter report and the President's report. There were no comments.

President Kesselring explained that the Awards Committee, chaired by Vicki Anderson (not present), had not received any recommendations for awards this year. Because of this President Kesselring created a President's Certificate of Appreciation. One Certificate was presented to Wendy Ogilvie in appreciation for her years of service, which has included serving as Chapter President, Past President, on the Scholarship Committee, and as liaison to the GVSU Student Chapter. A second certificate was presented to Larry Foote in appreciation for his years of service to the executive council as the Director of Region 4 and for his wise council and guidance to chapter officers.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

President Kesselring reported that there are national guidelines for installing new chapter officers. The Chapter Officer Oath was then read by President Kesselring. President Kesselring then presented Sarah VanDelfzijl, 2007 Chapter President, with the gavel, a CD containing SWCS files and a set of Michigan Chapter President business cards. President Kesselring then turned the meeting over to new President VanDelfzijl.

PLANS FOR 2007

New President VanDelfzijl thanked 1st Past President Kesselring for his leadership over the past year. President VanDelfzijl then reviewed the plans for 2007. Events planned for 2007 include a technical session at MSU's ANR week (3/7/2007) titled "A Matter of Balance: Conservation and Renewable Energy", hosting the East North-Central Region Leadership Development Workshop in April, the SWCS National Conference in Tampa FL (7/21-25/07), the Michigan Chapter summer meeting and tour in August, conducting a fifth session of the Conservation Planning Course in October, and the Annual Meeting and Technical Session in December in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Conservation District's Annual Convention. 1st Past President Kesselring further explained the topic for the ANR week session, stating that the program will take a look at the environmental impacts of renewal energy. This session is still in development.

President VanDelfzijl adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.