

**Michigan Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society
2008 Annual Meeting**

December 10, 2008 – Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, Mount Pleasant, Michigan

President Kelly Goward called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. There were 15 Chapter members registered and present: Dan Kesselring, Sarah VanDelfzijl, Kelly Goward, Jay Blair, Larry Foote, Mike Lapointe, Aaron Lauster, Jim Hayes, Kurt Krug, Doug Young, Tina Clemons, Rebekah DeWind, Becky Otto, Jean Gagliardo, and Kathleen Ryan. Kelly introduced the Executive Council members who were present and also former officers of the Chapter. Since there were three non-members present, each chapter member introduced themselves.

The 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes were distributed and reviewed. Sarah VanDelfzijl moved, and Dan Kesselring seconded, that the minutes be approved as printed. There was no further discussion. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for 2007 was distributed and presented by Treasurer Jay Blair. The checking account had a beginning balance of \$1,788.13; an income of \$3,731.04; disbursements were \$4,062.47; and the ending balance was \$1,456.70. The Scholarship fund has \$591.49 in savings and \$10,212.90 in 3 Certificates of Deposit for an ending balance of \$10,804.39. The ending balance in the Scholarship Income was \$506.19, consisting of \$3.35 in savings account interest, \$362.84 in Certificates of Deposit interest, \$140.00 in membership dues. Moved by Sarah VanDelfzijl, and supported by Rebekah DeWind, to approve the Treasurer's Report with an update reflecting the 50/50 raffle proceeds to be presented at a later date. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship Committee – Rebekah DeWind, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, reported that there were 11 applications this year with Michigan State University, Michigan Tech University, Grand Valley State University, and Western Michigan University represented. The quality of the applications was impressive, but ultimately Kayla Coleman of MSU was selected to receive this year's SWCS Scholarship. Kayla was in attendance with her mother, and the Scholarship Award was presented to her.

Elections Committee – Chairperson Dan Kesselring announced the results of the 2008 election. 21 ballots were received with the following numbers cast. . 19 votes for Rebekah DeWind for President-Elect. 19 votes for Perry Smeltzer for Vice President. 2 votes for Kathleen Ryan for Region 3 Director. 6 votes for Carrie Volmer-Sanders for Region 4 Director. 3 Votes for Rebecca Roggenbuck for Region 4 Director. Carrie Volmer-Sanders winner. 7 Votes for Jean Gagliardo for Region 3 Director.

AWARDS

Sarah VanDelfzijl reported for the Awards Committee. Dan Kesselring has been nominated and awarded a Commendation Award for outstanding contribution to the science and art of wise land use in Michigan. His nomination will be passed on to the national committee for national consideration. Potawatomi RC&D has been nominated and awarded the Education Award for their contribution to conservation education. Both awards will be presented at the SWCS program during ANR Week.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kelly then distributed and discussed the Michigan Chapter Calendar Year 2008 Progress Report. Chapter activities in 2008 included:

1. ADMINISTRATION: New committee was formed for 2009 International annual conference. Sarah VanDelfzijl is the overall Michigan Chapter Coordinator, with additional sub-committees that include Fellows Forum, tours, Social Night, Volunteers, A/V Equipment, Outreach, and Sponsors and Exhibitors. Sarah VanDelfzijl and Kelly Goward are serving as Michigan chapter liaisons to the Program Committee.
2. AWARDS: Award nominations accepted through December 5, and will be awarded at the ANR week technical session on March 11, 2009.
3. MEMBERSHIP: The chapter currently has 74 members.
4. OUTREACH:

3 Michigan Chapter Members assisted with the Michigan FFA State Land Judging contest at MSU on April 18.

Three issues of the chapter Newsletter were published in 2008

The Michigan chapter now has a Website. While portions are still under development, it is available at www.miswes.org

Michigan currently has one student chapter at Grand Valley State University.

Spring and Fall Highway cleanups were conducted in the cleanup zone along US-27.
5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The March MSU-ANR Week Seminar *A Matter of Balance: The role of Pollinators in a Sustainable Environment* attended by 39 members and non-members.

Summer Meeting was held this year in Region 3, southwest Lower Michigan. The summer tour was attended by 26 members and friends, and toured the Lakeshore Harvest Country Trail.

6. SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarship Committee received 11 applications. Our winner for 2008 was Kayla Coleman from Michigan State University.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

President Goward then introduced Aaron Lauster, as the new President for 2008 and then turned the meeting over to new President Lauster.

PLANS FOR 2008

New President Aaron Lauster thanked 1st Past President Goward for her leadership over the past year. President Lauster then reviewed the plans for 2009. Events planned for 2009 include a technical session at MSU ANR week (3/11/2009) titled "*A Matter of Balance: Soil and Policy/Economics/Climate Change/Public Demand*"; the 2009 International Conference in Dearborn, Michigan and the Annual Meeting and Technical Session in December in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Conservation District's Annual Convention.

President Lauster indicated that he had three goals for his tenure in office.

1. Focus on increasing membership
2. Build on current Web development and social networking sites
3. Build Professional Development resources; i.e. website, student chapters

President Lauster adjourned the 2008 Annual Meeting at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Gagliardo, Region 3 Director
Acting for Walt Summers, Secretary