



Soil & Water Conservation Society

Michigan Chapter

2011 Annual Meeting

Soaring Eagle Hotel and Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant, MI

December 7, 2011

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: 3:00 p.m. by Jean Gagliardo, Chapter President

Council Members Attend:

Jean Gagliardo	President
Kent Dankenbring	President-Elect
Jason Kimbrough	Vice President
Jay Blair	Treasurer
Dan Kesselring	Secretary
Michael LaPointe	Region 1 Director
Scott Hughey	Region 2 Director
Kelly Goward	Region 3 Director
John Freeland	Region 4 Director

Other Members Attending: Karen Blair, Marilyn Shy, Kristin Esch, Emily Ries, Mary Fales, Marcus Reynolds.

Minutes of 12/15/2010: Moved by Jay, seconded by Kent, to approve the 2010 Annual Meeting minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Jay Blair presented the Treasurer's Report for calendar year 2011. Moved by Kent, supported by Scott, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried. **Need corrected report.**

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee: Jason Kimbrough reported that an announcement for Scholarship Applications was not distributed this year, but that a new contact list had been developed and also a form letter. Since it is the Chapter's desire to maintain the Scholarship Fund principal and only use interest for Scholarships, the Fund has not been earning enough interest to support a Scholarship for the past two years. The Scholarship Policy and Guidelines was revised in 2009 and is posted on the Chapter website.

Awards Committee: Dan Kesselring reported for Sarah VanDelfzijl, Committee Chair. The Awards Committee completely revised the Awards Program to make it align better with the Society Awards program, to improve descriptions of some Chapter Awards and improve consistency within Chapter documents. The Committee also revised the Awards Nomination Form and developed a new Awards Guide. The revised Awards Program was distributed to the Chapter membership in early November, along with the Awards Nomination Form and the Awards Guidelines.

The Awards Committee received one Award Nomination – a Commendation Award recommendation for Kelly Goward, outgoing Region 3 Representative. The recommendation reads as follows:

“Kelly became a member of SWCS and the Michigan Chapter in 2004. By 2005 she was serving on the Chapter's Professional Development Committee and has remained a member of that Committee for 5 years. In 2006 she added the Chapter's ANR Seminar Planning Committee and the Chapter's Summer Tour Committee. In 2007 she moved up to President-elect, then President in 2008, then Past President in 2009. She then remained on the Executive Council as Region 3 Director 2010 and 2011. Kelly volunteered to step down in 2012 and let someone else get some experience on the Executive Council, but intends to remain active in Committees.



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Kelly has been an active member of the Chapter Policy Committee for 3 years, as Chair in 2009 and Acting Chair in 2010 and 2011. She has also been active on the ANR Planning Committee for 5 years; the Professional Development Committee for 5 years; the Summer Tour Committee for 2 years, including planning and conducting the tour in 2007; the Student Chapter Development Committee, including serving as the liaison to the Grand Valley State University Student Chapter, for 3 years; the Chapter Awards Committee for 2 years; and the East North Central Region Leadership Development Workshop Planning Committee for 2 years.

Kelly was a member of the Annual Conference Program Committee, and also the Local Arrangements Committee, for the SWCS 2009 Annual International Conference held in Dearborn, Michigan. In recognition of her outstanding contributions on the Local Arrangements Committee she was awarded the Chapter President's Certificate of Appreciation in 2009; and for her contributions to the Annual Conference Program Committee she was awarded the SWCS President's Leadership Award at the SWCS 2010 Annual International Conference in Washington, DC.

The primary reason for Nominating Kelly for the Commendation Award is not just for the number of Officer and Committee positions she has held. It is because she has been active in all of those positions performing duties and actions too numerous to detail here.

The only reason Kelly is not recommended for the Chapter's Outstanding Service Award is that she has been a member for only 8 years. The Outstanding Service Award requires a minimum of 10 years."

The official Award presentation will be done during the ANR Seminar luncheon in March, 2012.

Elections Committee: Chapter Members Karen Blair and Marcus Reynolds had been appointed to the Elections Committee to count the ballots prior to the Annual Meeting. Karen Blair, Committee Chair, reported the results of the election. 28 ballots were received. Officers elected were: John Freeland, President-Elect (John resigned his position as Region 4 Director effective as of the transfer to new officers); Kristen Esch, Vice President; Marilyn Shy, Region 1 Director; Mary Fales, Region 3 Director; and Jon Bartholic, Region 4 Director (Jon's term will be for one year to complete the term vacated by John Freeland). The ballot amendment measure to revise the required quorum for an Annual Meeting received 24 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Student Chapter Development Committee: Kelly Goward presented a report on the activities of the Grand Valley State University SWCS Student Chapter. Activities included: Thornapple River cleanup, Honeysuckle removal, Grand River clean up, Dune cleanup, Oriental bittersweet removal, Highway cleanup and Black willow planting. Currently there are seven SWCS Student Members in the Chapter.

Outreach Committee: Dan Kesselring, Committee Chair, reported that the Outreach Committee manages the Chapter website, produces the Chapter newsletter and maintains the Chapter portable display. Three newsletters were produced this year and placed on the Chapter website. A link to the newsletters is distributed to Chapter members, to all Conservation District employees and others on the MACD list-serve, to SWCS East North Central Region leadership, to a list of former SWCS members and friends of SWCS that Dan maintains, and to Society HQ. A copy of the full report is attached.

Marilyn Shy suggested that Dan send the newsletter link to the NRCS all employee list-serve. Marilyn also suggested adding a way for people visiting the Chapter website to request to be added to our mailing list to receive the link to the newsletter.

Policy Committee: Kelly Goward reported for the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee has developed a new policy for accepting sponsorships for the ANR Seminar. The Committee also prepared a Bylaws amendment for presentation to the Chapter membership. The Bylaws amendment concerned the requirements for a quorum to hold an Annual Meeting. This amendment was included with the election



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ballot distributed to the membership in early November. This amendment has also been reviewed by the Society Board of Directors.

President's Outgoing Report: Jean Gagliardo presented her outgoing President's Report. **Need Report.**

Installation of New Officers: Outgoing President Jean Gagliardo turned the meeting over to incoming President Kent Dankenbring.

President's Plans for 2011: President Kent Dankenbring stated that his number one priority for 2012 was to increase membership. One step to accomplish this will be to recruit existing members who are NRCS employees to promote membership, and report on Chapter activities, at NRCS employee meetings. **Need report?**

Motion by Marilyn Shy, support by Jean Gagliardo, to adjourn the 2011 Michigan Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary



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The responsibilities of the Outreach Committee, and resulting activities in 2011 include:

I . Prepare and publish the Chapter newsletter.

- A. We published 3 editions of the newsletter this year.
- B. The newsletter is posted on the Chapter Website so that anyone can download it. We provide a web link to most members.
- C. The newsletter link is also provided to past SWCS members and people who are considered friends of the Michigan Chapter SWCS or supportive of the SWCS mission, including the all@macd.org list service and the SWCS East North Central Region leadership.
- D. We still print and mail 9 copies to members who haven't provided an email address.
- E. Articles are solicited from the Executive Council and Committee Chairs.

II . Maintain and manage the Chapter Website. The website is used:

- A. To announce and publicize Chapter activities;
- B. To promote the Michigan Chapter and the Society;
- C. To store and make available handouts and presentations from Chapter Seminars, Workshops and Tours. (Because of a suggestion from Kelly Goward, we have also started posting tour and meeting pictures on box.net to save space on our website. We may also post presentations there.);
- D. To store and make available Chapter records, such as minutes, newsletters and budgets;
- E. And, to list the officers of the Chapter along with email links. Each officer is given an miswcs.org email address which is forwarded to one of their own email addresses.

Funding for the website server has been provided by member donations and advertising. Currently the website account has enough funds to continue operations for one more year. Then we will need to seek donations and/or advertising to keep the website going. The website is currently managed voluntarily by the Outreach Committee Chair.

III . Maintain, deliver and set up the Chapter table top display. The display is available to publicize the Chapter and SWCS at appropriate events. This year it was displayed at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center during ANR Week in March, and here at the MACD Convention. We would consider placing it at other events, if a member requests it.

IV . Maintain a photographic record of Chapter activities. Photos are used in the Chapter newsletter, on the website and on the display.

Daniel F. Kesselring, Chair
Outreach Committee