



# Soil & Water Conservation Society

## Michigan Chapter

### Executive Council Teleconference

May 1, 2009

### MINUTES

*("Action Required" Items are in red italics)*

**Call to Order:** 9:03 a.m. by Aaron Lauster – Chapter President

**Council Members Present:**

Aaron Lauster	President
Rebekah Dewind	President-Elect
Perry Smeltzer	Vice President
Kelly Goward	Immediate Past President
Jay Blair	Treasurer
Dan Kesselring	Secretary
Kathy Ryan	Region 2 Director
Jean Gagliardo	Region 3 Director
Carrie Vollmer-Sanders	Region 4 Director

**Council Members Excused:** Vacant Region 1 Director  
Becky Otto tendered her resignation because she is moving to a different Region.

**Council Members Absent:** None

(9 of 10 present – quorum achieved)

**Others Attending:** Sarah VanDelfzijl  
Gaylynn Kinter

**Agenda Changes:** Dan moved, Kathy supported, accepting the agenda as emailed. Motion carried.

**Minutes of Last Teleconference:** Jay moved, Rebekah supported approving the minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

**Treasures Report:** A printed Treasurer's report was not available. *Jay said he would send it next week.*

Jay reported that the Scholarship Funds were left invested in the CDs they had been in, because there was nothing to be gained with longer duration CDs.



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### Old Business:

**House of Delegates appointments:** Dan moved, Kathy supported, for the Executive Council to appoint Aaron Lauster, Chapter Delegate, and Rebekah Dewind, Alternate. Motion carried.

**Newsletter Status:** Since the last newsletter was distributed in early April, and the next was scheduled for May 30, discussion was held whether to do another newsletter before the International Annual Conference. Dan suggested an alternative of weekly emails on various topics about the International Annual Convention. *The consensus was for Dan to send out at emails at least once per week with various items on the Convention. Sarah also requested that Dan do another snail mailing to the few folks who do not have email. These need to be done before the June 2 early registration deadline.*

**Student Chapter Involvement Committee:** Perry reported that the committee has had some discussion and information on past student chapter involvement, but has not had time to start developing a work plan yet. Perry said they would continue to work on it.

**Work Plan Review:** Aaron stated that Work Plan items for April had been completed, and we were on track for May. He indicated that because of the Convention much of what we are doing is not included in the regular Annual Work Plan.

**Scholarship Committee:** Becky Otto, who had been chair of the Scholarship Committee for this year, has had to resign because of a job change and household move. Rebekah Dewind, who chaired the Committee last year, has agreed to Chair it again this year. Rebekah suggested that we not give a Scholarship this year, and after the Convention, work on updating the Scholarship Program policy to better reflect the current economic situation, i.e. the low interest rates. Dan moved, Perry supported, foregoing the Scholarship Program this year. Motion passed.

It was also discussed whether we could use Scholarship funds to give a student a Scholarship to the International Annual Convention. *Aaron asked Dan to review the Scholarship Program policy to determine if this was allowed, and report back to the Executive Council.*

Jay then moved, and Rebekah supported, that we provide a Student Scholarship to the International Annual Convention, amount to be \$300, taking it from the Scholarship fund if allowable, or from the General fund if not. Motion passed.

**Apparel:** Sarah VanDelfzijl requested that the Executive Council consider getting identical polo shirts for Executive Council members and Michigan Chapter Steering Committee members to wear at the Convention. The purpose is to make them more readily identifiable at the Convention. *A consensus was reached that*

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*Sarah would make the choice of polo shirt kind, get the sizes needed and make the order; and that each member would pay for their own. There was consensus to make the color as close to a water or lake blue as possible.*

**2009 Annual Conference:** Dewayne Johnson called in to the teleconference at 9:30 a.m. Duane reported that they now have 24 Symposia; that registration was about 10% below what they had anticipated at this point; and that, considering the current economic climate, things were progressing well. The word is that information will soon be coming out from USDA-NRCS encouraging their employees to register and to volunteer.

Discussion was held concerning the Game Night activity that the Michigan Chapter had hoped to hold. Dewayne indicated that there was going to be some difficulty in finding a location for this activity. The Council decided that the only facility available was not suitable. Dan moved, Kathy supported, canceling the Game Night activity and having the Michigan Chapter sponsor a break instead. Motion passed.

**Fellows Forum:** Kelly Goward stated that the Fellows Forum was all set and ready to go. The topic is *Emerald Ash Borer and the Conservation Consequences*.

**Tours:** Kelly Goward is also responsible for the Tours, and stated that all tour planning was pretty well set, except for some loose ends on the Canadian technical tour.

**AV Equipment:** Karen Blair was not available for this teleconference.

**Social Night:** Rebekah Dewind and Dewayne Johnson stated that the private showing of *Dirt – The Movie* was ready to go.

**Volunteers:** Rebekah was concerned about getting more volunteers and wanted another mailing covering that. *Rebekah and Dan will work on getting additional notices out.*

*Rebekah will send the Executive Council a list of the volunteers and the status of the volunteer program.*

**Outreach:** Kelly Goward stated that because of budget issues and workload, Doug Young has had to back out of this role. *It was decided that Executive Council members will fill in as needed.*

**Silent Auction:** Gaylynn Kinter has been receiving inquiries and auction donations. There had been some discussion about making a proxy bidding process available on line. Gaylynn was concerned about the cost of shipping items to folks who have winning bids but don't attend the conference. After discussion there was consensus to not have on line

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proxy bidding. *However, Gaylynn will offer to accept pictures to post on the web site from any of the donors who wish to send them.*

Gaylynn also proposed providing commemorative pins to all who attend the Conference. She had sent us a picture of what the pin would look like. There was considerable discussion and consensus that we should check for at least one other supplier to compare costs and quality. *Kelly said she thought she had a possible source and would check into it.*

**Sponsors and Exhibitors:** *Sarah will continue to promote and publicize Exhibitor and Sponsor opportunities to any and all potentials she can think of, or that Council Members send her way.*

### **New Business:**

**Board Vacancies:** Aaron discussed the loss of Becky Otto as Region 1 Representative and asked for suggestions for possible replacement. There are very few members in Region 1. Dan suggested Mike LaPointe or Marilyn Shy. *Aaron will make contacts.*

**Next Teleconference:** *9:00 a.m., Friday, May 29, 2009*

Meeting Adjourned by Lauster at 10:26 a.m.