



Michigan Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society
Annual Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2005 – Holiday Inn, Big Rapids, Michigan

A banquet dinner, followed by an address by Rebecca Fletcher, East North Central Regional Representative, SWCS Board of Directors, preceded the Annual Meeting. Ms. Fletcher spoke to the group on the current status and trends of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society organization.

President Tom Fedewa then called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 9 Chapter members, 5 officers, the ENC Regional Representative and 12 guests present.

President Fedewa introduced the Executive Council.

President Fedewa reviewed the **2004 Annual Meeting minutes** which were distributed to members and others present. Moved and seconded to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Treasurer Jay Blair distributed and presented the **Treasurer's Report** for 2005. Moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as printed. Motion passed.

President's Report: President Fedewa discussed a few of the past year's events. Tom will present a 2005 President's report in an upcoming newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wendy Ogilvie, Immediate Past President and Chair of the **Scholarship Committee**, announced that there had been 6 applications for the Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program \$500 scholarship, 2 from Grand Valley State University Students and 4 from Michigan State University Students. The 2005 Scholarship winner is **Mr. Shane Bennett**, a student at MSU. Mr. Bennett is a Biosystem Engineering major with an emphasis on hydrology.

Membership Committee Chair GayLynn Kinter was not able to be present, so President Fedewa asked Secretary Dan Kesselring to discuss membership changes. Dan reported that the Chapter had gained 11 new members during the year. These 11 came about because of the Conservation Planning Class conducted by the Chapter. Current and new members received a member discount on the class registration fee. The class also gained one new member for the Ontario Chapter. One registrant was from Canada. There are currently 80 Michigan Chapter members.

President Fedewa then asked Dan Kesselring, Chair of the **Elections Committee**, to report on the election results. Dan reported that ballots had been emailed or mailed to all Chapter members. 14 ballots had been returned, a very low percentage for the Chapter. However, Region 1, the Upper Peninsula, had a 50% return. The following officers were elected: Sarah VanDelfzijl, President Elect; Vicki Anderson, Vice President; Becky Otto,

Region 1 Director; and Scott Kenreich, Region 3 Director. The position of President was on the ballot because the 2005 President Elect had resigned. There was no candidate on the ballot, but Dan Kesselring received 2 write in votes. Dan said he didn't vote for himself, but was willing to accept the position if the members concurred. It was moved and seconded to approve the election results as presented. Motion carried. Dan Kesselring is the 2006 President.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Planning Course – Dan Kesselring reported that 12 people registered for the NRCS Conservation Planning Course Modules 6 through 8 conducted by the Chapter. Of these, 8 were Conservation District employees and 4 were Technical Service Providers. One TSP consultant was from Canada. Dan distributed the final accounting from the course to show members how registration fees were used.

Dan reported that he also has an agreement or memorandum of understanding with the Chapter to administer Module 9 which is the last module in the course.

Summer Meeting – Region 1 Director Walt Summers was not able to attend the meeting, so President Fedewa opened the floor for a discussion of the pros and cons of holding a Summer Meeting. Because of the limited membership available to help organize a meeting in Region 1, it was suggested that perhaps the meeting should be tried in another Region. Walt has been involved in organizing at least 16 Summer Meetings in the U.P. since 1986.

Last summer, the Executive Council had also invited comments from the membership and others concerning the reasons the Summer Meeting had to be cancelled. Those comments are on file and available to the Executive Council and Chapter Membership.

The consensus seemed to be that a Summer Meeting was desirable, but perhaps should be shorter than the one attempted this past summer.

Due to the time, and the fact that some members had to return home some distance, President Fedewa decided to adjourn the meeting without further discussion of the priorities for 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Daniel F. Kesselring
2005 Secretary