

IE SWCS Executive Council Meeting
WA State NRCS Office Bldg
11 am, January 30, 2009

Present:

Don McCool
Steve Durgin
Steve Sprecher
Ann Swannack
Shelly Lassiter
Tim Dring
Emily Pickron
Dave Brown

On Conference Phone:
Steve Rolph
Patrice Beckwith
Vern McMaster

Agenda:

Call to Order: Don McCool

Minutes of Sept. 5, 2008 Meeting: Ann Swannack read minutes; no additions or corrections. Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Emily Pickron. See attachment for report. Emily is asking for direction on what to do with the \$ in Sterling Savings Bank checking account. Ann moved and Steve Sprecher seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. The motion carried and the minutes were approved as presented. Ann explained the reason we were paying for some rain gauges; a letter from David Jones of Colfax Field Office is enclosed. Patrice asked if a bill submitted by Todd Thorn for coffee break for an activity in her District had been reimbursed. Don asked for a bill so we can pay it. Discussion resulted in decision that this was similar to the rain gage expense and that no receipt was needed. Steve Durgin asked that any funds spent on Director activities be sent to him so he can publish it in the newsletter.

Ann mentioned that she had spoken to Esther. She seems to be doing well. Ann asked Esther's son to help locate the treasurer and Chapter historical records she kept. Steve Rolph offered to assist us with getting the Chapter documents.

Old and Unfinished Business:

Soil and Wetland Scientist Certification Program-Report

Letter from IE SWCS in support of this program was sent as agreed to at previous Ex. Council meeting.

Roger Veseth Scholarship-Report

Action was delayed by efforts in other areas; will cover activity at spring meeting.

Professional Development for Meetings-CEU's

Steve Sprecher handed out a guide on professional development; the fall meeting should be planned in spring in order to line up requirements for CEU, so

we are a bit behind for Spring Meeting CEU. Steve Durgin mentioned that NRCS approval works better if done ahead of time. Steve also mentioned that we have a new State Conservationist who should be made aware of Chapter activities. Dave Brown agreed. We need to invite Roylene to the meetings. Vern mentioned that Idaho also has a new State Conservationist who needs to be invited to our spring and fall chapter meetings.

Combined Federal Campaign-Action

Don has been trying to identify our correct EIN number so that we can properly complete the forms. After the meeting, Steve Durgin located old files that indicated our current EIN number is 32-7437604.

Year End Reports (Deadline February 15)-Action

Annual Chapter Activity Report needs to be completed. Shelly explained how the awards below are awarded. She recommended that we apply for at least one of these. Steve Durgin agreed that we should go for at least the Sustained Performance Award. Don and Shelly are going to try for that award. Steve Durgin and I may assist.

- Annual Chapter Activity Report (mandatory for every chapter)
- Outstanding Chapter Award
- Chapter Achievement Award
- Sustained Performance Award
- Professional Development Award

New Business:

Election of officers

Let's try to come closer to meeting our election goals as listed in our bylaws. Ann suggested that we follow the guidance in the bylaws. Steve Durgin asked how to best work this schedule with the newsletter. This term vice-president, Idaho panhandle, South Idaho, Secretary, and Northeast. Don OK how can we do this? Dave, let's get nominations to put in the upcoming newsletter. Newsletter targeted for late February. Dave suggested we send an Email asking for nominations. The Email will allow for nominations and volunteers. Steve and Ann will be part of the nominating committee along with Dave Brown and Patrice Beckwith. We need a slate in about two weeks. The person who currently holds an office should help find new nominees for the ballot.

Officer term limits

Do we need something in our bylaws to determine term limits? Steve yes and the VP and President should be two years. Chapter must vote on such changes. Ann make moved that Executive terms be limited to three consecutive terms per person per position, excluding Vice President, President and Past President Positions which will serve one, two-year term in each office to be amended into the bylaws and voted on at the spring general meeting. Seconded by Dave and after discussion the motion passed. Dave Brown will update bylaws and send to board by the 14th of February for review before putting in front of entire Chapter.

Spring Meeting

Don McCool offered to develop a program on global climate change, carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions. This would be held at Pullman and highlight research of the ARS Land Management and Water Conservation Unit. This could be a good chance to increase student participation. Save ice age tour for fall. We plan to start on both meetings with Steve Sprecher heading

up spring with Don we are looking at April 24. Dave moved to change the Chapter meeting dates in our bylaws from early April and early November to spring and fall. Patrice seconded and the motion carried. Ann and Patrice will start working on the fall meeting.

Newsletter

The newsletter will be out by late February.

Other Matters of Importance

IE SWCS funds. Start consolidating the accounts into fewer banks. Separate out the Veseth money. Determine how much we need in the checking account and keep the Veseth fund liquid in a money market. The rest can go into a series of laddered CD's. To be kept at Sterling and American West Banks along with the checking at American West or Sterling until Emily decides which bank to use based on services provided.

Emily moved to adjourn and Dave seconded; meeting closed at 1:00pm.