

Empire Chapter – Soil and Water Conservation Society

Meeting Minutes – Council Conference Call

1PM – 3PM

June 19, 2013

Call-in Number: 605-475-6700 and Pass Code: 306-5726#

1) Welcome

- Council members present: Jan, Cherie, Elaine, Heath, Jess, Lisa.
- Cherie prepared the minutes.

Administrative

2) Review/Approval of minutes from the May 15, 2013 Council Meeting

- A motion was brought by Cherie to accept the minutes.
- Elaine seconded.
- The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

3) Treasurer's Report (L. Miller, J. Sargis, All)

- Discussion about the Treasurer's Report: Cherie pointed out how close we are to obtaining the goals in the budget for interest income and sales income. Jessica reiterated that we are only [REDACTED] away from our projected sales revenue, which originally we felt was a lofty goal. Interest income is only [REDACTED] away from the goal of [REDACTED]. However, to keep this interest, and realize it, we need to move the actual money to something more secure, as the fund it is in will be riding the market fluctuations. A money market was suggested.
 - Lisa said the change of account type has been done with the checking account. We now have a Biz200 account at the bank so that we can avoid fees. Once the 990 for 2012 is completed by the accountant, it will be sent to Heath and Jessica for signatures. As far as we know the accountant knows we are still planning to pay [REDACTED] (or less) fee as quoted.
 - A motion was brought by Heath to put the money back ([REDACTED]) into the Van Guard account that was taken out to pay for publishing the Contractor's Field Notebook. The motion states that rather than move [REDACTED] of interest earned, year to date in the Van Guard account, and then move it back, we keep the [REDACTED] interest in the account, and add to it [REDACTED] from the checking account. If the [REDACTED] in interest income is not actually realized by end of year, this will be addressed. This transaction totals [REDACTED] and covers the cost of the books, but is the least amount of work/transferring.
 - The motion was seconded by Cherie.
 - This was unanimously approved.
- A motion was brought by Elaine to approve the Treasurer's report from May 15.
 - Jan seconded.
 - The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

4) Lisa's Invoice 13-06 (All)

- There were no objections to the approval of Lisa's invoice # 13-06 for a [REDACTED].
- A motion was brought by Elaine to accept the invoice and pay Lisa [REDACTED].
- Jess seconded.
- The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

5) 1 Year and 5 Year Strategic Plan (Aaron, All)

- Aaron was not present at the meeting. We will table this until he is present.

6) Summer meeting ideas/discussion

- We would still like to offer a tour of the yogurt facility, but can't seem to get a factory on board. Some (Alpina) may be reluctant because they don't know what we are trying to do. We are looking at the inputs and outputs of the yogurt industry and hoping we are able to help the producers in maintaining or protecting soil and water quality.
- We will work on this for next year's summer tour.
- August 1 is the drainage presentation/field day at the farm that Heath spoke of. We are going to try to offer this training/presentation as our summer tour and perhaps go to Yancy's Fancy afterward for cheese factory education. The Agricultural Park is also nearby. This may be interesting. There will not be a bus. We can car pool from a convenient location such as the Flying J. We need to have an agenda and announcement put together as soon as possible.

7) Topics for November Meeting

- Discussion about where to have it - The Holiday Inn Auburn contacted us to see if we have a date for them to hold. The advantages in having the meeting there is that the room is free if we purchase lunch and it is centrally located in the state. Cherie is looking into a space in downtown Syracuse to see if it is available and how much it would be. We want to try to bring in as many people from various disciplines as possible and a change of venue may help. The topic this year will likely focus on Storm Water issues. Cherie is trying to line up speakers and presentations that will allow for continuing education credits for both CPESCs and Engineers. This may draw in a more diverse crowd than in the recent past. It was noted that the room at the Cayuga government offices (SWCD) holds 70 people. This room is free of charge and has equipment, etc., but we are hoping for a larger turn out than 70. The Grange building likely holds more people, but is not as centrally located and has a less professional atmosphere than either of the other options. Last year the meeting had 25-30 attendants. Cherie will continue to look into options for location and speakers.
- Next meeting we need to firm up the date and location of the Annual meeting.

8) Funding Request

- We received a funding request from Paul Salon. A discussion and email vote was taken. Jessica clarified that we have [REDACTED] not currently ear-marked for an even in 2013 from the mini-grant budget.

- Scott brought a motion to support the Soil Health Initiative/Seminar at the Cuddeback Farm on August 21, 2013 by funding [REDACTED], with the caveat that Paul Salon applies for funding as a mini-grant application.
- Brad seconded.
- Six council members voted in favor – the motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- Cherie notified Paul Salon and forwarded the mini-grant application.

9) Annual Meeting Delegate

- Cherie will not be able to attend the International Conference in Reno this year. At this point we do not have a delegate from the Empire Chapter.

10) Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 2013, 1-3 PM conference call

- A motion was brought by Cherie to adjourn the meeting.
- Elaine seconded.
- The motion was approved by unanimous consent.