

Empire Chapter – Soil and Water Conservation Society

Agenda - Council Conference Call

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

May 16, 2012

1) Welcome

In attendance were Heath Eisele, Cherie Sage, Jessica Sargis, Scott Fitscher, Lisa Miller, and Brad Schwab.

Heath has a current list of members in possession-he will send out to council members.

Administrative

2) Review minutes from the March 16, 2012, Council Meeting

Jessica moved to accept the minutes.

Scott seconded the motion.

It was approved by unanimous consent

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

Jessica led the discussion.

The website cost has been adjusted down to what we were actually charged last year. Professional fees and mini-grants were also adjusted. Professional fees went up because Lisa did more work. Next year tax preparation fee will decrease from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

There was an increase to the Vanguard fund of [REDACTED] due to positive market conditions.

There is [REDACTED] included in the budget for the annual international meeting in July, but we haven't voted on how much to fund yet.

We have earmarked [REDACTED] for the NYS Envirothon.

There is also [REDACTED] earmarked for the Conservation Skills Workshop but we have not received a request for funding either of these yet.

Cherie moved to accept the treasurer's report.

Scott seconded the motion.

It was approved by unanimous consent

4) Budget Update/Changes (J.Sargis, All)

This was included in the above discussion.

5) Bank Change – HSBC to First Niagara (L. Miller)

Lisa gave an update. Our bank is now changing to First Niagara. We need signature cards signed and a resolution done annually. Lisa called the bank and First Niagara said this will not change. The bank will send checks and deposit slips with the new

routing number. Online access will be available on the 21st. Lisa transfers Paypal to our account through online access. We will need to order checks when the bank switch is completed. We usually purchase a box of about 250 checks. Lisa was unsure what the usual price was. She will ask for fee checks at bank.

6) Lisa's Invoice (All)

Lisa's invoice has all the hours broken down that were spent on rewriting the publication. The publication is at dropbox.com because it is too big to be emailed. She has been able to put in about 50% of what is currently in the updated document, but there are no pictures added yet, and Don Lake needs to get the newly written chapters to Lisa to add. Some of this material needs to be accepted by NYSDEC. Ellen Hahn & Don are also discussing updates to the Blue Book of Standards. Jessica will sign and send a check to Lisa.

Brad moved to accept Lisa's invoice.

Cherie seconded the motion.

It was unanimously accepted.

7) Other?

Programmatic

**8) Delegate/Alternate/Student Opportunities – SWCS Annual Conference
Ft. Worth, TX – July 22nd, 2012.**

June 8th is early registration deadline.

May 15th was deadline to tell national who our delegate is. This has been extended for us by Bill Boyer.

No other interest has been noted. Heath will follow up with Elaine, Paul Salon, and Pete Wright to see if they are going. Meredith from National Chapter originates notices. Cherie needs to look into why she is not receiving these.

There will be an email vote in the future about funding for the conference b/c Cherie won't vote, being the interested party, and without Cherie we don't have quorum today.

Hotel, registration, flight is to be covered, and perhaps food as a per diem.

Cherie will be the delegate. Resolutions will come by email from National in advance to ask the chapter our position in voting on these at the conference.

9) Publication Update (L. Miller, All)

This was covered with Lisa's invoice.

10) November Annual Meeting Ideas (All)

a) November 12th or 15th (connected to AEM Training Session, Auburn, NY)

Heath received a call from the Holiday Inn in Auburn asking if we want to use that hotel for our annual conference. Pete Wright told Heath that the 13 or 14 of

November is AEM training & he thought it would be good for us to piggyback that meeting.

b) Theme ideas:

590 standard; new precipitation design amounts and distributions for EFH2; new soil hydrologic groups; the New Farm Bill.

Most of these ideas originated from Pete Wright. Scott said the districts like the Data Viewer tool and updates. Exposure to Soil Datamart was mentioned. This can be used with ARCGIS. It puts tabular data into a visual. The private sector is not in the loop at all.

Discussion continued about where and when to have the annual meeting. One question was if we should piggyback with another training, or move it elsewhere in the state. There was no opposition to pairing it with the AEM training session or keeping it centrally located. Heath will check with the Holiday Inn to see if November 15th is available at HI. We will begin coordinating with whoever is planning the AEM training so they can include us in the information that goes out. Look for new software that may be interesting to present or train people on.

11) Summer Tour (Early-Mid August)?

It was suggested that we tour the storm restoration work by districts in the eastern part of NY. Cherie will make some contacts, email all, and see who can do what. Herkimer County Diamond Mine was suggested as a family friendly activity that could be used in coordinating the tour. We need to get some logistics together to bring for a vote. August may be a good time for us to plan this. It was suggested that Tom Lacko, District Conservationist in Schoharie County be contacted to arrange site visits because this is where the eye of the storm was. Heath will call Tom. August 13-17 are dates we will consider for the tour. A subcommittee was formed. Sub-Committee members include: Heath, Cherie, Scott, and Elaine.

12) Next Council Meeting:

The next council meeting is set for July 18th. We spoke of holding a barbeque previously. The discussion was whether we should keep this date or wait and have a barbeque. It was decided to keep the date so that usual business and the summer tour can be discussed.

13) Other?

We still need a person for the President-Elect role. Council members should look at forthcoming list and find someone.

Motion to adjourn was brought by Heath.

This was seconded by Jessica.

It was unanimously approved.

ADDENDUM TO MAY 16, 2012 MEETING:

There were two email votes between May 16th (last meeting) and the next scheduled meeting of July 18th.

- A. A request was received from Jim Lieberum to help support the Conservation Skills workshop. The amount requested from the Society was for \$750.00. Heath shared information with the Council and opened the floor for a motion. Brad moved to support the Conservation Skills Workshop with \$500.00 as budgeted. The motion was seconded by Pat. It was approved with 8 “yes” votes, and 1 abstention.

- B. On May 31, 2012 Additional information was received in regard to purchasing new checks due to our bank change to First Niagara. Information from Lisa Miller “First Niagara is offering a value pack deal (reg. value [REDACTED]) for [REDACTED] and that includes 250 checks, 200 envelopes, 200 deposit slips, and a deposit stamp. You can buy just checks or just deposit slips, but this value deal will get us started and also includes envelopes which we need as well as a new stamp. Last time we ordered checks through Intuit it cost us [REDACTED] back in 2009. This seems like an okay deal and I am requesting permission to go ahead and order.” Brad moved to purchasing the value pack deal for the Society
Seconded by Elaine
Approved with 6 “yes” votes, 2 abstention votes