

# Soil and Water Conservation Society—Empire State Chapter Council Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 PM

The Natural Resource Center

7413 County House Road

Auburn, NY 13021

- 1) Welcome
  - a. Peter Wright called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
  - b. Lisa Miller, Ray Mueller, Jason Cuddeback, Jason Schenck, and Brad Schwab were in attendance.
  - c. Heath Eisele, Jessica Sargis, and Peter Wright participated via teleconference.
- 2) Review of Minutes from August 25, 2016 meeting
  - a. We again discussed whether or not financial information should be included in the minutes. In the past we have included it and shared it internally, but then removed the amounts before the minutes were posted to the website. At some point we agreed to skip the step of including them because the figures are already available internally through the Treasurers report.
  - b. Ray made a motion to accept the minutes, Jason C. seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
- 3) Review & Notable items from the Treasurer's report:
  - a. Recently First Niagara Bank and Key Bank merged and we are now account holders at Key Bank. We briefly discussed the ramifications of this merger and the biggest impact is that PayPal account transfers have been delayed. We expect to resume our normal operations with the transfers in the near future.
  - b. The Endowments that are held in Vanguard accounts are performing nicely in 2016.
  - c. Income from publications since the last Council meeting is a few hundred dollars.
  - d. Ray commented about the performance of the funds where the Endowments are invested and explained to the Council that the interest income from the accounts has sustained the Chapter for the past two years.
  - e. Brad made a motion to accept the minutes, Jason S. seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
- 4) Publications
  - a. Lisa informed the Council that she is fielding calls about the new standards and specifications publication (without knowing the status herself) and having to fix erroneous orders (people who believe they

are ordering the new version on the website but in fact are ordering the old one).

- b. We are still in limbo with our sales of the new standards and specifications publication. Complicating factors include:
  - 1. There are more content edits to come
  - 2. There seems to be some question about our ability to sell it to support the Chapter. Side discussions flushed out questions like "who determines what it means to 'make a profit?'" and "Does it matter that we're a non-profit organization?" Peter hopes to get clarification on this issue from Dave Gaspar in the coming weeks or months.
- c. **ACTION ITEM:** Jason C. will contact Pat & Carol Barry to request that they update the website to not allow users to order the standards and specifications publication until we have the situation figured out.

#### 5) Endowments

- a. Peter reported to the Council that he spoke with Bub Barra, Tony Esser, and Ellen Luchsinger about our obligations with the Fletcher Endowment. None of the people he spoke with recall any requirements of the Council when deciding what to do with the money.
- b. There are some benefits to combining the two Endowments and Peter plans to bring it up for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

#### 6) Annual Meeting

- a. The Council decided to postpone the Annual Meeting until January 10, 2017.
- b. **ACTION ITEM:** Peter and Heath will contact the speakers to verify that this date will work for them.
- c. Ray has not been able to speak with Aaron Lauster regarding a presentation at the meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** Ray will continue to try to contact Aaron and Heath will talk with Ed Henry in the NRCS State Office to inquire about someone who could give the presentation in Aaron's absence.
- d. Brad will apply for CCA credits once the agenda is finalized.
- e. **ACTION ITEM:** Jessica will send last year's Annual Meeting registration form and agenda to Peter to be modified and used for this year's meeting.
- f. **ACTION ITEM:** Heath will send an Annual Meeting cost analysis spreadsheet to Peter.

#### 7) Council Elections

- a. **ACTION ITEM:** Brad will create a list of Council positions that are open for election in 2017 and email them to the Council.

#### 8) Adjourn

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2016 from 1pm-3pm.

- b. At 2:00 Jason S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ray seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Minutes taken by Brad Schwab, Secretary

