

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

August 25, 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 1:03 pm.
- b. Lisa Miller, Ray Mueller, and Jason Cuddeback were in attendance.
- c. Heath Eisele, Jessica Sargis, Peter Wright, Don Kuhn, and Brad Schwab participated via teleconference.

2) Review of Minutes from May 19, 2016 meeting

- a. The minutes were reviewed. After discussion, Jason Cuddeback moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ray Mueller and all Council votes were in favor of the motion.
- b. Jessica Sargis mentioned that item 8)d ended up being unnecessary because Don was not allowed to sell the publications at the training he attended.

3) Review & Notable items from the Treasurer's report:

- a. The accounts were reviewed and the general consensus was that the Chapter cannot continue to operate with less income than what we spend. Peter suggested that we address this as a part of a larger discussion at a later date.
- b. After discussion, Jason Cuddeback moved to approve the report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Peter Wright and all Council votes were in favor of the motion.

4) Regional Meetings

- a. Region 1 (west)
 - i. The meeting was held on June 28, 2016 and was a success.
 - ii. The meeting attracted 25-30 attendees. This number would have been even higher if the meeting did not conflict with the CAFO workgroup meeting and a mandatory NRCS meeting that was held on the same day.
 - iii. At today's meeting the Council approved Heath Eisele to be reimbursed \$38.81 for refreshments from the meeting.
- b. Region 3 (south/east)
 - i. This meeting will be held on September 16, 2016 in Ithaca, NY.
 - ii. **ACTION ITEM:** Pat Barry will work to finalize the agenda and promote the meeting.
- c. Region 4 (north)
 - i. The meeting was held on June 29, 2016 and was a success.

- ii. The meeting attracted 10-12 attendees.
- iii. Discussion about the event was light due to Scott Fitscher's absence from the Council meeting.

5) Attendance at the National Meeting

- a. Ray Mueller was sponsored by the Chapter to attend the National Meeting in Louisville, KY.
- b. Ray shared with the Council what he learned. Some of the highlights include:
 - i. About 500 people attended the conference; 4 of those were from the north east.
 - ii. The director of the north east suggested that regional meetings might be a way to garner more participation.
 - iii. Aaron Lauster gave an interesting presentation about the Resource Stewardship Program and the new NRCS software that is associated with it.
 - iv. All of the presentations can be found on www.swcs.org/16ac

6) Annual Meeting

- a. We began to discuss plans for the 2016 annual meeting. Some of the highlights of the discussion included:
 - i. A tentative date/location—November 15, 2016 at The Natural Resource Center in Cayuga County.
 - ii. Possible topics of new CAFO permits, precision ag technology as it pertains to conservation, and TMDL status.
 - iii. **ACTION ITEM:** Peter will put together a draft agenda for the meeting. Ray will contact Aaron Lauster and Brad will contact Agrinetix.

7) Scholarships

- a. **ACTION ITEM:** Peter will assemble a committee of people to give direction to the scholarship program. This committee could include Ray Mueller, Pat Barry, and Bub Barra.

8) Publications

- a. **ACTION ITEM:** Lisa will work to get a quote to print 100 or 200 copies of the new Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control publications.
- b. **ACTION ITEM:** Peter will talk with Don Lake about the idea that the publications could be provided exclusively by the Chapter (the suggestion is to remove the free downloads of the materials from the DEC website).

9) Adjourn

- a. At 2:57 Jason moved to adjourn the meeting.
- b. The motion was seconded by Ray and the meeting was adjourned.
Minutes taken by Brad Schwab, Secretary