

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

May 19, 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. Jessica Sargis, Jason Schenck, Peter Wright, Lisa Miller, Ray Mueller, Pat Barry, Jason Cuddeback, and Brad Schwab were in attendance.
- c. Scott Fitscher and Don Kuhn participated via teleconference.

## 2) Review of Minutes from March 24, 2016 meeting

- a. Action items were reviewed:
  - i. Jason Cuddeback discussed including the publications in the cost of the storm water training events with Doug Kierst (Cayuga County). Jason found that Doug was reluctant to include them due to the already high cost of the trainings. **ACTION ITEM:** Jason will find a map of storm water training courses that are occurring in other Counties and discuss the inclusion of the publications with the meeting coordinators.
  - ii. Jason Schenck talked with Jason Cuddeback about acting as a Chapter representative to the Envirothon, and Jason Cuddeback declined.
  - iii. Peter talked with DEC and they expect the updated Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control content will be released "soon."
- b. After discussion, Jason Schenck moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jessica Sargis and all Council votes were in favor of the motion.

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

- a. Our inventory of Stormwater Management Design Manuals is low. More details are given below.
- b. All of the tax filing for last year has been completed.
- c. We received a check from Ankeny for our portion of the Member dues.
- d. We have had some requests for the new Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control publication, which we do not currently offer.

#### 4) Regional Meetings

- a. Region 1 (west)
  - i. Firm date of June 28, 2016.
  - ii. The meeting will be held at the Livingston County Emergency Management Center in Mount Morris.
  - iii. **ACTION ITEM:** Heath will finalize the plans and send out a flyer to publicize the event.
- b. Region 2 (central)
  - i. This meeting will be held in August or September of 2016 at The Natural Resource Center in Cayuga County.
  - ii. Some preliminary ideas include:
    - 1. Inviting Todd Walters to talk about the findings of his project where in-field monitoring samples (soil and water) were taken both pre and post best management practice implementation.
    - 2. FSA/CRP & crop field visits
    - 3. RIT drone work and NDVI mapping
    - 4. **ACTION ITEM:** Jason Cuddeback will continue to work to organize this meeting.
- c. Region 3 (south/east)
  - i. Meeting date and location TBD.
  - ii. Some preliminary ideas include:
    - 1. Urban soil health
    - 2. Backyard conservation
    - 3. **ACTION ITEM:** Pat Barry will continue to work to organize this meeting.
- d. Region 4 (north)
  - i. The preliminary date of June 8<sup>th</sup> does not work for the floodplain management speaker Scott was hoping to secure for the meeting. The meeting will most likely occur at the Balston Spa Field Office auditorium on a date that has not yet been set.
  - ii. The agenda may be changed to include a photo array field presentation from CCE.
  - iii. **ACTION ITEMS:** Peter will forward a synopsis of his presentation to Scott and Scott will work to solidify the agenda and work on the logistics of the meeting in the coming weeks.

#### 5) Attendance at the National Meeting

- a. We have not been contacted by any of our Members regarding the national meeting Minigrant.
- b. Ray Mueller expressed an interest in attending and the Council approved his use of the funding. Ray agreed to hold off on his registration until the May 31<sup>st</sup> Minigrant deadline so that we can consider any interest shown from the Members.

- c. Ray reminded the Council that the purchase of a \$50 silent auction item for the meeting would be appropriate. Peter moved to authorize the spending, Jason Cuddeback seconded the motion, and all Council votes were in favor of the motion. Ray will purchase the item and submit a receipt to Lisa for reimbursement.
  - d. Pat explained that the NRCS will support the attendance of a few employees from each region at the National Meeting. There was some discussion about who should attend from different regions of the State.
- 6) Scholarships
- a. Unfortunately, Lisa has no knowledge about the Fletcher Endowment to add to our ongoing discussion.
  - b. **ACTION ITEM:** Peter will contact Tony Esser in an attempt to better understand our obligations with the Endowment.
- 7) Membership reports from Ankeny
- a. Every week Ankeny forwards us a list of new, reinstated, lapsed, and soon-to-be lapsed members.
  - b. Peter has been and will continue to reach out to these Members regarding their membership status.
- 8) Publications
- a. Lisa explained that we have very few Stormwater Design Management Manuals in our inventory. This publication was updated in 2015 and we were able to print only the sections that were changed to update the publications that we already had printed on-hand. In the 18 months since then we have sold about 25 copies.
  - b. **ACTION ITEM:** All Council members were in favor of Lisa updating 30 more copies to replenish the inventory at a cost of approximately \$250.
  - c. After Lisa had left the meeting, we discussed the updated Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control publications. **ACTION ITEM:** Jason Cuddeback will talk with Lisa and ask her to get a quote to have the new publications printed.
  - d. Don mentioned that he plans to attend an upcoming stormwater training and suggested that he could take some publications to the training and offer them for sale. **ACTION ITEM:** Jess and Lisa will coordinate to get the publications to Rochester for Don to take with him to the meeting.
- 9) Adjourn
- a. At 2:35 Ray moved to adjourn the meeting.
  - b. The motion was seconded by Pat and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken by Brad Schwab, Secretary