

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

March 24, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 PM

The Natural Resource Center

7413 County House Road

Auburn, NY 13021

1) Welcome

- a. Peter Wright, President called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.
- b. Jessica Sargis, Jason Schenck, Peter Wright and Brad Schwab were in attendance.
- c. Scott Fitscher, Don Kuhn, Heath Eisele, and Pat Barry participated via teleconference.

2) Review of Minutes from January 28, 2016 meeting

- a. Minutes were informally approved with no changes.
- b. Action items were reviewed:
 - i. Jessica completed and submitted the 2015 annual report to Ankeny and shared it with the Council.
 - ii. Jessica created a Google map showing the location of our members to be used when planning regional meetings.
 - iii. Brad forwarded the redacted minutes and a link to the Chapter Facebook page to Pat & Carol Barry and Pat confirmed that the website has been updated.
 - iv. Peter developed a "membership elevator speech" (outlining the virtues of being a member of our Chapter) and forwarded it to the Council on 1/30/16.
 - v. Jason Cuddeback was not present at the meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** Follow-up with Jason about his discussion with Doug Kierst (Cayuga County) regarding the obstacles that arise when including the publications in the price of the stormwater trainings.

3) Review the Treasurer's Reports

- a. Lisa has been sick and no Treasurers Report was prepared for the meeting. We will review the report at the next meeting.

4) Regional Meetings

- a. Preliminary plans were developed for Regional Meetings:
 - i. Region 1 (west)
 1. Meeting to be held at the Livingston County Emergency Management Center in Mount Morris.
 2. Potential speakers include Ben Schmidt (Phosphorous reduction), Larry Goehring (Tile line bio-reactors), and Peter Wright (Sustainability)

3. Tentative date is June 28, 2016.
4. **ACTION ITEM:** Heath will work to solidify the agenda and work on the logistics of the meeting.
- ii. Region 2 (central)
 1. This discussion was suspended because of Jason Cuddeback's absence from the meeting.
 2. **ACTION ITEM:** Discuss a Region 2 meeting at the next Council meeting. Jason Schenck will talk with Jason Cuddeback about the need to plan a meeting before the next scheduled Council meeting.
- iii. Region 3 (south/east)
 1. Meeting location TBD.
 2. Potential topics include the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, an informative meeting about manure storages, Larry Goehring's tile line bio-reactor presentation, and Peter Wright's presentation on Sustainability.
 3. A date for the meeting is TBD.
 4. **ACTION ITEM:** Pat will work to solidify the agenda and work on the logistics of the meeting.
- iv. Region 4 (north)
 1. Meeting location TBD.
 2. Potential speakers include Larry Goehring (Tile line bio-reactors), Peter Wright (Sustainability), and a presentation about flood mitigation and/or the watershed study being conducted in the town of Salem, NY.
 3. Tentative date is June 8, 2016.
 4. **ACTION ITEM:** Scott will work to solidify the agenda and work on the logistics of the meeting.
- b. Additional discussions:
 - i. Quasar as a potential topic for the Region 1 meeting
 - ii. Climate Resiliency funding and NRCS sponsorship
 - iii. CCA credits--Brad offered to help with that for all meetings if necessary
 - iv. Peter suggested that Empire apples should be present at all meetings

5) Attendance at the National Meeting

- a. This year's meeting is to be held in Louisville, KY.
- b. All that were present at the Council meeting agreed that there is value in our Chapter Members attending the National Meeting.
- c. We agreed that:
 - i. The Chapter will fund one member's attendance, up to \$1,200.
 - ii. Priority will be given first to a member who is currently serving on the Council, and second to other Members.
 - iii. The deadline for applying is May 31 (in order to allow the applicant time to take advantage of the early bird discount)

- iv. There was no discussion about how the decision will be made if multiple people apply that fall in the same place on the priority list.
- v. **ACTION ITEM:** Brad will draft an email with this opportunity and forward it to Lisa so that she can pass it along to the Members.

6) Scholarships

- a. Peter reiterated his stance that most Scholarship winners do not become Chapter Members in their professional lives. For this reason, we discussed the future of the Scholarships.
- b. Heath suggested that it might make more sense for the Scholarships to be awarded to existing Members or their families.
- c. The Council acknowledged the possibility that there could be conflicts with regard to the Fletcher Endowment and our requirements to handle those funds in a certain way. **ACTION ITEM:** The Council will discuss the Fletcher agreement with Lisa at the next meeting. It may also make sense for us to talk with Tony Esser about our responsibilities for managing the money.
- d. Jessica moved to suspend the scholarship program for 2016 unless conflicts arise with the Fletcher Endowment. There were no dissenting opinions from the Council members who were present.

7) Envirothon Support and Representation

- a. The Council discussed the purpose of the Envirothon. It is a program where high school students learn about earth science & wildlife.
- b. The winners of the county competition go on to compete at the state level. The winners at the state level go on to compete at the national level. New York has been competitive on the national level.
- c. **ACTION ITEM:** Jason S. will talk with Jason C. about acting as Chapter representation to the Envirothon.

8) Publications

- a. Peter shared that Don Lake has led him to believe that the revised Sediment & Erosion Control Standards publication will be released "soon."
- b. A quick internet search found that comments about the new publications are due to the DEC by 3/25/2016, confirming the "soon" expectation.
- c. **ACTION ITEM:** Peter will inquire about DEC's timeframe for the release of the updated publication.

9) General Discussion

- a. **ACTION ITEM:** Peter and Jason S. will forward their headshots to Pat and Carol Barry to be updated on the website.

- b. **ACTION ITEM:** Pat will ensure that all meeting minutes have been uploaded to the website.
- c. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2016 from 1pm-3pm at the Natural Resource Center, 7413 County House Road Auburn, NY 13021.

10) Adjourn

- a. At 2:50 Jason Schenck moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jessica and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken by Brad Schwab, Secretary

