

Soil and Water Conservation Society – Empire State Chapter

Council Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting

April 20, 2017

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 1:08pm.
 - b. Peter Wright, Ray Mueller, Jason Schenck, and Lisa Miller were in attendance.
 - c. Don Kuhn and Heath Eisele attended via teleconference.
- 2) Review Minutes
 - a. Ray Mueller moved to accept the minutes, Jason Schenck seconded.
- 3) Review Treasurer Report
 - a. Finances
 - i. Gross Profit - \$X,XXX.XX
 - ii. No expenses this reporting period.
 - iii. Vanguard Endowment : \$X,XXX.XX gain → \$XX,XXX.XX
 - iv. Vanguard Fletcher Endowment: \$XXX.XX gain → \$XX,XXX.XX
 - b. Publication sales have been poor
 - c. Ray Mueller to check on combining Vanguard accounts, in order to see if there is any financial or operational advantage.
 - d. PW, JS, RM,DK, HE all in favor of withdrawing up to \$X,XXX operating funds. This number was based on an estimated 6 months of operating funds.
- 4) Envirothon support
 - a. 2014 was our last donation (\$1000) to the Envirothon.
 - b. Motion by DK to donate \$1,000 to Envirothon, seconded by Ray Mueller.
 - i. Jason Schenck and Peter Wright in favor
 - c. Motion by Heath Eisele to make administrative change to the budget and move scholarship balance to a new envirothon line item. Seconded by Jason Schenck.
- 5) Dues to Increase
 - a. The national chapter is increasing dues to \$115. A small discussion about how this may not be good for membership numbers.
- 6) Steve Sprecher and Soils organization

- a. A group of soil scientists who are looking to join our society and/or dissolve their group. It was brought up that it may be a good idea to combine their group with ours. Steve Sprecher is the main contact and this will be discussed later.
- 7) Membership Survey
- a. Ray Mueller reported on the membership survey that was created. It is ready to go out.
 - b. Some improvements were made based on comments to clarify.
 - c. Deadline to collect data – 7 day deadline for completion.
 - d. Discussion regarding topics for survey.
- 8) Regional Meetings
- a. Region 1 – meeting topic idea – Honeoye Lake Inlet project
 - b. Region 2 – Owasco Flats / Inlet Project
- 9) Scholarships
- a. Zeroed in budget. \$1,000 moved to Envirothon Support line item as discussed below. Remaining \$30.00 moved to reimbursed expenses.
- 10) Officers
- a. Looking for potential officers for next year. No ideas were brought up as far as candidates.
- 11) Publication Status
- a. Lisa Miller update on publications, still have contractor books and stormwater design manuals for sale.
- 12) National Meeting Attendance
- a. We should send an email to the membership regarding attendance to the National Meeting.
 - b. Peter Wright says early registration deadline is coming up soon.
- 13) Adjourn
- a. Heath Eisele moved to adjourn at 2:10pm. Ray Mueller seconded.