

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

June 15, 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 1:05pm.
- b. Peter Wright, Lisa Miller, Jason Cuddeback, Jason Schenck, and Brad Schwab were in attendance.
- c. Don Kuhn, Jessica Sargis, and Heath Eisele participated via teleconference.

## 2) Review of Minutes from the April 20, 2017 meeting

- a. Jason Schenck prepared the minutes from the meeting.
- b. The minutes were reviewed. Brad Schwab moved to accept the minutes as submitted, Jason Cuddeback seconded the motion, and all Council members present were in favor.

## 3) Review of the Treasurer's report:

- a. Lisa Miller reviewed the highlights from the Treasurer's report in Ray Mueller's absence.
- b. Since the last meeting, \$4,000 was withdrawn from the endowment to support the day-to-day needs of the Chapter's activities.
- c. It was noted that we had a few publication sales since the last meeting and that the obsolete publications were removed from the inventory in Quick Books.
- d. We have 64 copies of the old Stormwater Design Manuals in inventory. These publications need minor updates to be marketable. 16 copies have been sold over the past year and 14 updated copies remain in inventory. Jason Cuddeback made a motion to update the 64 remaining copies. Jason Schenck seconded the motion and there was no opposition from the Council members who were present.
- e. Jason Schenck made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted and there was no opposition to the motion.

## 4) Conservation Skills Workshop Mini-grant Request

- a. We received a mini-grant request for the Conservation Skills Workshop, which we have supported in the past.
- b. There is no money in the budget to support a mini-grant for any cause at this time.
- c. Brad made a motion to decline the request and Don Kuhn seconded the motion. Jason Cuddeback opposed the motion and all other Council members present were in favor.

- d. The Council agreed that the Conservation Skills Workshop should be considered when developing the 2018 Chapter budget.
- 5) Member Survey
- a. Ray Mueller was unable to attend this meeting so we are unsure, but we suspect that responses to the survey are limited.
- 6) Regional Meetings
- a. Some general discussion/topics for 2017 regional meetings:
    - i. There will be 2 soil health meetings in Region 2 this summer.
    - ii. There is an ongoing Honeoye Lake inlet project. **ACTION ITEM:** Jess Sargis will get more information.
    - iii. A discussion of a manure storage failure in Region 2
    - iv. An update on the precip.net program
    - v. The flooding on the Lake Ontario coast and the Saint Lawrence River
    - vi. How NRCS, County, and FSA programs work together
    - vii. Wet weather standard operating procedure development
    - viii. Constructed wetlands for tile drainage
- 7) Empire State Pedologists
- a. Steve Sprecher contacted the Chapter to discuss the dissolution of the Empire State Pedologists Society. The Society was made up of a group of members who were primarily soil mappers. Steve explained that their membership has dwindled over the years and that they have lost their purpose for existence. Currently, there are 16 members.
  - b. The Pedologists have a bank account that needs to be properly closed out when they cease their operations. They suggested that the money could be distributed in the form of scholarships by our Chapter.
  - c. We voiced our concerns about scholarships and proposed two courses of action to Steve, who needs to discuss them with his members:
    - 1. Combine the organizations (both funds and members)
    - 2. Devote the funds from the Pedologists account to the mini-grant program.
- 8) National Meeting
- a. **ACTION ITEM:** Brad will send an email to the membership list offering financial support to anyone attending the national meeting this year.
- 9) Adjourn
- a. At 2:25 Jason Schenck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heath Eisele seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Minutes taken by Brad Schwab, Secretary