

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

April 19, 2018

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 1:00pm.
- b. Jess Sargis, Brad Schwab, Lisa Miller, and Peter Wright were present.
- c. Heath Eisele, Nicole Kubiczki, Don Kuhn, Scott Fonte, Scott Fickbohm, and Ray Mueller joined via teleconference.

2) Review of Minutes from the February 15, 2018 meeting

- a. It was noted that the meeting adjournment time was incorrect in the draft minutes.
- b. Action items from the minutes were discussed.
- c. Heath moved to accept the updated minutes, Jess seconded the motion, and all Council members present were in favor.

3) Review of the Treasurer's report & 2018 Budget

- a. Ray Mueller created a memo sharing the most important report information and shared it with the Council before the meeting. He also presented the Treasurer's Report to the Council and shared the account balances in detail.
- b. The report shows that net income is down for the year, and so are the investment returns.
- c. In his memo, Ray compiled the information and gave "total assets." Brad mentioned that it would be helpful to review this figure with the same from the previous year for comparison. **ACTION ITEM:** Ray will start to include current "total assets" data along with previous year "total assets" data in his normal presentation to the Council.
- d. **ACTION ITEM:** Ray and Peter will continue their work on the 2018 budget.
- e. The Council asked Lisa to sign her own payment check (in the amount of \$459) due to Ray's absence at this meeting.
- f. Brad moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. All Council members were in favor.

4) Outreach and Membership

- a. Nicole reported that she spoke with approximately 40 people about the Chapter at the Water Quality Symposium. Of these 40 people, 10 of them asked for more information and 5 of them are "strong" candidates as new members. **ACTION ITEM:** Nicole plans to email

these candidates directly and request a new membership list from the Ankeny office.

- b. Nicole also volunteered to manage the Chapter's social media accounts.
ACTION ITEM: Lisa will coordinate between Nicole and Jason Cuddeback to ensure that Nicole has the user names and passwords that she needs.
- c. **ACTION ITEM:** Despite his attempts, Peter has not been able to contact Pat and Carol Barry about the website but will continue his efforts.
- d. **ACTION ITEM:** Jess will order new membership forms from Ankeny for Lisa to include with all publication orders that she fills.

5) Regional Meetings

- a. Most of the meeting was spent discussing ideas and logistics for the 2018 regional meetings.
- b. The Council agreed that the meetings should be provided at no cost to the attendees, and little cost to the Chapter.
- c. At the start of each meeting, the Regional Representative will talk to the attendees about membership in the Society.
 - i. Region 1 (Nicole)-Potential topics include:
 - 1. Manure storage covers and flares was identified as a potential topic.
 - a. Peter offered that he can talk about air issues, including carbon and greenhouse gas savings.
 - b. Heath suggested that someone should talk about Climate Resilient Funding opportunities.
 - c. All agreed that a site visit to a functioning cover & flare facility should be included.
 - d. Peter has a contact at Cornell who may be able to speak about carbon credits.
 - e. Scott Fickbohm suggested that we should consider a discussion about private companies who cost share these types of projects. Jason Taylor from Environmental Fabrics, Inc. could potentially add to the presentation.
 - f. Brad offered a farm in Holland, NY that is a potential candidate for the site visit.
 - 2. Scott Fonte suggested that a streambank stabilization project that he is working on in Portageville could be a potential topic as well.
 - ii. Region 2 (Scott Fonte)-Potential topics include:
 - 1. Onondaga Lake Clean-up
 - 2. Tug hill climate change tree species planting
 - 3. Stormwater management differences on Tug hill and other nearby high-precipitation areas

4. Peter thought a meeting in the Watertown area was appropriate.
 - iii. Region 3 (Jess)-Potential topics include:
 1. The federal designation of an entire southern tier county as a sole source aquifer.
 2. 4R
 3. The rebuild of the Binghamton waste water treatment plant. A contact for this could be Chip (District Manager, Broome County).
 - iv. Region 4 (Scott Fitscher)-Potential topics include:
 1. TMDLs
 2. Soil health
 3. Lake Champlain
 4. Harmful algal blooms & DEC action plans/Albany testing lab
 5. Topics also listed above for other regions
- 6) Mini-grant Program
- a. A mini-grant application for the NYS Envirothon was reviewed by the Council. The amount requested is \$1,000.
 - b. The application was not sponsored by a Chapter member, but Peter volunteered to sponsor it.
 - c. Ray moved to accept the application, to be paid from the NYS Pedologists donation. Don seconded the motion and all Council members present were in favor.
- 7) National Meeting
- a. The SWCS national meeting is to be held at the end of July 2018.
 - b. Previously, the Council has decided that it continues to be a worthy cause to contribute partial funding to send a Member to the meeting to represent our Chapter.
 - c. Because Council members get preference, and both Heath and Nicole have showed interest in attending the meeting, this opportunity has not been sent to the full Chapter membership.
 - d. **ACTION ITEM:** Heath and Nicole will sort out how who will attend the meeting and report back to the Council. If the money will not be used by Heath and/or Nicole, it will be offered to the members who are not on the Council.
- 8) Annual Meeting
- a. The Annual Meeting date was discussed and we found that the tentative date that was set earlier conflicts with another meeting that is being held at the Cayuga Co. SWCD building.
 - b. A reservation for the meeting space has been set on November 13, 2018.

- c. Nicole suggested that the meeting be billed as a training meeting first and Chapter meeting second to avoid confusion about who is welcome to attend.

9) Adjourn

At 2:45pm Jess moved to adjourn the meeting and all Council members present were in favor of the motion. The next scheduled meeting is June 14, 2018 at 1pm.

Minutes taken by Brad Schwab, Secretary

