

Empire Chapter – Soil and Water Conservation Society

Meeting Minutes – Council Conference Call

1PM – 3PM

September 18, 2013

Call-in Number: 605-475-6700 and Pass Code: 306-5726#

- 1) Welcome
 - Jess, Brad, Heath, Cherie, Scott, Elaine, Caitlin, and Lisa were present.
 - Cherie and Caitlin took minutes.

Administrative

- 2) Review/Approval of minutes from the July 17, 2013 and August 14, 2013 Council Meetings
 - Elaine brought a motion to accept the minutes from July 17, 2013.
 - Cherie seconded.
 - The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
 - Elaine brought a motion to accept the minutes from August 14, 2013.
 - Heath seconded.
 - The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- 3) Review/Approval of Treasurer's Report from August 14, 2013
 - This item was not addressed.
- 4) Treasurer's Report (L. Miller, J. Sargis, All)
 - Jess reviewed the Treasurer's Report and mentioned that to date, we have more sales of publications than were projected, we are over-budget in the handling fee department, and we haven't received a new statement from the Van Guard account.
 - Cherie brought a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.
 - Elaine seconded.
 - The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- 5) Lisa's Invoice 13-09 (All)
 - Cherie brought a motion to accept Lisa's invoice of [REDACTED].
 - Elaine seconded.
 - The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- 6) 1 Year and 5 Year Strategic Plan (Aaron, All)
 - In discussing the strategic plan, membership strategy was discussed. We need to get the banner to the Conservation skills network next week, as we are a sponsor. Brad posed a question as to what body our efforts would be more successful-the private sector, or the government agencies. Cherie will contact Pete Wright to see if it is possible to get a list of new hires, and/or retirees. Scott said he gets email

about new hires. Denis DeWeiss (SWCS member and NRCS employee) is on the membership team and may be able to help. Scott will call Nichelle Billhardt, president of Soil and Water District Employees Association to see if she can give us a membership list. Cherie is hoping to get the Strategic plan finalized to be voted on at the annual meeting.

- 7) Conservation Skills (September 23-27) – Mini-grant Request for [REDACTED] (Scott, All)
 - The Empire Chapter has sponsored this event for quite a few years. We did not have enough money in the mini-grant category to sponsor the full [REDACTED] request.
 - Jess motioned to move the \$1,000 allotted for the National Conference category and move it to the Mini-Grant category.
 - Heath seconded.
 - The motion was accepted unanimously.
 - Cherie motioned to provide the Conservation Skills Workshop their request of [REDACTED].
 - Jess seconded.
 - The motion was accepted unanimously.

- 8) Envirothon 2014 Mini-Grant Request (All)
 - Sandy Huey was the applicant for the Envirothon application. She is not a member of the Empire Chapter SWCS. From past minutes, it was decided that only members of the SWCS could apply for mini-grants and this would help the SWCS tighten up the budget. There was much discussion regarding whether we should let this request slide as we have sponsored the Envirothon for years.
 - Scott is going to call Sandy to explain the situation.
 - An idea was to have a member of the council write up the request for the Envirothon.

- 9) Topics for November Meeting
 - Cherie spoke with Stephanie at the Holiday Inn Auburn who said that we had approximately 40 people attend last year. The hotel waived the usual [REDACTED] room fee and allowed just a \$30 set up fee for moving tables etc. since we purchased lunch through them. If they set up vendor tables, these are [REDACTED] apiece. Stephanie needs to check with her boss, Val, when she gets back from vacation on September 23rd to see if we can get the same deal this year. Any of the dates we had mentioned are available.
 - Lisa said the district meeting room is available and free of charge. She recommended looking at the Downtown Deli menu which is online, as they deliver.
 - Brad suggested we have a tour of the digester as part of the program if we have the meeting at the Cayuga SWCD office. He also mentioned that Precision Agriculture is a hot topic now and that his boss may be will to speak about it.
 - It was decided that the Empire Chapter would have their annual meeting at the Cayuga County SWCD building on Thursday, November 14th. The schedule is being created. To add to the presentations that Cherie already has scheduled, Brad

recommended that Agrinetix present on the latest precision agriculture techniques.
Cherie will look into continuing education credits.

- Nominations need to be made at the annual meeting for officer/council positions.

Programmatic

10) Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 1-3 PM conference call

- Elaine is not available for the next meeting
- Cherie motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Elaine seconded.
- The motion was accepted by unanimous consent.