

Empire Chapter – Soil and Water Conservation Society

Minutes - Council Meeting

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

(Conclusion of the Water Quality Symposium)

March 16, 2012

1) Welcome

In attendance were:

Elaine Dalrymple, Heath Eisele, Cherie Sage, Jessica Sargis, and Lisa Miller.

By phone were Aaron Weiss, Pat Barry, and Brad Schwab.

Administrative

2) Review minutes from the January 19, 2012 Council Meeting Teleconference

Elaine moved to accept; Aaron seconded the motion; all approved.

3) Treasurer's report (L. Miller, J. Sargis)

a) Budget Discussion per changes from Teleconference

We received the check (██████) from the national chapter for membership dues last year January-December 2012.

The proposed budget shows a ██████ deficit. Some suggestions were to reduce the mini-grant funding from ██████ to ██████; take money from Vanguard fund; get publications old inventory out.

Cherie moved to proceed with the proposed short-fall; Aaron seconded the motion; there was no opposition.

The understanding is that if our expenses exceed profits, the difference will be withdrawn from the Vanguard fund. The decision will be made at or before the annual meeting.

Elaine moved to accept the treasurer's report; Cherie seconded the motion; there was no opposition.

Invoice number 12-02 (also known as "Lisa's invoice") was presented for payment.

Jessica moved to accept and pay the invoice; Brad seconded the motion; all approved.

b) Follow up on Membership Dues

Heath will forward the list of memberships past due. When you recognize someone, please contact them.

4) Review Executive Office Mgr Invoice

5) Annual Report to National SWCS and National Committee Openings

a) Leadership Development Committee

b) Awards Committee

Heath will call national and request a list of members so we can who we are serving. He will send the council members this list so that we may look for candidates for national committees.

6) Correspondence

From Bill Boyer about partnerships with NRCS and SWCDs and what role(s) we may play and what happens with next Farm Bill. Heath will forward to all.

7) Perspective members for President Elect

Heath will send list of members to all so we can all think of who may be a good nominee.

Programmatic

8) Status of Storm-water Field Guide Project (Lisa, Don L.)

Lisa met with Don. Has input all she has so far with changes and will continue with what she knows is the same. Lisa is using Microsoft Publisher to create the layout for the project.

9) Use and management of SWCS display (All)

Heath took display to Farm Bureau Young Farmers conference in Albany, NY. Group discussed having the display at the Water Quality Symposium next year and having brochures/manuals available. Display was transferred to Lisa for future use. Cherie will contact National Chapter to see if there is a brochure we can put at the display table. The display should be displayed (as a sponsor) at any event we use mini-grant funding for.

10) Weekly Membership Report from National SWCS (Heath, All)

No one except Heath has received this report. Retention of members is key.

11) Summer Meeting ideas/location (All)

Some ideas are:

Spruce Haven Farm, Doug Young farm

Schoharie or Catskills remediation work from flooding/hurricane. Ask the districts and NRCS for farms. Greg may have input. Cherie will contact Tom Lacko (NRCS), Joe Slezak, and Nick Halford, to see if they have farms.

Speak of FEMA, Governor's office, DEC, Congress. Marilyn Stephenson liaison for NRCS and FEMA. Have landowner input. Gary Van Folk may be the team leader. Josh Hornesky and Pete Wright may be. Get some sights and send info to council members before next meeting. Keep in mind that these counties are far away and we will need accommodations.

12) Other?

Revised budget and current minutes are to be emailed out to all.

Cherie moved to adjourn; Jessica seconded; all approved.