

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

December 8, 2016

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 1:00 pm.
- b. Peter Wright, Lisa Miller, Ray Mueller, Jason Cuddeback, and Jason Schenck were in attendance.
- c. Heath Eisele, Jessica Sargis, Don Kuhn, and Brad Schwab participated via teleconference.

## 2) Review of Minutes from October 27, 2016 meeting

- a. The minutes were reviewed. Jason Cuddeback moved to accept the minutes and Brad Schwab seconded the motion. All Council members present were in favor.

## 3) Review & Notable items from the Treasurer's report:

- a. Ray Mueller and Lisa Miller presented the Treasurer's Report. Ray explained that both income and expenses were down in 2016 and the net result was that we finished ahead of budget.
- b. Jason Schenck made a motion to accept the report, Brad Schwab seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

## 4) Annual Meeting

- a. Some final arrangements for potential speakers were discussed. It was noted that the 9:30-10:45 speaker slot has not been filled. **ACTION ITEM:** Jason Cuddeback will contact an ESF professor he knows about filling this spot and continue to work to coordinate food for the event.
- b. **ACTION ITEM:** Jess Sargis will apply for CCA credits once the agenda is set.
- c. **ACTION ITEM:** Don Kuhn will forward a notice of the meeting to the northeast chapter of the IECA.
- d. **ACTION ITEM:** Ray Mueller will contact the central office in Ankeny for a current member list to be used when the meeting invitations are sent.
- e. **ACTION ITEM:** Lisa Miller will send the meeting invitation to the districts.

## 5) Council Elections

- a. The following nominations were made and accepted:
  - i. Past President: Jessica Sargis—Jessica agreed to stay on-board for a second year as Past President.

- ii. Treasurer: Ray Mueller—Ray accepted the nomination. There was some discussion about whether or not back-to-back terms as Treasurer is allowed in the Chapter by-laws. We will research this and discuss it at the Annual Meeting.
- iii. Secretary: Brad Schwab—Brad accepted the nomination.
- iv. Region 1 Representative: Heath Eisele—Heath accepted the nomination.
- v. Vice President: Jason Schenck—Jason accepted the nomination.
- b. The following positions on the Council still need to be filled:
  - i. President Elect: Jason Cuddeback was nominated and will consider accepting the nomination but had not yet done so at this time.
  - ii. Region 3 Representative: Pat Barry was nominated but was not present to accept the nomination.

#### 6) Budget

- a. Ray Mueller prepared a draft 2017 budget and shared it with the Council members via email before the meeting.
- b. After discussion, Don Kuhn moved to adopt the draft budget as a working budget for 2017. Jason Schenck seconded the motion and all Council members present were in favor.

#### 7) Other

- a. While trying to access the by-laws we found that the website is down. Without talking to Pat and Carol Barry, the assumption was made that we need to pay a fee to keep the domain active. Ray moved to approve the spending for this website maintenance and Peter Wright seconded the motion. All Council members were in favor.
- b. Lisa relayed the message that the tax accountant fee would be the same this year as it was last year.
- c. Ray Mueller suggested that the Chapter should consider organizing a meeting that will address how large scale solar farms impact their surrounding community.
- d. Heath Eisele informed the Council that he received an email from Steve Sprecher. The email explained that an organization that Steve participates in might be disbanding (Heath is not 100% sure of the name of the organization, but he thinks it's a soil scientist organization). Steve said that this organization is looking for another organization to take over their savings account (about \$4000) and might be interested in setting up a scholarship that our Chapter could manage. Steve is working with Heath and Peter to learn more about our Chapter of the SWCS.

8) Adjourn

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2017 (prior to annual meeting). There is also a regular Council meeting scheduled for January 19, 2017 at 1pm.
- b. At 2:15 Don Kuhn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jason Schenck seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Minutes taken by Brad Schwab, Secretary

