

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

Council Meeting  
January 19, 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, Ray Mueller, Jason Cuddeback, Jason Schenck, and Jessica Sargis were in attendance.
  - c. Brad Schwab, and Don Kuhn attended via teleconference.
- 2) Review of Minutes from Annual Meeting
  - a. Ray Mueller motioned to accept the minutes. Jessica Sargis seconded the motion.
- 3) Review of Treasurer Report – 2016 Yearly Report
  - a. Finances
    - i. Gross Profit - **\$X,XXX.xx**
    - ii. Gross Expenses - **\$X,XXX.xx**
    - iii. Net Yearly Income of **\$XXX.xx**
  - b. Lisa noted that expenses and income from the annual meeting were included in the 2016 treasurer's report.
  - c. Vanguard Fletcher Endowment
    - i. Start of 2016 - **\$XX,XXX**
    - ii. End of 2016 - **\$XX,XXX**
  - d. Vanguard Endowment
    - i. Start of 2016 - **\$XX,XXX**
    - ii. End of 2016 - **\$XX,XXX**
  - e. Jessica Sargis made a motion of accept the report, Jason Schenck seconded the motion.
- 4) Memorandum of Agreement – Lisa Miller
  - a. Wage increase from \$XX.xx/hour to \$XX.xx/hour.
  - b. Don Kuhn made a motion to accept. Jessica Sargis seconded the motion.
  - c. The document was signed by Peter Wright and Lisa Miller. Ray Mueller kept a copy of the document as well.
- 5) Review of Annual Meeting
  - a. Everyone thought the meeting was a success
  - b. Goal of attracting more NRCS employees for next year
  - c. We will plan to host the annual meeting in November of 2017.
- 6) Scholarship
  - a. Re-visit scholarship evaluation
  - b. Continuing education for SWCS members as a possible route for our scholarship program.
  - c. May be a question to ask the membership in upcoming member survey

- 7) Regional Meetings
- a. Pete heard from others that the regional meetings were a success.
  - b. Scott Fitscher, Pat Barry, and Heath Eisele each hosted one this past summer.
  - c. Summer meetings should focus on having some field visits incorporated throughout the day.
  - d. Time frame is flexible, but no lunch was provided (coffee and donuts were provided and reimbursed by SWCS)
  - e. Plan for a regional meeting in each of the four regions around summer time. **Action Item:** Regional Reps should think of topics specific to their area that may be good for the regional meetings and start to think of dates (summer).
- 8) Member survey questions / topics
- a. Member information
  - b. How far would you travel to a regional meeting?
    - i. Half day or Full day?
  - c. Topics or speakers for regional / annual meeting
  - d. Scholarship ideas
- 9) Schedule for 2017 Meetings
- a. February 16th
  - b. April 20<sup>th</sup>
  - c. June 15<sup>th</sup>
  - d. September 21<sup>st</sup>
  - e. November 16<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting
- 10) Publications
- a. We have approximately 300 binders from the old copies left.
  - b. Discussion that we may want to sell for the “initial rush” but not keep inventory as we have done so before to avoid the risk of outdated inventory.
  - c. **Action:** Lisa Miller will find prices for printing the new version of the blue book in color, w/o binders.
  - d. Tabs will be ordered separately and included so the buyer can insert themselves.
  - e. Pricing: How much “profit” should we make on each book?
    - i. Need to include printing, Lisa’s time and handling, postage.
  - f. Still yet to be determined if we can sell the books because it is NYSDEC’s document.
- 11) Chapter Website
- a. Website appears to be up and running
  - b. **Action:** Council member information needs to be updated and minutes need to be uploaded. Brad will send Pat an email with minutes missing from website. Lisa will email Pat regarding council member information.
- 12) Next Meeting
- a. February 16, 1-3pm @ CCSWCD
- 13) Adjourn
- a. At 2:45pm Ray Mueller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Schenck seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Minutes taken by Jason Schenck, Vice President