

SD Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society
Annual Meeting
December 10, 2019, 5:00 p.m.
Ramkota River Center, Pierre, SD

Members Present: Val DeVine, Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Deron Ruesch, Colette Kessler, Carrie Werkmeister, Michelle Burke, Andy Oxford, Jeff Zimprich; present via speakerphone: Tyler Tran, Sandeep Kumar, Tom Schumacher. Also present: Rachel Frei, potential member

The meeting was called to order by Val DeVine at 5:03 p.m.

There were no additions or corrections to agenda. Carrie moved to approve the agenda, and Deron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Secretary's report was emailed with the 2018 annual meeting minutes. Arlene moved to approve the minutes, and Carrie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was emailed. Profit and Loss statement was reviewed. SWCS sponsored Maximizing Profit event at \$100 expense. Made \$266 on silent auction. Booth at Ag Horizons had some expenses, such as prize for drawing. 2019 budget includes total income from dividends, interest, long term capital gain. Stayed close to proposed 2019 budget. Michelle moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Carrie seconded, motion carried.

Deron moved to reimburse Arlene \$50.50 for costs incurred for display board and prize basket for Ag Horizons, and Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Election of officers for 2020. Nominations are listed in the agenda and attached bio sheet. Deron moved to cease nominations and accept list of nominees as presented in agenda: Sandeep Kumar for Vice President and Tyler Tran for Secretary, as well as nominating Andy Oxford for Treasurer, Carrie seconded. Motion carried.

Andy asked members to please promote Soil Painting kits to teachers. Sales have slowed. Colette suggested to reach out to Christy Maher with their soil health curriculum. Carrie suggested 4-H as an alternative.

Arlene talked about scholarship/internship committee. We made it an internship last year. The scholarship recipient has completed 35.5 hours and has 4.5 hours remaining. Val suggested starting earlier with interns to get activities scheduled during the summer. Val summarize Jordenne's volunteer experiences. Michelle will be chair of the scholarship committee. Jeff may continue as a committee member. We are looking for a new member to be the third on the committee. Val will email Michelle when Jordenne Ducheny's hours are complete. Michelle will conduct an interview with Jordenne and convene the committee to determine a plan for upcoming year of the internship committee.

Tom reported on updated website sds wcs.org. Tom pays around \$16-\$20 per year for the domain name but no other charges. Arlene has taken photos at Ag Horizons this week to update the photos on the website. Nice new look, and Tom appreciates the feedback. For the next payment, Tom will submit a bill for reimbursement.

Arlene talked about membership. Set up login through SWCS. Member directory is online; click on SD. On November 26, we had 31 members. Now we have 35 members. SWOT analysis – strengths: bank account, diverse membership; weaknesses – everyone busy, expense of membership. Payroll deduction is an option. Rebate form is available. Getting a call made a difference to Rachel Frei, and she is willing to call others. A new employee mailing was done in early November, and Arlene and Andy made phone calls.

Arlene asked members to identify three individuals and three entities that may benefit from SWCS membership and may be able to contribute. Lists of names were turned in and Arlene will follow-up with members to contact those named individuals/entities. Arlene has brochures at booth at Ag Horizons. Give to people, email them the link, follow up with a call. Conservation Districts and other groups can become members as a Conservation Community.

Jeff suggested that we interview new members and potential members to see what they wanted out of the organization. Rachel was interested in professional development and networking, connections to use during career, and feeling a part of a community. Tyler agreed with Rachel about networking, finding people to contact with questions; you never know who may be helping you in your career; make connections and keep them active. Sandeep talked about MS and post-doc students. They are working on projects and could make connections for possible job opportunities.

Prioritization of future activities: continue with internship; field day with Sandeep's class, and Tom will help; Jeff and Arlene will speak at Agronomy and Conservation Club in Spring 2020. Rachel said she could talk about going from student to professional with NRCS. Deron, Michelle, Carrie, Tyler, and Rachel may be able to assist.

Possible outreach and sponsorship opportunities for 2020: SDSHC annual conference – January (NO), Eastern SD Water Conference – October (YES), Western SD Hydrology Conference (YES), Managing Soil: Maximizing Profit – December (MAYBE), provide financial assistance for members to attend International Conference in Des Moines, provide financial assistance for grad students to attend International Conference with a stipulation that they join SWCS and report back to our Annual Meeting.

Carrie moved to sponsor Eastern SD Water Conference at \$250 level, Deron seconded. Motion carried. Jeff moved to sponsor the Western SD Hydrology Conference at a similar level, Deron seconded. Motion carried.

Additional ideas: trivia night at a bar with "Imagine A Day Without Water," wine and paint event using soil painting kits (Deron will contact the art teacher at Tri-Valley).

Carrie moved to sponsor two college students (undergrad, grad, or PhD) at \$250 each for the International conference stipulating that they become members of SD SWCS and report back at the Annual Conference, and Deron seconded the motion. Motion carried. This offer will need to be posted on the website. The officers will make selections from the nominations.

Possible expenses to increase visibility and awareness: our own brochures, name badges for officers, tablecloth with logo imprinted, set up Facebook page for SD SWCS and Facebook charge to boost posts, sponsoring Christmas tree at the Capitol.

Arlene will meet with officers to develop budget and do some additional planning. Arlene will do a Doodle poll to determine the next meeting date after the Executive Committee has had a chance to meet.

Deron moved to close the meeting, and Jeff seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Michelle Burke, Acting Secretary