

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
SD Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society

Friday, January 29th, 2021, 1:00 PM

Members present via Zoom: Arlene Brandt-Jenson, John McMaine, Andy Oxford, Tyler Tran

The meeting was called to order by Arlene at 1:04.

Arlene discussed the result of the polls. Arlene wants to keep members goals in mind.

John would like to do co-operative events with other organizations, i.e. Soil Health Coalition. By doing a collaborative event, we can expand the impact. John questioned if it needs to be a formal relationship? Having formal representatives or liaison roles to work with other groups. Membership dues and fees may be prohibitive to these goals. We'll keep it informal for now. We collaborated with SDSU Extension for Managing Soil: Maximizing Profit in 2018 and 2019.

A SD NRCS Bulletin for the SWCS International Conference was sent to employees. Tyler will forward the Bulletin to the Executive Committee.

Action Item: Reach out to newer NRCS employees that have started within the last few years that may be interested in joining.

Membership goals were discussed. Current membership is 39; the committee set a goal of growing our membership to 45 total members by the end 2021. John questioned the value of membership for members.

Arlene asked for help identifying a few Dec. 10 conference attendees (through screenshots) to reach out to potential members.

John will pursue the CAFES Prexy Council to offer a presentation virtually. The \$1000 Internship opportunity could be promoted.

Andy updated the committee on the budget. Over \$5000 was wired to the Wells-Fargo account from the Fidelity account. Andy is working with the Fidelity issues. Val will still need to sign the transfer nomination form.

The Committee started discussion on Budget items during discussion on Activities to pursue in 2021. We will continue budget discussion at next meeting and have a proposed budget to present to the members at the next Chapter meeting.

Outreach events will probably be put on hold until fall, depending on COVID. Jim Ristau and Rachel Frei will assist and represent us at the RASDAK this year.

Arlene would like to send out a Survey Monkey to keep members momentum going. Arlene had a sample question "How would you like to be involved in chapter activities?" with multiple choice answers. Executive Committee members were asked to think of any other questions to ask in this survey. Arlene will follow up.

The Executive Committee discussed the current committees and projects. The committee descriptions on the website are probably 30 years old (early 90s), and don't reflect what we have now. John agreed to come up with a question about committees for the survey, get members' input on what is needed,

and ranking the importance of committees and their functions. Arlene mentioned that any committee could use the Zoom account to meet.

Next meeting will be scheduled for March 5th at 1:00 PM. Erika Crady will give us a pep talk at 1:30. The next general meeting will be on March 23rd at 11:00 AM. Arlene will invite Erika to both of these meetings.

Submitted by Tyler Tran, Secretary