

**South Dakota Chapter  
Soil & Water Conservation Society  
Wednesday October 23rd, 2019  
Meeting, Via Phone**

**Call to Order:** Val DeVine called the meeting to order at 11:03am, with 7 members and one prospective present via phone: Matti Osterman, Andy Oxford, Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Bill Smith, Tom Schumacher, Deron Ruesch, and Bailey Gullikson (non-member).

**Agenda:** Arlene moved to approve the agenda. Tom seconded. Agenda approved.

**Secretary's Report:** Arlene moved to approve the previous meeting minutes with no corrections. Andy seconded. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Andy Oxford

- **Report-** Haven't had any income or expenses since May. 2017 & 2018 IRS non-profit tax forms (990-N) were filed and we should be caught up with those. Matti moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Tom seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

- **Membership Recruitment-** Val- We've received a list of 27 relatively new NRCS employees from the state office to recruit from. Val, Andy, and Arlene will be calling those people to inform them about the opportunity to join our club. We also need to keep exploring ways to reach non-NRCS potential members. The officers have been working on a recruitment letter to send to prospective members, including attachments about our rebate program, membership forms, etc.  
Arlene called several members yesterday remind them of today's meeting and encourage attendance.  
Val will send the recruitment package information to everyone on the call today to look over before she sends out at the end of the week.
- **Internship** - Arlene- Jordenne DuCheny is working on completing her hours through the Aberdeen and Ipswich NRCS field office. She has also worked with the Pheasants Forever Biologist and the District. So far she has completed 24 of her 40 hours by volunteering once a week. (Per the internship guidelines, after 20 hours she can receive \$300, and after the 40 hours she will get the remainder of her full \$1000). Val discussed this with her and she would just like the lump sum upon completion of the internship.
- **Officer Nominations** – Arlene- The VP is chair of this committee and there should be another 2 people on this committee. There were no volunteers. We will need a Vice President and Secretary to be elected at the Annual Meeting. Deron thinks he can take on more of a leadership role after about a year when his kids are out of a lot of activities, same with Val.

- **Website Update-** Tom Schumacher received help from Esma Budek (spouse of a grad student at SDSU) and created a new website for our club using wix.com. Hosting the website is free (we currently pay \$25/year) and it would be easier for more than one person to make edits to the site. The website development was also free. <https://sdswcs.wixsite.com> is the new site address, we would move away from <http://sdswcs.org>. Tom is going to move ahead with switching the sites and redirect traffic from the .org to the .com site. He also created a new gmail account for the club to use for the website, [sdswcs@gmail.com](mailto:sdswcs@gmail.com), which the officers have the password to. We will need to designate a person to be in charge of checking the gmail periodically. Val will let members know of the website change too so they can check out the site. Our new website is also adapted to mobile devices!

#### **New Business:**

- **Annual Meeting-** Val- Carrie sent an update on the meeting. It will be in conjunction with AgHorizons December 10-11<sup>th</sup> in Pierre at the Ramkota Conference Center. We have asked Jeff Zimprich to be the speaker that our organization sponsors, and he has agreed. That will save us expense as we are required to pay for our speakers, and his presentation will count as CEU credits. **No registration costs are included as hosts, so the cost is \$85/2 days or \$50/one day per person.** We are allowed a booth for our club. Speakers registration fees are covered by the conference. We will have a silent auction in conjunction with SDACD, so members should bring items to the event for sale and our club will get the profits from items we brought. Our annual meeting will be Tuesday at 4pm.  
**Our club has been asked to help at the registration table or the CEU sign-in station.** Arlene has volunteered to help. **We will send out a sign-up sheet to members for booth times and registration table.** Andy, Deron, Val, and Arlene at least are planning to attend the meeting. Andy will contact National and request an SWCS pull up banner to use at our booth.
- **We would like to get confirmation from Caren/Carrie about the cost to attend, confirmation that we'll have a booth/when it needs staffed, and when we are needed for the registration table.**

Arlene moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:52pm. Deron seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Matti Osterman*

Secretary

**Next Meeting:** ANNUAL MEETING, 4pm Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> @ Ramkota in Pierre. Call-in option available for those who can't attend in person.