

Chapter Meeting

SD Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society

August 13th, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

Members in attendance: Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Rachel Frei, Jeff Zimprich, Tamara Sommer, Andy Oxford, Jeanne Hamilton, Bill Smith, Hannah Grimm, Chyenna Julius, Tom Schumacher, Gabi Bolwerk, and Tyler Tran

Meeting called to order at 11:00 am by Arlene.

Tammy moved to approve today's agenda, and Rachel seconded. Motion passed.

Jeanne moved to approve minutes from the July 7 meeting, and Tyler seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Chyenna moved to approve, and Jeff seconded. Motion passed. Arlene recently submitted expenses from Agronomy Club mtg and RASDak. Arlene asked if any member attended the virtual Intl Conference for reimbursement, only Arlene. Others who attended were covered by NRCS.

Arlene showed members the Chapter Achievement Award and Outstanding Chapter Award from National SWCS.

Arlene would like to note that Tyler did a great job presenting on Mon. July 26 at the virtual International Conference in the Communicating Conservation During COVID-19 Session.

Hannah gave an update on the Publicity Committee Activities. Social media activity is increasing with more likes and followers. Hannah would like to work with high school students to create trail signs for identifying plants, an idea she saw in Polk County Iowa.

Rachel gave an update on the Membership Committee. She is finishing up the updated Committee description. Arlene reported that we had three new members. Tyler recruited Gabi Bolwerk. Lindsey Otto-Hanson is a new member returning to her spouse's family farm. Samantha Ziph is from Missouri and recently joined NRCS in Miller. Jeff wanted to make sure that new NRCS employees were still receiving professional organization packets, and that the list of new employees was forwarded to SWCS. Tyler explained that we had received a list of new employees early in 2021 and he and Cory Zirbel reached out to them. SD NRCS recently sent out an email to all employees with info on professional organizations. Arlene asked Bill about recruiting within South Dakota State DANR.

Arlene reported on the Internship Committee for Michelle Burke, Chair. Miguel Meña is finishing his 40-hour Internship by job-shadowing with several professionals around the Brookings area, then he will receive \$1000 toward his SDSU financial aid account.

Plans for the summer field day were discussed. John McMaine updated that McCrory Gardens is confirmed, and lunch can be had at Jimmy John's for the field day. Jeanne updated the members on more plans for Sun. Sept. 12 – Mon. Sept. 13. On Sunday evening, members are invited to have a pizza at Good Roots Farm and Gardens north of Brookings. Members and family are invited to socialize. There is camping in Campground 2 at Oakwood Lake State Park including cabins, RV sites, and tent sites. Blue Dasher Farm will be visited Monday morning covering the farm and scientific research hub. After that, lunch will be provided at McCrory Gardens, followed by a green infrastructure tour and garden tour.

Then we'll get a tour of Raven Precision Ag Center and Dairy Plant at SDSU. Registration is \$15 for members and \$30 for non-society participants. Jeanne suggested selecting sandwich from Jimmy John's at time of registration. Registration will be through Eventbrite. Registration fees will include lunch, McCrory Garden entrance fee, Blue Dasher donation. Jeanne will look into dairy bar samples and costs. Attendance from NRCS will likely be affected by COVID. Jeanne is hoping that NRCS employees can go on govt time, but if they go on their own time, they will have more flexibility. The event will be limited to 50 employees. Arlene will work on the Eventbrite piece and others will work on publicity. Goal is to go live Tuesday, August 17th. Hannah would like to get some shirts and swag to give away for incentives to join. She will reach out to National to see if there's anything available for the field day. Arlene suggested the title: Bees, Trees, and Cheese: A Summer Field Day.

Next chapter meeting is tentatively scheduled for Fri. Oct. 1, 11:00 CT.

Submitted by Tyler Tran, Chapter Secretary