

**South Dakota Chapter  
Soil & Water Conservation Society  
Tuesday January 15th, 2019  
Meeting, Via Phone**

**Call to Order:** Valeree Devine called the meeting to order at 11:03am, with 7 members present via phone: Matti Osterman, Andy Oxford, Michelle Burke, Tammy Sommer, Doug Vik. Arlene Brandt-Jenson joined at 11:55am.

**Agenda:** Matti moved to approve the agenda. Tammy seconded. Agenda approved.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Andy Oxford

- **Switching Treasurers-** Andy is working on opening a checking account at Wells Fargo and moving our funds from the account Doug had been managing at M-O Federal Credit Union in Huron. Wells Fargo wants Val to open the account since she is President with Andy added on. Andy asked if we still wanted to have both a checking and savings account, the consensus was we only need a checking account if the savings account interest isn't worth it. Val wants to make sure we have enough information from both Fidelity and Wells Fargo to guarantee we have the bank with the best rates for our investment funds. Val spoke with her local Wells Fargo guy and she's hoping to go in there Thursday morning to do paperwork. The club should decide if we need to purchase some software to manage finances or if Excel will suffice. Doug had been using Quicken Loans since he had personally already had the software.
- **Annual Meeting earnings-** Michelle Burke still has the money from the Annual Meeting, wasn't sure which treasurer to send it to. She will send it on to Andy, the amount hasn't been tallied yet.
- **Report-** There should be income from selling one painting kit and the annual meeting silent auction since the last Treasurer's Report. Outstanding bills include a final teleconference fee from before we switched to FreeConferenceCall.com
- **Financial Audit-** The new By-Laws require a financial audit to take place when a new Treasurer is elected. The President is to appoint two members to assist, which Val had appointed Deron and Michelle. Michelle's husband is an accountant so she has agreed to ask him to help us develop a procedure to review the finances.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Soil Painting** - Andy Oxford- We've sold only 2 in 2018, making just \$40. Andy will try to reach out to the Envirothon coordinator to get her science teacher contacts and try to sell kits to them. Andy thinks he has about 10 kits already made. Val suggested we hold off on making more kits and try to sell what we have. Maybe a new fundraiser is needed depending on how much money we will need to increase membership and participation.
- **Scholarships** – Michelle Burke- The committee (Arlene, Jeff Zimprich, and Michelle) worked on a draft internship proposal similar to what we had been doing with the scholarships. Questions that came up were what to do if a student already has an NRCS or similar internship, can they double dip on the time? Michelle thought that they probably wouldn't be able to count it for both, and should have a separate experience to get more natural resources exposure. Val requested they add a statement to cover students that may be studying abroad or have a reasonable request to extend the time frame beyond 6 months (illness, family issues, etc.). The applications will be sent out ASAP and due the end of March, selections are made in April. We will be offering 2-\$1,000 internships this year. Matti moved to accept the new internship program with mentioned suggestions and put it in effect immediately. Tammy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. Michelle will update Arlene with any corrections and move forward with advertising the program. We want to try to get feedback in this first year from the university to see if there is anything holding back applicants, and how people like the new system.

### **Old Business:**

- **2019 Budget**- There was \$15 in Grassland Coalition budgeted for 2019. Had paid for it in the past so it was budgeted just in case, it is thought to have gone up to \$25-30. It was agreed to remove it from the budget, as we do not donate to other coalitions. Arlene suggested that Andy and Doug revamp the budget and streamline it more, removing items that no longer pertain, such as Popcorn and the committees that are no longer active. Approval has been tabled until next meeting.
- **Donations**- Andy moved not to donate to any water festivals or the discovery center at this time. Arlene 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

- **National SWCS had a webinar** about reimagining your chapter, Arlene, Val, Andy, and Matti tuned in. They mentioned archiving club material on a Google shared drive, which is something we may investigate. Questions Arlene asked

based on the webinar were: Are we under the parent societies 501c3? No. Are we up to date on our 990 form? Yes.

- **SWCS National Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA July 28-31st.** NRCS just sent out a bulletin for attendance right before the meeting, with action required by February 6<sup>th</sup> to allow two people to travel there on government time and maybe expense. Val has agreed to go and Arlene may be able to swing it. Tammy will also check if she can go.

Andy moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:32pm. Arlene seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Matti Osterman*

Secretary

**Next meeting will be an Executive Meeting (Val, Arlene, Matti, Andy):  
February 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30am Central, 2019**

**Next Full Meeting, TBD:**

- Approve 2019 Budget
- Update from Scholarship Committee, selections