

**South Dakota Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
November 29th, 2018
Annual Meeting, SDSU Extension Sioux Falls Regional Center**

Call to Order: Carrie Werkmeister-Karki called the meeting to order at 12:12pm, with 9 members present: Carrie, Matti Kuykendall, Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Tom Schumacher, Jeff Zimprich, Val DeVine, Tammy Sommer, Deron Ruesch, and Michelle Burke. Joe Schumacher also sat in on the meeting, he is hoping to join in January.

Agenda: Nominations for Treasurer were added. Arlene moved to approve the agenda. Tom seconded. Agenda approved.

Secretary's Report: Arlene moved to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2017 Annual meeting with no corrections. Val seconded. Minutes approved. Jeff moved to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2018 regular meeting with no corrections. Tammy seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Doug emailed in a treasurer's report and a draft budget for 2019. The approval of the budget was tabled until next meeting to address questions about the values in the "Other Fund Raiser" and "Non-profit fees". Members also wanted to verify the non-profit fees and teleconference expenses. Carrie and Tom have received their reimbursements and Tammy does not wish to be reimbursed for the bookmarks. The membership also discussed that they would like to pursue a bank that can provide us a debit card for expenses and has multiple branches for easier access.

Committee Reports:

- **By-Laws**- Arlene, Matti, and Val. Tammy moved to approve the revisions to the By-Laws created by the committee. Deron seconded. By-Laws approved. The final version will need to be sent to Ankeny for their records (Arlene will do this). The committee also presented their Proposed Streamlined Committees. Arlene moved to adopt the streamlined committees and Jeff seconded. Motion carried. The "high priority" committees include Nominations, Scholarships, Membership and Activities, and Annual Conference. These were assigned chairs and will be on each meeting agenda. The "medium priority" committees of Publicity, Awards, Fund Raising, and Conservation Education will be kept on the table for a time when we have better involvement. The "low priority" committees of History, Long Range, Memorials, and Newsletter will be removed from the website and not focused upon. A committee can still be formed by the President at any time.
- **Scholarships** – Arlene, chair, Michelle and Jeff, members. Jeff suggested we can revamp our scholarships to mirror more of an internship. We can ask that scholarship winners be required to spend 40 hours shadowing a conservation

professional. This may help insure our money is going to someone who will stay in the field and we can benefit from the scholarship as well by passing on our knowledge to future generations. The committee will work on ironing out the logistics of this in time for the 2019 applications.

- **Painting Kits** – Andy Oxford, chair (not present). We have sold 2 this year. We should work on promotion of these since they are our main fundraiser. If we can get together to make a bulk quantity, perhaps we can distribute them to members across the state to sell at more events. Send emails to art teachers, etc. If not, we should pursue the cover crop seed fundraiser idea more.
- **Membership**- Jeff and Tom agreed to co-chair. Deron agreed to help as well.
 - Jeff reports that NRCS is sending letters to all new employees that will include an SWCS Membership form. He will let us know of the new employees so we can call them and welcome them to the conservation team.
 - Also discussed an incentive plan to encourage membership. 1st year members that enroll in NRCS payroll deduction can receive a 50% rebate. 25% in year two, and no discount by year three. Those who opt out of automatic payroll deduction can get 40% off in year 1 and 15% off year two. Need to check if National has any automatic monthly payment system that we can verify as well.
 - Tom will talk to Sandeep Kumar, the instructor of Environmental Soil Mgmt. class at SDSU to see if we can offer a field trip in April or May. This can also work to encourage student membership. Peter Kovach is the SDSU Club sponsor, Tom will talk to him as well.
 - Arlene, Michelle, and Jeff agreed to work together to speak to the SDSU club once a year.

New Business:

- **Officer Elections**
 - **President: Val.** Arlene moved to install Val DeVine as president. Tammy seconded. Motion passed.
 - **Vice-President: Arlene.** Matti moved to accept Arlene Brandt-Jenson as Vice-President. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.
 - **Treasurer: Andy.** Jeff moved to elect Andrew Oxford as the new Treasurer. Michelle seconded. Motion approved.
 - **Secretary: Matti.** No nominations, Matti remains Secretary.
- **Strategic Planning**
 - After much discussion the following goals were laid out for 2019:
 - Continue to provide monies to deserving students of soil and water conservation disciplines. Currently funded by soil painting kits and dues. These monies may be in the form of a scholarship or a new

internship type program, as determined by the scholarship committee.

- Develop a similar scenario for graduate students as well. We could sponsor a grad student with \$500-\$1000 if they agree to share their research with us periodically. Perhaps submitting abstracts to be selected. Tom and Carrie agreed to help with this.
 - Host informative, career building meetings, such as the annual meeting, field tours, poster sessions, etc. to benefit the professional development of our members.
 - Create a membership discount for new members.
 - Increase student membership at the SDSU Chapter. There is an active conservation club but none of them are dues paying members.
 - Reach a total of 35 dues paying members/entities by the 2019 Annual meeting
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- **Next Annual Meeting-** Carrie agreed to chair this committee again. We are looking into having it in conjunction with the AgHorizons conference in Pierre next year around December 10th.
 - **2019 Financial Audit-** The new By-Laws require a financial audit to take place. The President is to appoint two members to assist. Deron and Michelle agreed to help. With the change in officers, the new President and Treasurer will also need to be added to the accounts and a new bank selected, if needed. Arlene moved for Val and Andy to have signature authority on future bank accounts. Tammy seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Tentatively January 15th, 2019, 11am Central Time

- Approve 2019 Budget
- Earnings from 2018 Annual meeting
- Update from Scholarship Committees
- Donations to Water Festivals, Discovery Center Exhibit
- Update on Soil Painting Kit Sales

Jeff moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10pm. Deron seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Matti (Kuykendall) Osterman
Secretary