

**BYLAWS of the
SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The name of this Organization shall be SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY, hereafter referred to as the SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objectives of the South Dakota Chapter shall be to promote and advance all phases of the science of conservation of soil, water, and related renewable natural resources, to provide a medium for exchange of facts, experience, and to represent, advance, and protect the standards of the science of soil and water conservation.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the South Dakota Chapter shall consist of: (1) Regular members; (2) Honorary life members; and (3) Student members.

Section 2. "Regular Members" shall be those actively engaged in practicing, promoting, teaching, administering, and applying soil and water conservation or in carrying on research in the field of soil and water conservation. Regular members are dues paying members of both the national and state chapter. Regular members have the right to take part in all discussions, vote, and hold office.

Section 3. (a) "Honorary Life Members" shall be selected from persons, whether members of the Chapter or not, who have made outstanding contributions to the field of soil, water, and related natural resources conservation. They have all the rights and privileges of regular members except to vote and hold office.

(b) Nomination of a candidate for Honorary Life Membership shall be forwarded to the Chapter President. Election to Honorary Life Membership requires a three-fourths vote of the members present at the annual meeting. Any member who is a candidate cannot vote.

Section 4. "Student Members" shall include students in any educational institution who show outstanding interest in the science of soil and water conservation. Student members are dues paying members of the national and state chapter. They have all the rights and privileges of regular members.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. The governing body of the South Dakota Chapter shall be known as the Executive Committee and shall be composed of the four officers of the Chapter.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the South Dakota Chapter shall include a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting each year, and serve 1 year terms. The official terms shall coincide with the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. They shall be eligible for re-election and shall perform their duties until their successors qualify.

Section 2. The president shall preside at meetings of the South Dakota Chapter, shall appoint all committee chairs, break tie votes, create meeting agendas, preside over meetings, and perform all other duties incident to the office.

Section 3. If the president is unable to act, the vice-president shall perform the president's duties. The vice-president shall also serve as the chair of the Annual Meeting Committee.

Section 4. The secretary shall issue notices of meetings of the Chapter as determined by the president. The secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings and distribute them to the membership.

Section 5. The treasurer shall be responsible for funds of the Chapter. The funds shall be deposited in specified accounts as directed by the Executive Committee. The treasurer's accounts shall be reviewed by two members appointed by the president prior to transferring financial records to the treasurer's successor, or as otherwise directed by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Vacancies among the officers shall be filled from among the members by a vote of the Executive Committee for the unexpired term of office.

ARTICLE VI - NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 1. A Nominations Committee consisting of three members (the vice-president as chair) shall be appointed by the president at every annual meeting, serving until the subsequent annual meeting. Nominations shall be secured at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting and may also be accepted from the floor. The officers shall be elected by a majority of those voting.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. The South Dakota Chapter shall hold an annual meeting and such other meetings as selected by them. Notice of such meetings shall be given to all members by the secretary at least two weeks in advance.

ARTICLE VIII - DUES AND FUNDS

Section 1. The annual dues for each class of membership in the Chapter shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Notice of any contemplated change shall be given to Chapter members at least 30 days in advance of final action.

Section 2. Annual dues of members shall be due on their membership anniversary date as determined by the parent Society.

Section 3. The Chapter may receive gifts, bequeaths, donations, or grants of funds for any purpose whatsoever including especially designated purposes and will be consistent with the objectives of the Society and the rules and regulations of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 4. All monies including gifts, bequeaths, donations, or grants of funds accruing to the Chapter received for designated purposes shall constitute a permanent trust fund, the proceeds from which will be utilized to carry forward the work of the Chapter as directed by a three-fourths vote of the membership. The permanent trust fund of the Chapter shall be controlled by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX - AWARDS

Section 1. The Chapter may from time to time, at the direction of the Executive Committee, offer scholarships, medals, or other awards in recognition of outstanding work or ability in the field of soil and water conservation.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any amendments to these bylaws must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members participating in the annual meeting. Amendments shall, unless they themselves provide otherwise, be effective immediately upon their adoption.

ARTICLE XI - OFFICIAL DELEGATE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall select an official delegate and alternate to serve on the House of Delegates of the parent Society for the current year.

Section 2. The Chapter may help defray the official delegate's travel and expense to attend the national meeting.

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. The South Dakota Chapter is a non-profit organization dedicated to the objective heretofore stated for the benefit of the general public, and not for the monetary gain or profit of its members. It may pay reasonable compensation to its members or officers for expenses incurred in conducting the business of the Chapter.

Section 2. If the Chapter shall cease to exist, any assets above those required to meet obligations will be disposed of by the last active Executive Committee to a non-profit organization or institution.

1966. As amended in 1968, 1975, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1996, 1999, and 2018.