

**South Dakota Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
March 5th, 2019 Executive Board meeting
Via Conference Call**

Present: Valeree DeVine (President), Arlene Brandt-Jenson (Vice-President), Matti Osterman (Secretary), and Andrew Oxford (Treasurer)

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Val DeVine.

Finances

Treasurer/Account switch update-

Val needs to do the Wells Fargo paperwork in front of a notary, she'll try to get it done tomorrow. It was agreed to leave everything in Fidelity and open a Wells Fargo checking account. The Fidelity performance is similar to what Wells Fargo quoted us, so we don't see an advantage to switching everything to Wells Fargo. The Wells Fargo checking account will contain the money from the Federal Credit Union account that we will close in Huron. Then it will be used for operational expenses. Andy has mailed in the forms to get added to the Fidelity account. We will continue to monitor the performance of the Fidelity accounts and perhaps determine later if a move is beneficial. Doug has sent the audit materials and summary of accounts to Andy. Still need the checks from the Federal Credit Union and to close that account.

Financial Audit procedure-

Michelle and Deron have received the audit materials. We will ask them to complete it or provide an update at the next full membership meeting.

Steps to take:

1. Doug will send a check to Andy from closing the Checking and Savings account at the Federal Credit Union in Huron. (The accounts have been closed.) Andy will deposit this in the Wells Fargo account. Val also needs to fill out the paperwork to be on this account.
2. Checks from the Silent Auction will be deposited into the new Wells Fargo account and donation to the Discover Center for Soils Day agreed upon at the last meeting will be written from this account.

Mandatory Activities Report for National

Val asked Carrie to complete this report for Ankeny. They asked for the Tax ID number which Andy provided. Val will work with Carrie to get that done by the end of March.

Membership and Recruitment

National has an incentive for new members to join at \$58/year rate (half-price for their first year). Would our chapter be willing to cover this cost if they sign up for automatic deduction? We discussed in November an incentive plan to encourage membership it was: 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.

Thoughts now are to reimburse a new member their \$58 portion at the end of the first year if they prove they have automatic payroll deduction and have participated in a meeting. You could also see it as half off their second year. For people without automatic payroll deduction options we would like to give them the same incentive. It would be helpful to have the new member complete a form to sign-up for the rebate, so we can better keep track of who is eligible and

when they'd get their rebate back. The form should include proof of their payroll deduction, membership sign-up date, date of a meeting they attended. Val will work up a draft and touch base with Ankeny for additional ideas. We will share this with the membership committee at our next meeting (Jeff Z., Tom, Deron).

We still need to get a list of new hires from Jeff Z.

Andy asked National how much of the SWCS dues we get as a club per member. It is \$9 back for Conservation level members, \$12 for Leaders, \$16 for President's Club members. National will start sending membership check to Andy instead of Val.

Strategic Planning

The following goals were laid out for 2019 at the annual meeting:

- 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.

Perhaps we can get a poster session included at our annual meeting next year in conjunction with AgHorizons. Need to touch base with Carrie for an annual meeting update.

Fundraising should be revisited after getting membership incentives going and if we notice a drain in finances. Andy will try to advertise the soil painting kits more. Right now, we are more focused on developing membership than raising funds.

Arlene moved to adjourn the meeting, Andy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matti Osterman
Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 16th, at 11:00am central

- Update on Finance switchover- Val finish Wells Fargo paperwork, Andy deposit Silent auction check and write check to discovery center
- Financial Audit Committee update- Michelle & Deron
- Membership/Recruitment Committee update, incentive proposal- Jeff, Tom, Deron
- Report from Annual Mtg Committee. Would like to have poster session and silent auction still- Carrie
- Internship/Scholarship Committee Report- Arlene, Michelle, Jeff
- SDSU Field Trips?- Tom