

**SD Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 4:30 p.m.**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Members Present: Rod Baumberger, Norman Bliss, Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Michelle Burke, Angela Ehlers, Rachel Frei, Yvonne Haefner, Jeanne Hamilton, Colette Kessler, David Kringen, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Dr. John McMaine, Andy Oxford, Deron Reusch, Tom Schumacher, Tammy Sommer, Tyler Tran, Stacy Turgeon, and Carrie Werkmeister

The meeting was called to order at 4:56 p.m. by Arlene Brandt-Jenson, after the 'Connecting Farm to Future' conference.

There were no additions to the agenda. John moved to approve, and Rachel seconded. Motion carried.

There were no corrections or additions to the Minutes for the December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Annual Meeting or the March 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting. John made a motion to approve, and Carrie seconded. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. The Fidelity Account had a downturn at the beginning of the year, but it did bounce back. The CD matured in October and was put back in Money Market. The checking account balance is low, and Andy plans on transferring money to it. Planned annual budgets were affected by the pandemic, and money was not fully utilized as planned. Promotional materials were purchased, and members were assisted in attending the International Annual Conference. Revenue streams this year were very low due to lack of conferences and fund-raising opportunities. Dividends and Long-Term Capital Gain should increase in December. Yvonne expressed concern that the Money Market and Mutual Fund were created for the scholarship and should not be used for other purposes. Norman suggested increasing internship funding and internship participants.

Rachel moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Carrie seconded. Motion carried.

Sandeep proposed that Arlene continue as President for another one-year term, since many plans for 2020 were shut down due to the pandemic. Arlene agrees to serve one more year with the help of the chapter members. Sandeep nominated Dr. John McMaine for Vice President. He also proposed to keep Tyler Tran as Secretary and Andy Oxford as Treasurer. John introduced himself and shared his background. Carrie made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the entire slate, seconded by Deron Reusch. Motion carried.

Michelle gave a summary and update on the Scholarship/Internship Committee, and how the student works with NRCS, the Conservation District, or another conservation employer. She plans to announce the 2021 Internship in Mid-January, in case there were low applicants, it would give time to announce a second round. There is also no age limit, but the intern must be in their second year of studies. Stacy suggested opening up the opportunity to high school graduates for a bigger pool. Rachel suggested maybe adding a \$500 high school scholarship. Michelle explained the thought process of having the Internship for students who have found their path. The Committee will discuss these changes.

Tom Schumacher solicited any ideas or help with the website maintenance.

Rachel is now the chair of the Membership/Publicity Committee. Tyler Tran, Cory Zirbel, and her have been recruiting new members across the state. The new promotional materials may come in handy once conferences and meetings are occurring in person again. Arlene encouraged members to like the Facebook Page, and invite others to like it. Rachel encouraged members to follow our Instagram page sd\_swcs and asked for ideas and pictures for our Instagram.

Tyler gave an update on the state of the newsletter Chapter Chatter and solicited members for ideas, articles, and any other input.

Andy has sold three soil painting kits. He asked members to reach out to teachers to help increase the number of sales. Andy will write up a little article explaining the kits. Carrie will reach out to her 4-H contacts and other groups to help increase sales. Andy has 10 kits ready and plenty of soil for future kits.

Arlene gave an update to the chapter members. She showed a screen of the benefits of being a member and what SWCS does, for the newer members and potential members that on the meeting. She then presented a few polls through Zoom to gauge members' ideas for pressing resource concerns, important aspects of being a member, and what priorities the chapter should work on in 2021. Hopefully, we can gain some new members after this conference. It was noted that at the 2019 annual meeting we had 35 members and we currently have 44 members.

Norman Bliss offered to speak with students at a career fair or a similar event to help spread the conservation message. Angela Ehlers suggested meeting with the Ag-Bio Prexy council at SDSU which works as a point of contact for all the related clubs and holds a job fair.

John McMaine will chair the Nominating Committee for 2021 with Deron Reusch and Jeanne Hamilton as committee members.

Lastly, Arlene did a drawing for a t-shirt and a \$50 gift card. Stacy won the gift card and Norman won the t-shirt. Congratulations! Arlene shared that we had 123 people registered from 14 states and 3 countries for the Connecting Farm to Future conference. Not all of those participated, but we had about 89 participants at the highest.

Tyler moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:48. Carrie seconded, and the motion carried.

Submitted by Tyler Tran, Secretary