

**South Dakota Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
Tuesday April 16th, 2019
Meeting, Via Phone**

Call to Order: Valeree DeVine called the meeting to order at 11:04am, with 7 members present via phone: Matti Osterman, Andy Oxford, Tammy Sommer, Jason Gilb, Arlene Brandt-Jenson, and Rod Baumberger.

Agenda: Arlene moved to approve the agenda. Jason seconded. Agenda approved.

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

Treasurer's Report: Andy Oxford

- **Budget-** Arlene moved to approve the 2019 budget, Matti seconded. Motion carried.
- **Switching Treasurers-** Andy reports that all the accounts are switched over into his and Val's names now. We now have a debit card and checks for our checking account through Wells Fargo. Andy still needs to get access to the Wells Fargo account online, there is some glitch that should be fixable. Only 1 signature is currently needed to write a check. Are we comfortable with that moving forward? It was agreed that one signature is fine.
- **Report-** \$254.45 was received from the National Office for our share of the member dues. Andy has deposited the money from the silent auction at the annual meeting, from the sale of one painting kit, and moved the money from the closed MO Federal Credit Union account in Huron to the new checking account. We had agreed to donate money to the Discovery center for their soil day event, Andy reimbursed himself for that expense since he wasn't on the account yet and they needed it sooner than we had the new account. \$65 was spent to get checks for the new account, should have plenty of checks for next 5 years. Arlene moved to approve the treasurer's report. Matti seconded, motion carried.
- **Financial Audit-** The 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 Ruesch and Michelle Burke. Val will send a reminder email and a deadline to complete this.

Committee Reports:

- **Soil Painting** - Andy Oxford- last sale was the 1 at the annual meeting in November. Andy has plenty of materials and kits made, so just need to spread the

word that they're for sale. Val requested to buy one personally, will get from Andy tomorrow.

- **Scholarship** – Arlene- There were 2 total applicants for the new internship program and 1 was good enough to receive the position. Jeff, Michelle, and Arlene (Scholarship Committee) are meeting later this week to discuss the offices the intern should be placed with and how to proceed.

Old Business:

- **Discovery Center**- Andy reported on the Soil Day event he helped with in Pierre at the Discovery Center, and to which we helped sponsor. 189 kids and 36 adults came and rotated through multiple stations. Our logo was listed as sponsor on materials and on the Facebook page.

New Business:

- **Membership Rebate Form**- The SD SWCS chapter has agreed to offer a 50% membership rebate in the first year to members who sign-up for automatic payroll deduction (or a similar equivalent) and 25% in the second year. If a payroll deduction option is unavailable, first year members are eligible for a 40% rebate and 15% rebate in year 2. Actual reimbursements are calculated below at the Conservationist level. Members may enroll in a higher level but will only be reimbursed at the Conservationist membership level.

<u>Automatic Deduction</u>		<u>No Automatic Deduction</u>
First Year	\$58	\$46
Second Year	\$29	\$18

- Wondered if we should offer a student rebate amount? It was decided to forego any student rebate until we have a more established professional membership. We hope that new NRCS members will receive this form in their onboarding packet from the State Con. We also need to put it on the website as a fillable form. Additions to include on form:
 - Once you receive the rebate you're not eligible again
 - Student members are not eligible for the rebate
 - What about lapsed members? Is this only for new people? We want to draw people back in, so people who are currently members as of 4/16/19 are not eligible, but those who have lapsed are. They cannot lapse and then rejoin with rebate. Val will send Andy the current membership list as of today, so he has it for his records.
 - Arlene moved to approve the use of the Membership Rebate Form with corrections/clarifications made today. Andy seconded, motion passed

- **Annual Chapter Report-** Carrie submitted this to the national office by the deadline in March.
- **SWCS National Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA July 28-31st.**
SD NRCS has approved Val and Judi Schultz to attend on time and government expense. Other members are welcome to go on their own.
- **SDSU Field Trips-** Tom Schumacher talked with SDSU professors, they wanted a field trip to happen in April and had some specific requirements. Didn't have the time to coordinate it on such short notice but want to get this done in the future, especially if we get some membership in the Brookings area.
- **Annual Meeting-** Hoping to have it in conjunction with AgHorizons December 10-11th in Pierre at the Ramkota. There are 7 hosting organizations, and all have to approve to allow us to be a part of it. Maybe we don't need to be a formal host but can be like the Conservation Districts and attend and sponsor something, such as a poster session or a guest speaker. We could also have our meeting portion in another conference room in town if the Ramkota is too full. Val will talk with Carrie about other options.

Matti moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:01pm. Tammy seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Matti Osterman

Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday June 5th, 11am