

**South Dakota Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
February 2rd, 2018
Board Meeting, Via Phone**

Call to Order: Carrie called the meeting to order at 11:05am, with 9 members present via phone: Matt Hubers, Carrie Werkmeister-Karki, Matti Kuykendall, Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Tammy Sommer, Jason Gilb, Val Devine, Lynsee Planting, and Doug Vik.

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

Secretary's Report: Arlene moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. Val seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Douglas Vik) Cut back 2018 budget from last year as expenses don't seem to be as high as in the past. \$56,208.13, all but \$4,000 is in the scholarship fund. Doug has not yet received the income from the auction at the Annual Meeting in October, Carrie will follow up with SRM. Jason moved to approve the 2018 budget and Tammy seconded. Budget approved.

Division Reports:

West - Sandra Huber- Absent, no report.

Northeast - Matt Hubers- No report.

Central - Andy Oxford- Absent, no report.

Southeast – Jason Gilb- No report.

Committee Reports:

Activities - No chair, no report.

Awards – Tammy Sommer - No report.

Conservation Ed/Ad hoc – Jason Gilb- Will be attending a camp for high school aged boys in Mitchell.

Fund Raising - No chair, no report.

History – Penny Galinat– Absent, no report.

Long Range – Judi Schulz– Absent, no report.

Membership – Heidi Reints was chair but is no longer a member. Currently we have 36 members in South Dakota according to Val.

Memorials – Doug Vik - No Report

Newsletter – Yvonne Haefner– Absent, no report.

Nominations – Judi Schulz– Absent, no report.

Publicity – Tom Schumacher– Absent, no report.

Scholarships – Arlene Brandt-Jensen - See new business.

Annual Conference – No chair, no report.

Old Business:

- SWCS banners - Andy- We can loan these from National to use at events like the water festival, AgFest, etc. We will hold off on purchasing our own until we know the direction of the club.
 - No update at this time.
- Envirothon - Matti- They are still working to increase the number of teams and get conservation districts to sponsor team travel. The next contest will be April 30th and May 1st, 2018 in Sioux Falls. The 2019 competition will be in Rapid City. They can always use volunteers during the competition as well as mentors to the teams.
 - People willing to volunteer include: Carrie, Tammy, Jason, Matti, Andy
- Soil Paint Kits – Andy will update shipping charges and change the mailing address on the order form. The website will need updated to reflect these changes.
 - No update at this time.
- South Dakota Discovery Center Water Festival Donation – Andy- Can we get credit somehow for our donation, as in advertisement? There are other water festivals in the state, should we donate to all of them? Maybe they are all connected and we can donate to the overall organization. If not, the consensus was that we don't want to donate to only one of them. Andy will report back.
 - No update at this time.
- Seed Fundraiser - Carrie- Millborn Seed sells a Garden Blend Cover Crop. We can sell a pollinator mix in the spring and a garden cover crop mix in the fall. We should pick up seed in February in time for spring pollinator planting. How should we advertise/market our seed?
 - Garden:
 - Classic trio mixture, plant after Sept 15th, \$100 for 50lb bag
 - Producer mix, need to plant before Sept 15th, \$100 for 50lb bag
 - Pollinator Mix:
 - Prairie Flower Medley, plant in spring, 5lb = \$20 cover 1000ft², 50lb = \$40
 - Should we even focus on fundraising with \$56,000? Maybe we need to focus more on finding our direction, growing membership. Doug moved to table this until a later meeting. Matt seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

- **National Conference:** Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 29 – August 1st. Theme: Culture, Climate, and Conservation
 - Need 2 NRCS people to represent SD, Kathy Irving needs to know by February 16th. We will suggest Val and Matti (may be gone on detail). Lynsee will serve as a back-up.

- **Scholarship** – Arlene’s notes: I called Doug Vik last week and talked with him about our declining membership/activity and the idea of starting to spend down the money in our accounts. He agreed with the situation and suggested we go to 2 \$1000 scholarships instead of the 2 \$500 scholarships we have been doing. When Cheryl and Michelle and I were together in November, we talked about 3 \$750 scholarships, (total \$2250), but 2 \$1000 would be easier to manage. I emailed Cheryl and Michelle and they are in agreement with that proposal. We usually announce the scholarships in early February, and the deadline is March 31. We have been giving 2 \$500 scholarships since 2010, \$450 before that. Since 2008 when I became the Committee Chair, we’ve averaged about 10 eligible applicants per year, with a low of 5 and a high of 18 since 2008. So I don’t foresee us having any trouble attracting good quality applicants into the future, and with a \$1000 amount, we should get more applicants.
 - Arlene moved to proceed with 2- \$1000 scholarships for this year. Doug seconded. Motion carried.

- **Annual Conference** – Any ideas/suggestions?
 - Try to join with a group other than SRM. Maybe PSSASD. Ask Craig V. if he would be willing to let us have a joint meeting. Where would it be?
 - Past attendance has been limited by distance to the meeting.
 - Matti moved to try to join annual meetings with PSSASD. Arlene seconded. Motion carried.

- **Website** – Tom Schumacher asked, what needs to be updated?
 - Officers
 - Committee members
 - Soil Painting kit prices

- **Officers** – We need a new president elect as Lynsee can no longer commit to the office. Officer terms should have expired at annual meeting in October.

- **Membership & Activity** – SD SWCS
 - Membership is expensive, NRCS no longer pays for attendance to our meetings, we are maybe given the time to attend.

- ND is thinking about if they want us or not. Their club is very strong and any SD members would be melded with them, not necessarily treated with equal weight. What about Montana, Nebraska or other states? Would increase the distance we'd need to travel to a meeting, which is already a problem within our own state.
 - Val suggested we could focus on restructuring the by-laws, revising the committees, and choosing 1 goal to accomplish. Arlene said she could help later this summer with re-vising the bylaws, she just did it for SD Master Gardeners.
 - By-laws are on the SWCS website sdswcs.org under the Organization tab and bylaws link.
 - Arlene moved to create a by-laws committee, with Val and Arlene as co-chairs, Lynsee seconded. Committee formed. Matti volunteered to join the committee. Arlene will contact National SWCS in Ankeny and be in touch within the next couple of weeks.
 - Would like new by-laws ready to be voted on and approved at the next annual meeting.
 - Membership should be thinking about the general direction the club wants to take.
- Next meeting: Last week of March or sometime in April
 - Update from By-Laws committee
 - Discuss the future of the chapter. One goal we would like to achieve.
 - Nominees for President-elect
 - Update on annual meeting with PSSASD
 - Water Festival donations
 - Carrie moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:18pm. Doug seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Matti Kuykendall
Secretary