

**South Dakota Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
January 20, 2016 Board meeting**

Present: Doug Vik, Jeff Stewart, Judi Schultz, Val DeVine, Tammy Sommer, Chris Lousias, Yvonne Haefner, Matt Hubers, Andy Oxford, Carrie Werkmeister-Karki

Meeting called to order: 11:04 a.m.

Agenda approved: Chris moved to accept the agenda and Judi seconded. Motioned carried unanimously.

Minutes reviewed and approved. Motion made by Doug Vik and seconded by Jeff Stewart.

Treasurer's report- Sandy Smart cashed the annual meeting checks in December, but SWCS has not received the monetary report from the meeting yet. Need to follow-up with Jeff Vander Wilt on SWCS's portion of the funds. Doug needs to make a correction to \$476 on the dividends column. Doug wondered if the Dividends should be apart of the Long Term Capitol Gain item on the budget. Jeff S. suggested he should add an asterisk to show this money should only be spent on scholarships.

Judi moved to accept the budget and treasurer's report and Jeff seconded it.

Directors' Reports:

West-None

NE-Matt Hubers—Very excited how annual meeting went.

Central- Andy setup the Ag Horizons/SDACD booth on behalf of SWCS. Not as good a turnout as would have liked to see. There was no cost for this booth. Environthon will be in Brookings on March 11th if anyone is interested in volunteering. Need 5 group leaders to watch for cheating and direct each group from station to station and enter data into the computer system. Andy will touch base with Ann to see how many more volunteers will be needed and he will follow-up with an email to the group.

SE-Jeff Stewart-None

Committees:

Awards-Due by the end of February. Looking for nominations. SD members received awards--76, 90, 12-Yvonne, 13-Val, 14-Andy,

Nominations—Carrie Werkmeister-Karki agreed to accept the President-Elect position for next year. Central-Andy Oxford agreed to continue as director. We are in need of a SE Director-Merissa Dominguez is a possible option. Judi S. will be responsible for nominations for 2017.

Website-Chris wants it to be useful. Current events added. Need to spruce it up and make it useful. If anyone has any information to put on the website, please send to Chris.

Scholarships-Arlene sent an email. Will be sending info to the SD colleges and tech schools to inform them of the scholarships available. Michelle Burke and Cheryl Reese are committee members.

Old Business:

Ag Horizons/SDACD Conference & Environthon

Discussed during Director's reports.

AgFest (Legislative Meet & Greet)-last year this was successful. Chris and Andy donated popcorn last year for the booth. Yvonne bought a brand new popcorn popper. At the Ramkota last year. Last year did the Slake test, which drew a crowd. Tammy said she saw North Carolina had a state display and had passerby's paint their counties with the soils from the soil kits. Neat idea. Jeff said it's Jan 25 from 5-8:30pm this year.

Mosaic—Need to follow-up with Jeff Z. Overall consensus seemed favorable. Board agreed we'd be willing to assist with presenting it. Maybe at these booths. It may need to stay at the NRCS state office for a majority of the time when not on display at events.

Scholarship—Discussed a lot of ideas about our scholarships. Possible opportunities suggested:

1. Ross Davies scholarship at SDSU.
 - a. Merge 1 or both of our scholarships with it
 - i. Concerned about lack of SWCS recognition and only appealing to SDSU students
 - b. Add \$250-\$500 to increase the value of the Ross Davies scholarship
 - i. Need to find out if SWCS would get recognition if we added funds to the Ross Davies—Tammy will follow-up on this.
2. Add another scholarship because we have funds available, or do we?
3. Review Scholarship Criteria—are the letters of recommendation holding back good candidates from applying
 - a. Last year sent to 18 schools. Received 14 applications and 10 met the criteria.
 - b. Maybe look into reducing requiring 2 letters of recommendations down to 1

Tabled scholarship discussion until an upcoming meeting, possibly face-to-face, to discuss scholarship criteria for 2017. No changes will be made for 2016. Will want Arlene to weigh in as scholarship chair.

New Business-

Judi motioned and Tammy seconded to appoint the following officers:

President-Elect—Carrie Werkmeister-Jarki

Central-Andy Oxford

Secretary-Valeree DeVine

Treasurer-Doug Vik

Next Board meeting—April 13th @ 10:30am via teleconference

Meeting was adjourned by Chris and seconded by Judi.

Respectfully Submitted,
Val DeVine
Secretary