

**South Dakota Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
Annual Meeting-Ft Pierre
Oct 8-9, 2014**

Present: President-Chris Louisias, Secretary-Val DeVine, Central Director-Andy Oxford, NE Director-Matt Hubers, Awards Chair-Tammy Sommer, Membership Chair-Heidi Rients, President-Elect- Judi Schultz, Members-Mike Larson, Jeff Zimprich, Jerry Jasmer

The meeting was called to order by Chris Louisias.

Agenda was reviewed and no additions were made.

The last board meeting and last year's annual meeting minutes were emailed out. Judi Schultz moved to approve minutes and Heidi Rients seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report- Doug Vik emailed report. Doug would like to continue to perform the Treasurer duties from Texas. Chris checked and Ankeny headquarters said anyone can be a member from anywhere. Heidi moved to approve the treasurer's report and Matt Hubers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Zimprich and Jerry Jasmer confirmed their support for a planned technical meeting for next year. Jeff's preferred topics of focus include topics 1-4 below. The value of attending these meetings is for personal and professional growth and new ideas. Jeff said they are working on a bulletin showing their support for involvement in professional societies and also is considering writing a conservation note encouraging employees to seek out technical workshops to enhance their technical abilities. Jeff also suggested to encourage membership by offering a reduced registration cost for members attending next year's technical meeting and also encouraging the payroll deduction. It costs \$3.46/pay period, which is easier to swallow than \$90 at one time. Chris will follow-up with Jeff to see if the payroll deduction option could be included in the bulletin.

Suggested topics for the 2015 technical meeting include:

1. Soil Health
2. Pollinators
3. Integrating livestock in the system
4. Salinity
5. Dakota Lake Research Farm (tour)
6. Why tillage---warming the soil, always done it that way, no-till doesn't work
7. Gabe Brown
8. USGS/Ogallala Aquifer
9. Tiling
10. Beef blogs (Amanda Radke, etc)-banquet speaker
11. Pine Beetles
12. Water Quality
13. Geology of area

Directors' Reports:

NE-Compliments to Matt Hubers on putting together an excellent annual meeting agenda

Central-Andy helped with the Environthon. Only 2 teams this time. Lennox received first place. Due to lack of participation they are considering holding it in conjunction with State FFA

Convention on Monday possibly in 2016. Andy will research the date for the Legislative meet and greet. He thought the Chamber was the contact. Chris would like to attend.

Committees:

Awards-Tammy S. asked for nominations for next year. It was suggested to nominate Andy Oxford for his work with the Environthon and Soil Painting Kits.

Website-Tom Schumacher re-upped our website host fee. He is wondering if there would be someone else or another person that could also help update the website. Chris will email the membership for volunteers to assist with the website.

Annual Meeting-2014 meeting has been a success thus far. Matt should be commended for his work on this year's annual meeting and taking charge with his Director duties!

Activities-Summer activity was suggested for next summer. Camping 2 summers ago was a lot of fun. Since we need to expand our membership, we need to focus on a fun activity. It was suggested to go tubing down the Niobrara and camp along it. Both adult and family activities were suggested. Also camping and water activities were suggested as a more family friendly option. Jeff Stewart has 11 acres of Aronia berries down by Pickstown if we're looking to incorporate a tour. Heidi and Tammy will research options and report back in January.

Membership-Mike Larson has recently committed to joining SWCS. We all need to continue to encourage membership. We need to encourage the payroll deduction to help reduce losing members.

Nominations- The NE & Central Director positions should be expiring this year. Matt Hubers and Andy Oxford have both agreed to run for the positions again. Tammy Sommer has agreed to take on the President-Elect position next year.

Scholarship-Winners include: Paige Hermanson-SDSU Agronomy student from Doland, SD and Mark Sperry-NSU Biology BS/Biotechnology AS from Bath, SD.

New Business:

Technical meeting-

1. Andy Oxford will chair the committee. All members in attendance at the annual meeting have agreed to be on the committee (Matt, Chris, Judi, Tammy, Val, Heidi, and Mike)
2. Other states would like to see the Dakota Lakes Research Farm so Pierre/Ft Pierre site is preferred. Need to take a closer look at the 2009 technical meeting in Rapid City.
3. Andy will visit with Dwayne tomorrow after the tour about a June tour.
4. Andy will do some research on facilities (hotel, meeting rooms, meals) and report back in January.
5. Committee will meet via teleconference Dec 2 @ 3pm.

Next Board meeting—January 15 @ 9am. All members are welcome to join.

Meeting was adjourned by Tammy and seconded by Judi.

Respectfully Submitted,
Val DeVine
Secretary