

**South Dakota Chapter
Soil & Water Conservation Society
October 8, 2015 Annual meeting**

Present: President-Judi Schultz, Secretary-Val DeVine, Treasurer-Doug Vik (via phone), Central Director-Andy Oxford (via phone), NE Director-Matt Hubers, President-Elect- Tammy Sommer, Members-Jeff Zimprich, Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Carrie Werkmeister-Jarki, Yvonne Haefner

The meeting was called to order by Judi Schultz.

Agenda was reviewed and no additions were made.

Last year's annual meeting minutes were read. Tammy Sommer moved to approve minutes and Arlene Brandt-Jenson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report- Doug Vik emailed report. Scholarship amounts were discussed. In 2010, we increased the amounts given from \$450 to 2 recipients to \$500 to 2 recipients. Currently, we've been able to operate off of fundraising and our silent auctions to pay for the scholarships. At this time the board decided to keep the scholarship amounts the same. We discussed any hurdles we are facing with Doug being in TX. He mentioned with the ability to make 5 deposits/day and 10/month online, he hasn't run into any issues. Jeff Zimprich offered he could assist with any banking needs locally in Huron if we needed help. Arlene moved to approve the treasurer's report and Yvonne Haefner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Zimprich informed us that Jean Nagel (California), granddaughter of Ross Davies (longest running State Conservationist from 1937-1959), approached Jeff personally or a representative from the SWCS chapter about assisting with presenting the Ross Davies scholarship at the SDSU Ag Bio scholarship banquet on behalf of the family because they may not be able to make it each year since she lives in California. They give out 1--\$500 scholarship. She continues Ross' passion for Conservation and wants to recognize her grandfather's work and honor Conservation. We agreed if Jeff could not attend the scholarship banquet each year, we have some members living in Brookings that may be able to assist. We would be willing to help out.

Jean also asked Jeff about a glass mosaic made by Jean's mom that was donated to NHQ SWCS in Ankeny, IA. She wondered if Jeff or the SD SWCS chapter would be interested in housing and displaying it on a rotational basis so more people could see it? The following locations were suggested: State Capitol, SDSU Ag Museum, State Fair, Chamberlain-Hall of Fame, NRCS state office, etc. Jeff said he would take responsibility for getting it here. We were concerned about maintaining its condition and not breaking it.

Jeff brought up the opportunity of entering into a Contribution Agreement with NRCS as a possible money making opportunity, assist with technical training, mentoring, education, produce soil health or infiltration kits. The board will need to continue discussions on this opportunity.

Jeff asked for Penny's contact info to gather some SWCS historic information for Ross Davies' family.

Directors' Reports:

West-None

NE-Matt Hubers—Worked with Sandy Smart on organizing this year's annual meeting. So far everyone enjoyed the soil health focus. Said they didn't charge the college students the full price for attending. It was refreshing to have the college age kids in attendance. Everyone in attendance preferred a joint meeting and agreed teaming with SRM has been worthwhile.

Central- Yvonne and Andy attended the Pierre Water Festival. They sang the recycling song and completed earth bracelets with about 200+ students. Soil 1 soil painting kit. Environthon will be March 11th at SDSU. Andy said they are always looking for volunteers for it and anyone can call Ann at the Discovery Center in Pierre to volunteer.

SE-None

Committees:

Awards-Tammy is accepting nominations for national awards, which are due in February. Again the focus is on the Commendation Award and Professional Development Award.

Membership-Heidi checks weekly reports and reminds them to renew. We currently have 48 members.

Nominations—Carrie Werkmeister-Karki agreed to accept the President-Elect position for next year.

Website-Currently costs \$19.99/year. \$15 renewal will be due in September 2016. Judi will ask Chris if she will take the lead on the website.

Scholarships-Arlene handed out a summary of the scholarship info. Cheryl Reese and Michelle Burke are the committee members with Arlene. Deadline March 31. 2--\$500 apps. Jeff Z. suggested asking the scholarship winners to donate 8 hours of their time as an NRCS Earth Team Volunteer as a potential recruitment tool for NRCS and to give back to Conservation. Could be done at any office. No action was taken at this time.

Old Business

International Meeting- Tammy Sommer attended and gave a presentation on Soil Health. Tammy was asked to summarize her experiences and send Yvonne a write-up.

Regional Meeting- \$398 profit was made for Pierre meeting. Original purpose of the Regional Meeting when it started was for Leadership. It was recommended moving forward that we add more on professional development at the meeting.

Ag Horizons/SDACD Conference

Angela extended an invitation for a free booth. Andy agreed to take the lead on it. Judi will ask Chris if she would also like to man the booth with Andy.

Next Board meeting—January 14th @ 10am. (Later changed to Jan 20 @ 10am CST via teleconference).

Meeting was adjourned by Arlene and seconded by Valeree.

Respectfully Submitted,
Val DeVine
Secretary