

**SWCS – Empire Chapter
October 17, 2003
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Rich Wildman, Jeff Carmichael, Elaine Dalrymple, Dick Dale, Dan Dostie, Mike Dennis, Dana Chapman, Lee Telega.

President Rich Wildman called the meeting to order at 10:25 am. The minutes of the August 13, 2003 meeting were reviewed and one correction was made. Dan said that the deadline for the awards should listed as Nov. 1st not October 1st. Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Dan seconded. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dick handed out the Treasurer's Report and said that not too much has changed. There is about \$11,000 in the checking account. 300 copies of the Contractors Notebook have been ordered for a cost of \$3,300, approx. \$12 each. We sell it for \$25. This purchase is not reflected in this month's statement. Dick said we are trying to maintain \$11,000 in the checking account and this should not be hard since there is some income expected from book sales to Don Lake. Rich wondered if we are financially on track for what we had projected and Dick said that we are. Elaine made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jeff seconded. All in favor.

National/Regional SWCS Issues:

2003 Annual Chapter Meeting: Discussion occurred on possible topics for the meeting. Dan mentioned conservation easements and Rich suggested ISO as a topic i.e. environmental management is about delivering a quality product. Rich conceded this might be more relevant to big farm operations. Lee asked what the purpose of the Annual Meeting is? Elaine commented that she thought it was not to cover nuts and bolts type issues rather challenging, untraditional topics that get people thinking. Lee mentioned air quality issues on farms. Dan reminded us that there are 5 possible topics listed in the Aug. minutes. Dan said environmental credits are getting talked about a lot. Rich suggested environmental policy and ag. and perhaps have someone from EPA come. Attendees need to enjoy the day. Elaine mentioned an editorial in the Chesapeake Bay Journal re: there needs to be more enforcement on farms since nutrient management plans do not seem to be reducing nutrients. Lee heard a doctor talk about the impact of particulate emissions from farms at a conference. Someone from Table Rock Farms in Wyoming Co. was suggested re: public relations. Having an environmental representative from Spitzer's office was also suggested. Jeff wondered what the message is that we are trying to convey? Basically, that there are other views that need to be understood. Bob Foster from CCE (Concerned Citizens for the Environment) in Albany would be a good moderator for a panel discussion. An Environmental Defense person might be good or the NYC attorney handling the Willet dairy case or maybe someone from one of the organic organizations. Rich commented that organic groups tend to be less interested in policy per se. Elaine would like an EPA rep there. Chuck Benbrook, NSF, does policy analysis especially environmental issues. He was involved with the NSF review of organic agriculture. The time for the meeting would be 10 am to 3 pm. Benbrook could speak first and run the meeting. Dana suggested we ask Rick Zimmerman of Farm Bureau about his ideas and also ask Congressmen/women re: their

ideas for speakers. **Rich will contact Benbrook and Lee will contact Bob Foster.** Lee suggested we include an attorney who has been involved in ag/environment legal cases. Rich and Dan wondered what they would provide. Lee mentioned a Scenic Hudson guy who manages their conservation easement program. A title for this year's meeting was decided upon. It will be **'Is Farming Good for the Environment? What Environmental Advocates Say.**

Rich has a big mailing list from last year's meeting and we used this for the newsletter. Mike asked if this had Coop. Extension offices in it, especially natural resources agents. Rich: we need to enhance our mailing list. Dan suggested we send it to the Empire Chapter Region reps. Rich will send his list around to everyone. Last year we sent the meeting notice electronically and hard copy. **Dana reminded us that we need to have our Annual Business meeting during our Annual meeting. We should distribute our Annual Report that we send to national to the membership.**

NE Regional Meeting: This will occur on the afternoon of Dec. 11th after NYS meeting and all day on the 12th. Marilyn Stephenson is developing it. Lots of discussion occurred about this meeting and logistics. Lee said if the meeting will be small, 10 or so people, then having one of the houses at Rensselaerville is cheaper for the meeting than the conference center. Dana will double check about conditions on renting the center. We have a \$950 deposit with them. Further discussion occurred about whether the NRCS training on Dec. 8 and 9th in Owego will deter NRCS employees from coming to the NE Regional training in Rensselaerville. Rich will double check with NRCS about this. The possibility of moving the regional training to January was also considered.

2005 National Meeting: Jim Hotaling was nominated to be a national board member representing the NE. Everyone signed a form to make it official to put him on the NE ballot. Last year's National Meeting lost \$30,000. They had reserved a slot of rooms and they weren't filled. Now national is trying to find ways to save money to make up for this loss. National no longer gets NRCS money to help support it because NRCS has stopped writing cooperative agreements. Dan says they still have contribution agreements. The loss of NRCS money is affecting the national office's budget.

We need to wait until the program committee meets to discuss a theme for the meeting. Peter Wright is on this committee. The theme for 2004 was 'Headwaters for Conservation.' There was discussion on a possible theme for 2005 meeting. Does it need to be general? We need to get ideas to Peter. We like the theme of our NYS Annual Meeting and need to make it meet a more general title. Rich said that we want to incorporate environmentalists' views and ag. business views for implementing ag. environmental management. Dana said the national office wants to have a big crowd for a symposium type program. Rich wondered how can we make an agreement with Cornell/NRAES. Rich suggested we talk to Craig Cox and ask that we have some latitude in setting up the national annual meeting. NRAES knows how to make money on meetings. Our 2005 meeting would be an NRAES type meeting in SWCS clothing.

Nominations: Jeff will be bugging people about nominations so that ballots will be back by the Annual meeting. Jeff will be sending the ballot out in the beginning of November.

Publications: Don wants to update the Erosion and Sediment control book. **We should invite Don to our next meeting.** He wants to update the contractors' notebook as well. Jeff is willing to continue to help do the particulars related to getting more copies of publications. NE wants to do a regional meeting on stormwater and we should get Don's opinion.

Newsletter: We need topics. Front page should be about our December, State Annual Meeting. We should have an article about the 2005 national meeting and that Peter Wright is co-chair of the program committee. **Dana** will write this. **Lee** will draft an article about the State annual meeting and send to **Rich** to embellish or edit. There will be an article about the call for papers for the national meeting. **Dick** will do this. Nominations extended article – **Dan** will write this so we can get this program publicized. Here comes the ballot article – **Jeff**. Articles should go to Lee and Gordie will lay it out. **Rich will send Gordie labels.** Articles should be to Lee before November 1st.

Terminated members: Lee handed out a list. Lee will call the Cornell folks. We split up the list so that area reps make calls. Mike calls Landers, Lee will call Rich Lewis. Any new members? Not sure.

Lee is wondering what his job is re: his membership on this Board. Elaine will work on the updating of the By-Laws. By-laws are on the web site. We need this done by the time the new officers come on.

Lee asked how new members get on our newsletter list? We shouldn't take old members off the mailing list. Dana knows how to contact national for updated membership lists. New members should be welcomed by the area rep. who will encourage active involvement, ask about the new members' interests and promote our organization.

Dan handed out a draft of an article about the Awards Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm. We are going to try to avoid having another meeting before the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Elaine Dalrymple
Secretary