

**SWCS Empire Chapter  
February 13, 2002  
Council Meeting  
Minutes**

**Present:** Jeff Carmichael, Dana Chapman, Dan Dostie, Jim Calhoun, Ellen Luchsinger, Julie Burger, Henry DeMoras, Bill Keating, Dick Dale, Elaine Dalrymple.

President, Jeff Carmichael, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. The minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion made by Dick Dale.

Dana gave a report on **national activities**. He started by asking us if we read the Chapter Notes. They are on the web at [swcs.org](http://swcs.org), and also in the Conservogram. Dana gave an update on the Farm Bill. It is presently in the Senate. Predictions are that it will be passed in the next 2 weeks. It looks like commodities will get more support; there will be more for conservation, and a milk support program may replace dairy compacts. Dana said that it is going to be hard to fund all the present national staff with membership funds. Charlie Persinger (member rep for national) is resigning. This will help the budget. Dana wants to help more with membership when he goes off of the national board. He encouraged everyone to attend the Regional Leadership conference, March 6-8, 2002. There will be a lot of information presented on nutrient management and on stormwater issues. Ellen will be doing a display for the conference. The cost is \$190 for the whole conference, plus \$25 for registration. Ellen, Marilyn Stephenson, Charlie Highland (student rep.), Jeff, and Bill Keating are going. The National Meeting starts on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Dana commented that Craig Cox has raised the image of SWCS at the national level. SWCS is now looked at as a leader in the conservation area. Membership is an important issue. We need to be able to offer members something. Dana mentioned that Jim Bruce (sic), the Canadian representative to SWCS is an authority on global warming.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeff handed out a copy of the Treasurer's Report. **Highlights:** Our net worth is about the same as in December. Dick Dale will be taking over as Treasurer. We need to look at the Treasury, with regards to where we want to put the funds. We should have a budget. We are not a high volume organization but we should do some long term planning and develop a budget as we do so. Dana suggested that we get an internal audit done and have a one page budget outline done as part of this. Henrie DeMoras volunteered to help with an internal audit. He will meet with Jeff and Dick. Cayuga County is willing to help with some of our books. Lisa Miller would be the person to help. Our official address is Cayuga County. She would write day-to-day checks. Dana suggested we explore this while we are getting ready to switch over the books to Dick. Cayuga Co. charges \$1.00 per book for a handling fee on those that we sell and then we pay a mailing service (Cases Unlimited) to send out the books. Dana is the chapter historian. Jim made a motion that Jeff, Henrie, Dick explore looking at Lisa

Miller of Cayuga SWCD to help with Treasurer duties and what this would cost. Julie seconded. All in favor. Julie moved Treasurer's report, Dan seconded. All in favor.

## **Committee Reports**

**Publications** - Jeff handed out a summary sheet of the publications that we sell. Don has a proposal in to DEC to redo the Storm Water Runoff book. All books are \$25, except the Reducing the Impact is \$15 and the CD is \$5. Sold to SWCD's at discount if more than 10 are ordered. DEC in Vermont wants to order 200 of the Erosion and Sediment Control Field Notebooks. Don has some extra. They asked about possibly receiving a discount. Jeff recommended we charge \$20. We need to reorder. Don recommended we order 300 inserts, 200 binders and 200 pens. Cortier in Syracuse prints them and will quote a price for 200, 300 and 500. Book will be redone in 2 years so we don't want to have too many on hand. We will be getting more CD's too. Jim moved approving printing 300 inserts, buying 200 binders and 200 pens. Henrie seconded. All were in favor. Henrie moved we extend a \$5.00 per book discount to non-district entities if they buy 50 or more and \$5.00 discount to Districts for 10 or more. Julie seconded. All were in favor.

**Scholarships** – Ellen handed out a copy of the 2001 Annual Report. It is essentially the same report as presented at the Annual Meeting. We should get a brochure made to promote the scholarships. There is an organization that will promote your scholarships (CASH). Maybe we should talk to the colleges and find out when the best time is to promote these. The Ron Fletcher scholarship is just for Paul Smith's and we didn't get any applicants this year. Julie wondered if we have tried to get professors at the schools to act as advocates for the scholarships. Henrie suggested that we call the program a grant program instead of scholarships because there are no restrictions on how the money can be used. Ellen's committee will work on the guidelines for the 2002 scholarship program. Julie will help do a brochure for the program.

**Awards** - Margaret Fusco would like to step down from being in charge of this group and asked Dan if he would take over as chairperson. Dan is willing and was appointed. Dan was wondering if the District Employees Association could help promote the SWCS awards, especially the Conservation Education award. Dan handed out a new form to be used to advertise the awards. We need to explain the goals of the SWCS and/or Empire Chapter for the Special Achievement award. Recipients receive plaques. Jim is willing to help write articles to promote the program and the recipients.

**Newsletter** - Craig Schutt said at the Annual Meeting that he is still interested in helping to produce it. Each division rep should write a newsletter article. We should try to get it out by April 1st. Articles should be to Craig by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Jeff will talk to Craig to make sure he is still interested in doing the newsletter. July 1<sup>st</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup> will be dates for sending out the other issues. Next year we will start in January and try to get this out quarterly. It would be good to send our newsletters out to Presidents of the chapters in the Northeast. Bill will write an article on the Northeast Leadership Workshop. We should promote the national annual meeting in the April

newsletter. Julie will do this. Jeff will do a write up on the Annual Meeting in December and try to get photos that were taken. Include an insert on the awards.

**Summer Meeting** - Jeff got a letter from the Greater Adirondack RC&D asking for \$250 to support their water festival on August 2, 2002 at Caroga Lake. Jim made a motion that we support them for \$250. Dick seconded. All in favor.

**Annual Meeting** - National Meeting is July 13-17 in Indianapolis. What kind of support will we offer? NRCS employees cannot accept this money. Henrie moved that we provide the same support as we did last year (3 scholarships for up to \$650 each and Board members paid for. Seconded by ? All were in favor. The topic for this year's NYS annual meeting and the type of meeting needs to be decided. Rich Wildman should form a committee to help decide this. Everyone will try to think of topics and locations for Annual Meeting.

**Professional Development** - We need to think of what types of programs we would like to have. CNMP's are going to be talked about at the Northeast Leadership Development Program and where SWCS fits in.

**Northeast Leadership Workshop** - Do we want to support people to go? Julie made a motion to support 3 people to go at \$215 each. Henri seconded. All in favor.

**Envirothon** - A letter was received from Sherry Forgash asking for a \$3,000 donation to support the state competition in May at Cobleskill. Julie made a motion to donate \$2,500. Henrie seconded. All in favor. Jeff will find out when Sherry needs the money.

Divston Climate Control Co. wants to make a donation to Envirothon but they are not 501 c 3 so wondered if we could accept \$1,500 so they can write it off on their taxes. The Board decided not to accept it. Jeff will ask Jim Hotaling to check with RC&D to see if they can act as a go between.

**Display** - Ellen said that the cost for a display board would be about \$400 - \$500. Dan made a motion to purchase a display for up to \$500. Julie seconded. All in favor.

**Next Meeting** – April 23<sup>rd</sup> in Lafayette.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Elaine Dalrymple  
Secretary