

**2004 Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Empire Chapter  
Annual Meeting  
November 4, 2004**

**Theme for Technical Workshop:**

**‘New Models, Tools and Policy for Diversified Comprehensive Conservation Plans’**

**Minutes from Business Meeting:**

Tony Esser, President called the meeting to order at 8:15 am. He thanked everyone for his or her support and commented that continued and enhanced support is needed for the 2005 SWCS National Meeting planning to be held in Rochester, NY. This will require lots of work.

**Minutes of 2003 Annual Meeting:** Copies were handed out to members and Secretary, Elaine Dalrymple reviewed highlights. Peter Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Ellen Luchsinger seconded and all were in favor.

**Scholarships:** Ellen Luchsinger mentioned that we rolled out the 2003 scholarship program at the last annual meeting- February 26, 2004. There were 5 applicants and two winners: Lori Karrigan and Timothy Terry. Ellen handed out a written report with biographical information on the winners. There were no applicants for the Paul Smith’s College scholarship (Ron Fletcher Memorial). 2004 applicants are being received until January 15, 2005.

**Awards:** Dan Dostie reported that there were 6 nominations for 5 awards. These awards will be given after lunch. Dan mentioned that Marilyn Stephenson would talk about the program after lunch. Sarah Krohn will replace Dan as Chair of the Awards Committee.

**Book Sales:** Tony reported that sales are doing well. A hard copy of the new Stormwater Guide (the ‘Blue Book’ – Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control for NY) will be coming out soon along with CD’s.

**Mini-grants:** Bill Keating reminded members that this program was started two years ago. Last year the Empire Chapter awarded 3 grants for \$2,000 and they were mostly for educational purposes. There has been only one application this year. Applications go to the Regional Representatives and the maximum grant amount is for \$1,000. Applications are available at this meeting.

**Membership Committee:** Lee Telega reported that there are 128 members. There are 7 new members but we also lost 10 others. Many do not see the value of SWCS membership. There are 16 lifetime members and 6 non-profit members. Tony reminded people to update their e-mails with national so it is easier to communicate.

**Communications Committee:** Empire Chapter newsletters are available on the chapter website. Tony said he wants to have them come out monthly since the National Meeting

is coming up. The website was shown by Dan via a cable connection. Cornell designed the website. 'Live Mind Design' just hosts it now. Dan is helping to maintain it with Tony's help. Address is [www.swcsnewyork.org](http://www.swcsnewyork.org). Since Dan will be President next year, Tony asked members interested in helping to maintain the website to contact Dan.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dick Dale handed out a copy to every member. Income from sale of publications (housed at Cayuga Co. SWCD) is primarily from the Stormwater Design Manual and Erosion and Sediment Control Guide. Dick went through the report. We have opened up a checking account for the National Meeting. Bub Barra made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Steve Mahcovec seconded. All in favor.

**Nominations:** A Slate of Officers for 2004-2005 was presented.

President: Dan Dostie

President-Elect: Tibor Horvath

Vice President: Brian Boerman

Secretary: Steven Machovec

Treasurer: Jim Hotaling

Council 2: Mike Dennis

Council 3: Sarah Kron (current rep. T. Horvath)\_

Council 4: Bill Keating

Council At-Large: Lee Telega

Student Representative:

As retiring President, Tony Esser will remain on the Board as Past-President.

Elaine moved the Slate of Officers and Ellen Luchsinger seconded. All in favor.

**Rochester National Meeting:** Peter Wright discussed the technical program. Abstract ideas need to be submitted by November 29<sup>th</sup>. Can either do a presentation or a poster. Peter encouraged members to submit proposals to present saying that it is a wonderful opportunity. Brochures about the National Conference were available at the meeting. Peter and Pam Joosse from Ontario Co. are co-chairing the technical coordination. A promotional brochure is being completed and 5,000 copies will be printed.

**Local Arrangements Committee:** Information on the chairpersons of various subcommittees, responsibilities and members was included on the back of the Business meeting agenda. Tony reviewed the committees. Jim Hotaling, Finance Committee Chair says there is not a budget yet. He has asked folks in Minnesota, hosts of last year's meeting for copy of their budget. Jim read a letter that he wrote to Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffman in April asking for \$15,000 to \$20,000 from NYS. Jim received word that \$20,000 is in the NYS budget to support the national meeting. Jim would like to have the budget done in two weeks. He wants to get started early. Gary Sick commented that the real role of every member is to sell Exhibit space and that we should be able to sell space for \$5,000. We need to make face-to-face contact with potential exhibitors. We could probably take less \$ for the space and still break-even. The Minnesota SWCS state chapter made \$90,000 on last year's meeting that they gave to the National office. Tony explained the different donation levels and the benefits a group would receive for making each level of donation. Jim said that we need to get transportation costs figured out. Bill Keating asked how much National helps us with finances and Jim said not

much. NRCS will support the meeting. Joe Delvecchio said it will be part of the NRCS discretionary budget but he doesn't know exactly how much it is yet. Dana Chapman mentioned that if people cannot afford an exhibit space or major donation, take whatever they would give us for silent auction items.

Tibor Horvath: chair of **Technology Committee** is asking companies on how EMI, located at the Rochester Conference Center contracted re: 10 concurrent sessions \$450 per day for projectors, \$175 for computers, \$150 for a technician for a total cost of \$38,000 -\$40,000. If a volunteer works 8 hours, get free registration valued at \$200.

Don Wild: **Conservation tours.** 8-10 people have volunteered for the committee. 5 technical tours on August 3<sup>rd</sup>; 2 half-day tours, three full day tours. Need to be within about 1-1.5 hours of Rochester. About 200-220 people participate. Need buses and lunches. There usually is a \$25 cost to tour participants. Fee will depend on how much support we get.

Don Kuhn: **Social tours.** Winery tour of Finger Lakes will be one. Trip to Niagara Falls and Canada another tour. Need volunteers to be on the bus tours. Possibly Corning Glass would be an option.

**Activities:** JoAnn Kurtis reported that the Rochester Red Wings are not in town but the Rochester Rhinos soccer team will be in town. There are facilities to host a large group. Cost would be \$8 to \$16 not including food. Other youth activities: an educational tour for older youths through a local orienteering club (cost \$15 each); Seabreeze amusement park (\$12), to rent a tent (\$150); half day at Seneca Park Zoo (\$6-\$8); Museum day with several museums.

**Greg Albrecht:** Student track. Greg said they have some good ideas. Poster session for students. Leadership and career seminars were conducted last year. Greg said nice job done in Minnesota and he has been in touch with organizer. A recruitment seminar would be a nice addition.

Tony presented a Presidential Citation to Dan Dostie for all of the assistance he has provided to Tony and the Empire Chapter. Tony turned the meeting over to Dan who thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to lead the organization. Dan is glad to see that our chapter is now quite diverse. One of Dan's jobs is to reach out to everyone. Dan turned it back over to Tony. Tony thanked other members of the Council. Tibor moved meeting adjourn at 9:33 am. Ellen seconded. All in favor.

Technical Session followed after the Business Meeting.

Minutes taken by  
Elaine Dalrymple, Secretary