

Minutes of the Empire State Chapter of SWCS's
60th Annual Business Meeting
Held at the Holiday Inn, Auburn NY
Wednesday November 8th, 2006

President's Welcome: President Tibor Horvath called the meeting to order at 9:35am. In his address he cited some of the year's accomplishments including his representation of the chapter as delegate to the Society's annual meeting in Keystone CO this past summer, the delivery of a No Till Workshop in Avon this fall, and an excellent training session to follow the meeting. Of special note, member Peter Wright was awarded the prestigious Fellow award at the Society Meeting in Keystone. Tibor also introduced Society President Theo Dillaha who is a guest speaker later in the technical program.

Treasurers Report: Jim Hotaling was absent but Lisa Miller, chapter book keeper was called in from the registration table. While she was preparing her report Jeff Carmichael, chair of the book sales committee made a request for the chapter to order 250 Contractor Field Notebooks. Dan Dostie, Past President made the motion, Sara Kron Vice President seconded. Carried with no opposition. Lisa Miller then handed out a written report on Jim's behalf.

Awards Committee Report: Sarah Kron, Awards Committee Chair reported that although the number of nominations was low, 3 were received and selected. Larry Geohring was presented the Commendation Award for his excellent record of active service over the years. Dan Dostie was invited as past president to present the Merit Award to Tibor Horvath for his leadership as president. And the Education Award went to the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Program. Sarah requested reimbursement of \$131.50 for purchasing plaques and engravings. Approved. Dan Dostie reminded members that Society Award nominations, such as for the Fellow Award are due December 12th.

Canon Envirothon Bubb Barra reported that he was the chapter delegate to the Canon Envirothon scheduled to be held in Geneva, NY from July 28th to August 4th, 2007. He attended the 2006 competition in Manitoba, Canada to learn about organizing the event. There are 5 stations of competition including Soils, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Issues. The 2007 current issues in NY will be Alternative Energy. The ESC donated during its last council meeting \$5000 towards sponsoring the Soils Station. 250 students are expected to attend. The committee organizing the event is working to raise \$300,000 and needs many volunteers. Chapter members are encouraged to help out in this most rewarding event.

State Envirothon Josh Hornesky introduced himself as the chapter representative to the State Envirothon committee pending the committee's acceptance of his nomination. The chapter is an official voting representative of the committee. Each year it sponsors the State Envirothon and encourages members to help out this rewarding event as well.

Scholarship Report Josh Hornesky announced himself as the new chair of the committee replacing Ellen Luchsinger whom he thanked for her service and assistance transferring the program to him. Mark Burger also serves on the committee as primary liaison for the Paul Smiths Scholarship. Josh sent informational packets via email to 43 schools. Scholarship nominations are due January 31st, 2007 and forms are available on the website.

MiniGrant Program Bill Keating reported that the Minigrant program funded the No Till workshop this fall. The program has been around for several years and has evolved into supporting educational workshops more than its original intent of cost sharing small technical projects. The grants are limited to a max of \$1000 each. Bill would like some help promoting the program and reviewing applications. Dale Gates suggested that the No Till workshop be an annual event that rotates around the state.

Nominations and Elections: Past President Dan Dostie handed out a list of candidates. Nominations received were Peter Wright for President Elect, Greg Albrecht for Vice President, Henry Kelsey for Region 2 Representative, Bill Keating for the Region 4 Representative, and Josh Hornesky for the At Large Representative positions on the council. No nominations were received for Region 3 rep, Secretary, or the Student Rep vacancies, all 3 positions of which were vacant since the 2005 meeting. Margaret Fusco nominated Dianna Power for Secretary and Dianna accepted. Ellen Luchsinger nominated Sarah Kron for Region 3 rep. and she accepted. As there were only one nominee for each position Dan asked that Tibor cast one vote for the slate as presented. Tibor so moved. No one opposed. Carried.

Smithsonian Soils Exhibit: Dan reported receiving a letter from the National Museum of Natural History thanking the chapter for its donation to the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. The exhibit is scheduled to open in 2008. Theo Dillaha, Society President reported that the exhibit is a multipart project. In addition to the on site exhibit a traveling soil exhibit will rotate among museums and schools and libraries around the country. Dan requested any member wishing to become involved in assisting with developing the exhibit to contact him or the National Museum of Natural History directly as linked on the website.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 10:30 with closing remarks by President Elect Brian Boerman. Brian introduced himself as an agronomist, AEM Certified Nutrient Management Planner, Technical Service Provider and avid conservationist. Coming from the private sector of agricultural business, he identified having worked with many in the room on projects in their counties. Brian announced the Technical Session topics, and thanked Tibor for his leadership as president. Brian created a vision of BMP implementation for the largest livestock facilities in New York and a CNMP being developed for every other farm seeking government funding in the future. The stepping up of payments for conservation and stepping down of payments for commodities will call for further collaborative efforts for better research, outreach, planning and partnerships with NY Farms and stakeholders.

Technical Sessions: 10:30am to 3:30pm

Roadside Ditch Management, Juan A. Diaz-Robles, Research Assistant, CCE/Department of Natural Resources.

Root Production Method (RPM) Trees, Janet Hawkes and PJ Marshal, RPM Ecosystems.

Effectiveness of Vegetated Filters for the Treatment of Silage, Barnyard, and Milk house Waste, Larry Geohring, Cornell University

Effectiveness of Vegetated Buffers along Streams, Theo Dillaha, Virginia Tech

Energizing For Conservation in the Northeast

Tibor introduced Jim Hotaling after lunch as the SWCS Northeast Director who discussed the Save the Date Flyer for the April 24th & 25th Conference/Tour to be held in Lancaster/PA called "Energizing for Conservation in the Northeast".