

**SWCS Empire Chapter  
April 23, 2002  
Council Meeting  
Minutes**

Present: Jeff Carmichael, Julie Burger, Elaine Dalrymple, Bill Keating, Dick Dale, Karl Czymmek, Ellen Luchsinger, Dana Chapman, Henri DeMoras, Rich Wildman.

President, Jeff Carmichael called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. The minutes were amended to reflect the correct spelling of Jim Bruce's name and to change the acronym of the organization that promotes scholarships to CACHE. Moved by Bill, seconded by Julie. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeff presented his last report as Treasurer. Dick now has all the materials. Report is as of April 3, 2002. There have not been many transactions since then. Net worth continues to go up. There have been quite a few orders for materials for about \$7,000. A lot of it is for the new stormwater management guide and CD. It is also on the DEC web site. CD is \$5.00. Book is \$25. There aren't many copies of the reducing impacts book left. This one will eventually be redone. Dana asked if we have a description of our various funds. We don't have a good one at present. We should especially describe the Fletcher scholarship and get feedback from the family on our description. Tax information has been filed. Treasurer's report was moved by Karl, and seconded by Elaine. All in favor.

**Committee Reports:**

**Publications:** Erosion and sediment control notebooks: 61 left. Pens can be only ordered in lots of 1,000. Ordered 300 inserts, and binders. Big blue books - 670 inserts left, 41 binders. Guidelines for Urban Erosion and Sediment Control - 450 dividers and 630 binders. This will be redone in a few years. Jeff talked to Don Lake and he will need these. \$3,300 will be the cost. We have about \$11,000 in the savings and checking accounts to pay the costs. Dick made motion. Karl seconded. All in favor. For the little contractors' book, \$3,800 is needed. They come from three different vendors. 177 stormwater books left. 100 CD's were ordered and now we are down to 27. Jeff would like to get another 100. DEC makes them for \$2.00. Julie made the motion, Henry seconded. All in favor. Karl wondered whether we should set up an on-line ordering system once we set up a web site. Karl said they have used a very good woman to set up the Cornell nutrient management web site.

**Scholarships:** Ellen hasn't done anything since the last meeting. Jeff asked if we want to increase the dollar amount per scholarship. Karl wondered if we should do a newsletter article competition as a requirement to get the funds. Ellen said maybe we could extend it to the high school level. Dana thinks the scholarships don't promote our organization enough and we don't get members from it. He thinks we should look at the program more. Ellen said another idea is to run a mini-grant program for groups doing

conservation work such as Scout troops, or 4-H. Perhaps the focus should be on youth groups. Jeff said New Hampshire has a mini-grant program. Jeff thinks we could do both - evaluate the scholarship program and have a mini-grant program. Julie thinks we should do more press releases. Everyone should bring in e-mail addresses of various papers. We would have to screen them for which papers cover regional and statewide coverage versus just local. Henri asked whom we are trying to reach. Henri suggested we think of sponsoring a conservation group or camp that is doing nature education and conservation projects. Maybe we could think about what groups get good press and work with them if they do conservation work. Scholarships should be targeted to a particular thing. Julie suggested we model it on the State Soil and Water Committee's mini-grant proposal where we could combine the scholarship program and the mini-grants and put it into one proposal. Grant could be available even to our members. Members could pick a group they want to work with and perhaps you have to be a member to access this money. Karl suggested we get something for our scholarship such as an essay. Dick said he doesn't think the essay will inspire them enough; we should get something more. We need to come up with something for the scholarship winners to do and promote it more. Jeff asked Ellen to try to come up with recommendations for the next meeting. Try to communicate via e-mail. Questions to answer: what is the amount we want to do, what are the criteria to apply, and what will we ask them to do for the \$500. Perhaps Bill can try to get the mini-grant idea moving ahead (come up with some general parameters) with some assistance from Julie. It should be broad enough to cover different types of conservation work. Dana suggested that Bill get some other folks involved such as Shawn Bossard, Mike Dennis, or Henry Kelsey. Perhaps they can help Ellen as well along with Norma Borlang or Sandy Baldwin who are past recipients of scholarships.

**Awards:** Dan Dostie is the new chair. He made some changes to the award form.

**Annual Report:** Karl tried to send it on-line to the National office and it didn't work. Dana would like to make sure that we can send in nominations for the annual awards such as the Fellow for the Society Award.

**Newsletter:** Newsletter went out last Friday. Next newsletter will be coming out July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Dana Chapman:** Dana reported that he went to a National Board meeting recently. The society is in good shape but is becoming more a grant-supported organization versus membership supported. Membership fees may go up. The Kellogg grant will be extended. They also have a grant to see how global warming will affect soil erosion. National will only have one membership meeting – the national annual meeting. This will be a change. The question has been raised as to whether a government employee can be active in a private organization. Jackie Pashionick is our new regional representative. Jeff Vonk is on the Board now. Dana commented that the Board lacks diversity. There are no representative of the private sector, no education, and no minorities. Dana will be polling the northeast chapters to see if they want to use the membership funds to pay regional reps to go to national meetings; retire the debt of national; fund regional staff; or use it for things to increase membership. Right now the money goes in the general

budget. Karl suggested we use it for web site development. Jeff said we should target the money for membership activities. There will probably be an upcoming workshop to discuss all this. 2005 Annual Meeting state sponsor is open. There is a feeling on the national board that there should be less emphasis on having a family meeting and more of a technical meeting. The Annual Meeting should be money making. Karl suggested that someone from NRCS or SWCS meet with the Land Trust Alliance who make lots of money on their annual meeting and have a full time coordinator who sets it up. The local folks help arrange local tours but national office makes overall conference arrangements. Craig Cox is still the leader. Budget is in good shape.

**National Annual Meeting:** Jeff is planning on going. Dana is planning on going and Rich is too.

**Elections:** Karl will be starting to think of slate of officers. Jeff reminded us to keep promoting the organization.

**Treasurer Committee:** Henri wrote up a report that was handed out. Some discussion centered on paying Lisa in Cayuga County SWCD for handling our inventory along with doing the bookwork. Jeff recommended that we pay her. For all she does, it will be worth it. Karl moved we accept the report and the recommendations therein. Julie seconded and all were in favor. Jeff suggested we put out RFP's to auditing firms and get quotes for what we need done. Rich suggested we bundle the audit with help on filing the tax return.

**Web Site Development:** We should have some sort of presence out there. Karl said the woman at Cornell charges \$10.00 per hour. Karl will participate. Rich made a motion to pay Barbara Dybwad up to \$150 to research ideas for our web site and links to other organizations and an estimate of how much time it will take to develop the prototype web page. We would also like to have her recommendations on how to maintain it. Rich offered to house it for free. Karl will talk to Barb. Want to look at on-line publication orders. Julie seconded and all in favor.

**Annual Meeting for the Empire Chapter:** We should have a professional development type focus. Karl suggested something on what the real water quality issues in New York are. Maybe something on TMDL's. What about air quality issues? Trading pollution rights; carbon sequestration, methane digester state of knowledge. What are the components of environmental management after CAFO? Maybe even have sewage treatment people there and the sustainable ag. folks who think small farms are the way to go. Maybe a session on the Farm Bill such as a panel discussion. Perhaps have concurrent sessions. A few professional development sessions that aren't too futuristic. Put our annual meeting in the middle of the day. Discussion on how long our actual business session should be. Rich will form a committee. Auburn Holiday Inn seems reasonable except for the sound system. Syracuse is also central.

Professional Development sessions should maybe be regional. A summer RUSLE field meeting. We don't want to scare off NRCS.

Next Meeting: June 20, 10 a.m. at Lafayette.

Adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Elaine Dalrymple, Secretary