

**SWCS Empire Chapter Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 1, 2004**

**Present:** Tony Esser, Pres, Dan Dostie Pres-elect, Steve Machovec VP, Elaine Dalrymple Sec. (arrived late), Don Kuhn Region 1 Rep., Tibor Horvath, Region 3 Rep., Ellen Luchsinger, Gary Lamont, Monroe County NRCS District Conservationist (name ?).

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am by Tony Esser. The meeting was held at the Cayuga SWCD office in Auburn, NY.

**Minutes** – June meeting minutes unavailable.

**Treasurer's report** – Dick Dale was unavailable. Balance is in good shape as reported last meeting. 2 bills were paid. One bill for \$32 for printing and mailing May Newsletter was paid. The other bill paid was for \$62 to cover Dan Dostie's trip to Niagara Falls to meet with the Ontario Chapter and discuss a possible joint meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Scholarship Report** – Ellen Luchsinger reported no interest from Paul Smith's College for scholarship.

**Awards Report** – Dan Dostie reported deadline for Chapter Awards September 30<sup>th</sup>. Dana Chapman suggested the chapter needs to promote national awards also.

**Book Sales** – Jeff Carmichael, Don Lake and Tony Esser are meeting Tuesday July 6, 2004 at 10 am to discuss the issues concerning the discrepancies between the chapter website and the DEC website.

**Mini-grants** – Bill Keating's proposed changes to ranking sent via email earlier in the week was motioned to be accepted by Steve Machovec. Rich Wildman's acceptance by email of the proposal was agreed to be a second. All voted in favor.

**Membership** – Lee Telega wrote article in June Newsletter.

**Chapter Annual Meeting** – Dan Dostie reported the results of his trip to Niagara Falls, Ontario. The Ontario Chapter would like to host a joint chapter symposium about Sharing Responsibility for Conserving Common Natural Resources around November 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>. Poster presentations on Air, Water, Wildlife and Professional Development would occur simultaneously. The symposium would likely be held at a Falls View hotel like the Sheraton and outreach would be extended to interested non-members like University Professors and Students. If the chapter is interested, Ontario would like assistance with making a deposit of \$500 to \$1000 in CA funds. Some of the NRCS issues include needing international travel authorization from the Chief. No government vehicles would be allowed. Lodging rates are limited to \$124 CA, per diem \$93 CA to be converted at the rates of the days of travel. Today's rate is \$1 US = \$1.33 CA. Steve Machovec was concerned about the time needed to request international travel not be sufficient. Dana Chapman was concerned that the agenda was not developed enough for making a commitment and that the Chapter was currently very busy with the Annual 2005 meeting. The consensus of the group is there is too much on the chapter's plate currently to do the meeting right so perhaps do it as a follow up to Rochester in 2006. For this year the annual business meeting date was selected as Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup> somewhere in Central NY with precise location to be determined later. The meeting will be held in the morning with a technical presentation to follow.

**Communications Subcommittee:** No chair at present. Dan has an employee interested in maintenance and updating of website but this person will need some training. Tony was able to send almost all the June newsletters via e-mail. 32 out of 140 need to go via regular mail and will be mailed next week. We need to keep national office up to date on our e-mail addresses. Tony wants to do a newsletter every month. Article ideas: Paul Smith's scholarships, chapter history from Dan, news from SWCD. Short and easy articles are best.

**Nominations:** Tony will get Rich cranked up.

**Facilities Subcommittee:** Chair ?

**Publicity:** NRCS new public affairs person who will chair this committee

**Transportation Subcommittee:**

**Hospitality Committee:** No chair at present. Dana will be proxy vote for Steve.

**Scholarships to Annual Meeting:** Elaine moved that we support any officer plus one other scholarship that wants to go. Dan seconded. All in favor. Anyone willing to serve as chair of a committee for next year's annual meeting will be supported as well.

**Envirothon:** Brenda Weaver asked for \$500 to help send team to National. Secretary did not note was action was taken on this. Minutes need to be amended at next meeting to include this.

Meeting adjourned at 1 pm.

Minutes taken by Dan Dostie and Elaine Dalrymple