

**SWCS – Empire Chapter  
August 13, 2003  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Dick Dale, Dana Chapman, Dan Dostie, Henry DeMoras, Lee Telega, Mike Dennis, Jeff Carmichael, Rich Wildman.

Dana Chapman called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

Randi Wintamute, an Americore volunteer with the Cayuga SWCD volunteered to take minutes for the meeting.

**Annual Society Meeting, Rochester, NY, July 30 – August 3, 2003**

Dana gave a list of all committees that need to be in place for the 2005 National Meeting in Rochester, NY. The committees are: finance, publicity, tours, technology (media equipment for the meeting), hospitality (small and large), registration, transportation (buses for all activities), activities (social, children and teens), volunteers, exhibits, and arrangements. Dana gave an example that 40 people would be needed for registration. Names of people for the different committees were also mentioned.

The National Meeting will be July 30<sup>th</sup> until August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005. The income potentials of the meeting include; donations (company--Kodak), silent auction (traditionally has benefited the chapter scholarship fund), and fundraising to companies i.e. Cannon the Envirothon Sponsor. The Empire Chapter's objectives are:

- Making money for the Society (finance chairman needed) for a positive net income
- Highlight (showcase conservation (AEM)) private/public sector work that is successful in NYS, and implementation of conservation in NYS in effective ways (Ag & Markets and NRCS→large funder of Society).
- The Board will choose title of 2005 meeting with input provided by the host chapter. —“Implementing Conservation”
- Program chairman— research people→suggestions of names, possibly from Canada, possibly a joint chairman Peter Wright suggested.
- Local chapter, Local Arrangements Chairman needed

Lee suggested website. Have something about 2005 meeting. Lee will have Webmaster look at Spokane website—link→into Minnesota

2004 meeting

2005 meeting

Ankeny will approve theme for annual meeting Chapter can make suggestions, first step is finding a program committee chair (Pete). The next SWCS Board Meeting is in November.

Fast Ferry between Toronto, Canada and Rochester, NY should be operational  
--Maybe tour to Toronto, make it more interesting, diverse, not *too* local

*What needs to be done*

1. People responsible for committees
2. Tours need to be planned, Rochester Chamber will help set up tours
3. Contract with Ankeny needs to be developed
4. Jump-start the Chapter  
Bring value back to conservation in NY
5. Highlight NY Agriculture  
DEC Phase II & CAFO, Urban Perspective—Phase II Storm water

Rich Wildman joined the meeting and took over as chairman.

The Regional Board member for the Northeast will be elected this fall, Empire Chapter could nominate someone from Chapter to National Board: The nominating committee is looking for the following

State Conservationists  
Minorities  
Local Government

--Suggestions: Jim Hotaling

Motion: Nominate Jim Hotaling as a candidate for the Northeast Regional Board Representative. Dick motioned, Jeff seconded. Carried

Dana reported from the Annual Meeting in Spokane.

A full day of the board meeting was dedicated to producing a clearer picture of how we need to organize ourselves and what steps we need to take to build SWCS's capacity to thrive as an organization that depends on soft money. Our goal is to produce an outline of a plan for specific steps we need to take over the next 12-18 months.

Gayle Peterson of Headwaters Group presented trend analysis for fund raising and how those trends will likely affect SWCS. She also presented the basic pyramid of fundraising options and approaches used by nonprofits to support their work.

Minutes from Last Meeting were reviewed and approved.

Dana reported on a conversation with Don Lake

Manual still in review (not expected out until 1<sup>st</sup> of the year)

We should put this on the chapter website

We hope to receive 500 copies from the state, but Don was not sure there would be money left for the printing, the chapter might have to make copies

**Lee will put the 2005 meeting on Web and the expected date of release of the new manual.**

Dana & Rich both took scholarships to the meeting in Spokane.

Dana & Rich were the only two from NY that went to Washington

Dana reported that the SWCS Board met with the NRCS Chief's Advisory Council consisting of Five State Conservation to encourage NRCS to support SWCS's annual meeting and membership in SWCS.

**MEMBERSHIP** --Lee coordinates everyone to make calls to dropped members.

Discussion took place on Districts being Corporate Not for Profit members at the \$90 rate. The primary purpose is to get district employees in society. The district would become a member and employees could receive benefits. Dana will approach district managers on the district joining. Possible benefits to employees are

1. Discounts on training
2. Networking with other professionals
3. They will receive copies of newsletters
4. They will belong to an organization that engages people in the conservation field
5. District would receive a copy of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation
6. Development opportunities for staff

Jeff moved, Dick seconded it that **Dana will draft up an invitation to districts and review with Craig Cox** Carried

If this works, we could use approach on other agencies

Rich—engaged membership→send a list of names for only those who are interested

SWCD—professional organization. Dan—District Technician→county job description, is there a line between professional and non-professional? Agency Technicians are non-professional, but they can't afford to join at \$75, and they would benefit the most. Maybe there could be a New Category Membership, because of the classification as technician, they don't have the same opportunities.

Jeff says the Districts are the targets for SWCS. The Districts are the leaders of conservation throughout NYS. Value added. He says if they are members they will have access to minigrants. Jeff motioned to offer NY corporate or non-profit rate to the SWCDs, pending approval with Ankeny. Dick seconded. All in favor, carried.

**NEWSLETTER** Lee already has gotten it out. Lee will remind council about next meeting assignments for newsletter—feedback—have officer's names. Lee said the newsletter goes out in November. November 1st is the target date for publication. The annual meeting agenda should be in the newsletter, which should be done by the middle of September. The article deadline is the end of September/early October. Dana is concurrently working on the North East Regional Workshop.

**CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING** The annual Chapter meeting is December 11, 2003. It is in conjunction with the regional meeting. Rich e-mailed Jeff TenEyck, the dates for our meeting. Room Reservation has already been made, but no contract has been signed. \$975 has already been given as a deposit.

One purpose of the meeting is to get together and figure out how to make our chapter stronger. Possible other topics are

1. Nutrient Management Planning

2. Emphasize partnerships
3. RUSLE
4. Erosion/sediment control
5. Storm water

Rich says we should focus on conservation. Dick said we should bring in Ontario (why are they so far behind us in nutrient management when they were ahead of us before), and the different States' methods on controlling nutrient management.

Non-Ag Members = 25%

Ag Members = 75%

Therefore, 25% of Annual Meeting time will be spent on Non-Ag issues.

Volunteers are needed to work on developing an agenda. Dan, Henry, Lee, Rich and Mike all said they would volunteer. Rich suggested Lee as the Chair for the agenda, he agreed.

**ELECTIONS** are before the Annual Meeting. Jeff needs candidates for the new slots. He wants to get the ballots together, they must be sent out by October. They shall be given out to the memberships, then given back to Jeff, and shall be tallied.

**AWARDS** Dan said the form for awards is on the web page. The deadline is October 1st. The awards will be given out at the meeting in December.

**MINIGRANTS** Henry asked if those who weren't awarded were notified. Rich believes they were.

Dick suggested we have something on the minigrants at the Annual Meeting. Sean has videos on the minigrants.

Thursday, October 9th at 10 a.m. will be the next meeting, at CCSWCD.

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

--Income & expenses are stable

--Had more income last time for manual & guides.

--Income is about the same as this time last year.

--We are on budget

--There is approximately \$10,000 in the checking account.

**CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP** Rich says it is unclear as to a certain amount to contribute to the Conservation Skills Workshop.

We should ask them how much money they would like us to contribute.

NRCS, District Employees contribute \$3,000 a piece.

We want to be involved because we like their meeting to be more inclusive and we would like to identify way to collaborate on educational opportunities.

Rich proposed we tell them we'd be happy to contribute \$750 and we're not in a position to contribute more, but we are sensitive to their financial needs. Dan moved, Henry seconded.

We didn't contribute money to the Envirothon

Dan moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 p.m., Lee seconded.

**The next meeting is October10th at 10 AM at Auburn SWCD .**