

**SWCS Empire Chapter
Sept. 13, 2001
Council Meeting Minutes**

Present: Karl Czymmek, Ellen Luchsinger, Jim Calhoun, Elaine Dalrymple, Jeff Carmichael, Bill Keating, Linda Szeliga.

Karl Czymmek called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. The minutes of the special mission development session meeting on July 11, 2001 were reviewed but not accepted so that everyone can have time to go over them carefully.

A comment on the minutes was that the way we have the mission statement is awkward. We have the national mission and then our own. It was suggested to have missions together with separate sentences. So the proposed, draft mission would read: *The mission statement of the National Soil and Water Conservation Society, which we adopt, is, The Soil and Water Conservation Society fosters the science and art of soil, water and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. We promote and practice an ethic recognizing the interdependence of people and the environment. More specifically, the New York State Empire Chapter protects, enhances and improves the natural resources of New York State through education and multi-disciplinary development.* Elaine will follow up with council members and send the mission session minutes again by e-mail and then council members can send back comments via the edit function of Word so that changes are highlighted. A shortened version of these minutes will be done for the general membership. Perhaps they can be sent via the newsletter.

Newsletter – The newsletter will include a report on the annual meeting, comments on the mission development, and a notice on the annual meeting. It was asked whether ballots could go out with the newsletter. This should go out in next couple weeks. The ballot could be a self-enclosed mailer. Linda will work with Anton on designing this. Candidates – Linda doesn't have any yet. Dan Dostie will be a regional rep on the council but he feels he does not have enough experience to be an officer. Bill Keating is the Region 4 rep., Margaret Fusco is Reg. 2, Jim Calhoun is at large, John Lacey is Region 3, and Rich Wildman is Reg. 1. Region 1 and 3 need to be re-elected or up for election. We need to ask candidates if they will rerun. We also need candidates for Treasurer, Secretary, President-elect, and Vice President. Larry Goehring, Julie Burger, could be region 1 reps. Frank Winkler, Gary Lamont both probably not interested. Craig Schutt. John Whitney, Fred Gaffney, Henry DeMouris, Dana Chapman, Mike Dennis, Henry Kelsey, and Dick Dale should be contacted. Linda Szeliga will look through the surveys and try to develop the slate. It was suggested not to put someone against someone who really wants to be on. We should target District people. For the newsletter, we should insert the registration for the annual meeting, the ballot, Julie's article, the president's article including mission discussion, Harold's book ad, waterfest article and Envirothon articles. Dana wants to push for a regional rep position to the national board from NYS. We will try to have everything in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Jeff reported that our income is down a little but we are still in decent shape. We still have around 90 copies of the book, 'Reducing the Impacts of Stormwater Runoff' but since this will be redone we don't need more copies. Other books have a good inventory. Karl asked if we should be thinking of building our own endowment to help with our own sustainability. Jeff commented that we are already doing this but mostly through the scholarship funds. The Treasurer's report was approved. Linda made the motion, seconded by Bill.

Scholarship Report: Bill- Should we up the scholarship amount per recipient? Ellen likes to spread it around. The Fletcher scholarship is for Paul Smith's students only. Ellen thinks we need to announce the scholarships in a different way. Ellen is wondering how students are accessing the information she sends. She thinks it may be through the department heads. Ellen knows we need to update the mailing list. Elaine will call Finger Lakes Comm. College for a contact. Ellen needs help to review the scholarship applications.

Waterfest Report: We had a display. The event was not really well attended. We have extra brochures that can be used at other events.

Chapter Development Workshop at National annual meeting: Karl reported that the program was good for new, incoming leaders. The national organization is really struggling with membership. In some ways we are in a crisis. Craig Cox, the National president is doing a lot on the Farm Bill. The national organization in Ankeny, IA is developing the policy but not really getting input from the chapters. Chapters are disconnected from the national office. Karl thinks we need to reinvest in membership. It is a two-year process and we won't turn around overnight. We may become more like a foundation versus a membership organization. Jeff mentioned that CCA, etc. competes for membership. Bill asked whom else we are competing against for membership. Personal contact is important, we realize it is a problem, we are trying to do something about it.

NRCS Area 3 Quality Day Funding: \$500 was offered by Karl from the Empire Chapter to help fund this event to be held on October 9th at Selkirk Shores. Jeff will be attending and will talk to Bruce about getting time to promote SWCS. Elaine moved we approve the \$500. Jim seconded. All were in favor.

P-index training sessions: Karl will be doing these and wonders if SWCS can pay for lunch. They will be held late Sept., early Oct. Jeff suggested \$100 per session. Karl thinks there will be about 15 people per session. The target audience is Extension, SWCD, NRCS, and consultants. Karl is going to have our brochure as part of the packet of materials to be handed out. Jeff made the motion and Jim seconded it to set aside \$500 for the 4-5 sessions. All were in favor. We need to e-mail Karl the emblem and he will put it into his talk.

Harold's book: Perhaps we should just clip the small ad about the book and put it in our newsletter.

John Wildeman recognition: Karl suggested a lifetime membership in SWCS. We will present it at NYACD annual meeting. Karl will call national to see if it is available. Karl called and it would cost \$1200, too much. Jeff moved we give John a \$250 gift certificate to an outdoor related store like Cabella's. Elaine seconded. All in favor. We will get a certificate from the society and/or create something. Elaine will ask Julie if she can check into this. We will need to call someone to see if we can get on the NYACD annual meeting agenda. Jeff will get the gift certificate.

Annual Meeting/Newsletter: Put mission discussion before lunch. Have Paul Webb facilitate the mission session. After committee reports in the morning, we should have an open member forum to discuss activities. Jeff will ask Paul if he can help us and then Karl, Jeff, and Paul will have a conference call about how to deal with this. The business meeting will be from 10 – 10:45 a.m., then at 11 a.m. we will start the new mission discussion and maybe include Don Lake in this discussion; 12:30 – 1:15, lunch; 1:15 – 2 pm, awards and scholarships. Wayne Marsh needs to be personally contacted so that NRCS endorses this meeting and NRCS staff can be encouraged to attend. But first we will ask Paul Webb how Wayne should be approached. 2 pm, Craig Cox - Report on the national effort and at 3 pm. Karl's China talk. Jeff will check on places. Karl suggested Dairylea headquarters. Jeff said maybe Cayuga SWCD. We need to get the newsletter out by mid-October. Jeff will check to make sure that NRCS can accept free lunches. Karl will talk to Craig Schutt about doing the newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Dalrymple
Secretary