

**EMPIRE STATE CHAPTER SWCS ANNUAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 9, 2005**  
**Holiday Inn, Auburn, NY**

**Welcome Notes – Dan Dostie, President**

The meeting began at 9:30am. Dan welcomed all present to this years Chapter Annual Meeting.

The Chapter has been in existence since April 4, 1946 which means we are closely approaching the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chapters formation.

When the By-Laws were first signed and approved in 1946, there were 64 members.

Current membership stands at 142.

Thirty nine members pre-registered for today's meeting.

Tibor has put together an excellent agenda for today's meeting.

Minutes from the last Annual meeting, November 11, 2004 were presented. **A motion was made by Sarah Kron to approve minutes as presented with indicated changes. Frank Winkler seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with corrections.**

Dan reported briefly on the National Meeting held in Rochester this summer. There were 720 attendees, and 84 different volunteers helped to make the meeting a success. Good support was received from both within the Chapter and outside as well.

1,000 Copies of the "Blue Book" were purchased this year through Quartier Printing for sale by the Chapter. This is one of largest money making events for the Chapter. The cost to reproduce the "Blue Book" is about \$40.00 and the Chapter resells them to contractors/consultants for \$50.00.

Dan stated that the Chapter may need to reconsider its timing of the Annual Meeting next year. With so many other training sessions and meetings being held around this time of year, it may be wise to try and coordinate with one of those opportunities in order to increase attendance.

Dan said the Chapter supports the Cannon Envirothon, is a voting member, and we should also consider providing funding support.

**Treasures Report – Lisa Miller**

Lisa presented the budget information to Chapter members.

Lisa explained that the budget report is fluid as we are always making payments or receiving payments. The budget report presented is very close to our actual standing as of this date.

So far, Lisa has processed orders for 210 of the "Blue Books" and has several other requests for the manual sitting on her desk. Lisa stated that we had received a bill from Quartier Printing for \$16,000.00 to cover the cost of the first 500 manuals. She would like a resolution to pay the first \$16,000.00.

**Motion to pay Quartier Printing \$16,000.00 to cover the first payment was made by Tony Esser, seconded by Dana Chapman. After no discussion, the motion was passed by the members present.**

Lisa said that the remaining balance to Quartier Printing needed to be made by December 31, 2005. Based on our current financial situation this should pose no problem to the Chapter.

We have received \$12,000.00 from the National Office in Ankeny. This is the amount that the Chapter made by hosting the National Annual Meeting.

An additional \$5,000.00 was raised by the Chapter from the Silent Auction held during the National Meeting. This money is profit for the Chapter.

**A motion to accept the Treasurers report was made by Sarah Kron, seconded by Tony Esser. Hearing no discussion, the motion was passed.**

### **Scholarship Committee Report - Ellen Luchsinger, Chair**

Ellen reported that the Chapter normally awards two annual scholarships to applicants that are currently in school and in the Natural Resources curriculum.

An additional scholarship is awarded in memory of Ron Fletcher, annually, for a student who is currently attending Paul Smith's College.

So far, Ellen has received 11 applications for the Chapter Scholarship. No awards have been made yet as the applications have not been rated.

Andrew Mitchler has been awarded the Ron Fletcher Scholarship for FY 2005.

Ellen thanked Mark Burger for his efforts involving the Ron Fletcher Scholarship. Mark continues to make contact with Paul Smiths College to encourage applicants for the scholarship and will continue to do so in 2006.

### **Mini – Grant – Bill Keating, Chair**

The mini-grant program was started about three years ago.

For 2005, grants were awarded to the Lake Plains RC&D Council for education and outreach and a second was awarded to the Hamilton County SWCD for GIS software development.

The Chapter budgets approximately \$2,000.00 a year for the mini – grants and each application is capped at \$1,000.00. Most grant requests however come in under the cap.

There is still one grant request pending for which no action has been taken.

### **Awards – Sarah Kron, Chair**

Sarah presented the following individuals with awards on behalf of the Chapter:

#### ***Commendation:***

**Joseph DelVecchio** – for his leadership and support of the 2005 SWCS Annual Conference;

**Ellen Luchsinger** – for her years of dedicated service and commitment to furthering the objectives of the Chapter.

#### ***Merit:***

**Doug Kierst** – for his contributions in promoting both Graze New York and alternative streambank protection measures.

#### ***Media:***

**Kristen Skopec** – for her work promoting the 2005 Annual SWCS Conference, coordinating the media coverage with Ankeny staff and capturing every detail of the event through photographs and daily news briefings.

#### ***Conservation Education:***

**Mark Burger** – for his role in coordinating the Skaneateles Lake Watershed tour during the 2005 Annual SWCS Conference.

### **International SWCS Awards – Marilyn Stephenson**

Marilyn briefly covered some of the changes that have been made in the Fellow Award, Hugh Hammond Bennett Award, and the Outstanding Service Award categories. Most of the changes have been made to ensure that information provided was clear and concise.

Nominations for any of the above award categories as well as the Honor Award, Merit Award and Commendation Award can now be submitted via e-mail to the Ankeny Office.

Nominations for all awards must be received by Ankeny no later than December 12, 2005.

If signatures are needed for an award that requires a petition, the signature page can be faxed by the above date followed up with mailing a hard copy to the Ankeny office. Only one original award application is now required by Ankeny for any category.

**{The following awards were presented by Sarah following the Society Annual Conference presentation by Tony Esser at lunch time.}**

***Local Arrangements Committee Special Achievement Plaque:***

**To all LAC members** for their dedication that contributed to the success of the 2005 Annual SWCS Conference. Each member of the LAC received a certificate in the mail.

***Additional Special Achievement Certificates:***

**John Whitney, Mark Horvath and Rich Wildman** for their distinguished efforts during the 2005 Annual SWCS Conference.

***Special Achievement:***

**Lisa Miller** – Dan Dostie recognized Lisa for her many years of assistance to the Chapter in managing the finances, taking Stormwater book orders, and processing credit card transactions at the Silent Auction during the Society Annual Conference in Rochester this summer.

**Cannon Envirothon – Chapter Delegate, Bub Barra**

Bub made a brief presentation on activities that are leading up to the National Envirothon that will be held in New York at Hobart William Smith College in Geneva, New York, July 29 – August 3, 2007.

Bub indicated that fund raising is currently underway and the State Envirothon Committee has several items such as cook books, shirts, coffee mugs, etc., that they are selling to help offset the cost.

Volunteers are needed so if any Chapter members are interested in volunteering, please let him know.

**Nominating Committee – Tony Esser, Chair**

Tony reported that the following individuals had been nominated:

President – Tibor Horvath

President Elect – Brian Boerman

Vice President – Sarah Kron

Secretary – No nominations received

Region I – Don Kuhn

Region III – No nominations received

At Large Member – Josh Hornesky to replace vacancy due to resignation of Lee Telega

**Hearing no other nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Ellen Luchsinger and seconded by Dan Dostie to accept the slate of officers presented. The 2005-2006 slate of officers as presented was passed.**

Dan let everybody know that we still need to fill the Secretary position and the Region III representative. If anyone was interested, please get back to Dan. A vote can be taken by the membership via email.

The business meeting concluded at 10:15 am.

### **Technical Sessions**

The remainder of the morning session was devoted to a presentation by Steve Groff who used a power point presentation entitled “Soil is meant to be covered” to discuss his no-till efforts on his Pennsylvania farm.

A second presentation on the NYS-DEC Erosion, Sediment and Stormwater Permit process was made by Angus Eaton from the NYS-DEC.

Following these two presentations a buffet lunch was provided for members in attendance.

During the lunch break, Tony Esser gave Chapter members an update on the very successful Society Annual Conference that was held in Rochester, New York. He thanked all those who made the event a huge success.

The afternoon Technical sessions began at 1:00pm and included presentations by George Utting from the EPA on the recent court ruling impact on CAFO activities in New York as well as information on TMDL’s.

A panel discussion was moderated by Peter Wright entitled “Air Quality Impacts by Agricultural Land Use”. Panel members included Curt Gooch, Cornell University, Bob Waterfall, NYS-DEC and Jenifer Wightman, Cornell University. Each individual made a presentation which was then followed by a panel discussion. Several questions were directed at the panel who in turn provided their perspective on the impacts.

The meeting concluded at 3:00pm. Tibor thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

