

## EMPIRE STATE CHAPTER SWCS

**April 7, 2005**

A meeting of the Empire Chapter of SWCS was held on April 7, 2005 following the LAC meeting in Auburn, New York. Members present included Brian Borman, Ellen Luchsinger, Bill Keating, Don Kuhn, Jim Hotaling, Lisa Miller, Tony Esser, Dan Dostie, Tibor Horvath, Gary Lamont and Steve Machovec.

The meeting was called to order by Dan at 1:00pm and it was noted that a quorum was present.

The meeting minutes from the February 3, 2005 meeting were approved as corrected with the change being Sara Bush's last name from Fusco to Bush.

### **Chapter Report: Dan Dostie**

Dan is forwarding the Conservogram and any additional notes to all members.

Dan will be attending the House of Delegates meeting representing our chapter in Rochester at the annual meeting as President. **Brian Borman may attend as vice-president as well.**

Dan asked if there were any issues that the Chapter wanted to put in front of the House of Delegates. It was recommended that agency personnel that volunteer for activities in professional organizations should be allowed to with the support of their respective agency. These sessions, such as the annual SWCS meeting should be viewed as professional development opportunities.

**ACTION** - Dan will put together a draft resolution and distribute it to board members for comment and review prior to sending the resolution on to Ankeny in May.

The National Society would like to see consistency in each of the Chapters web site design and has sent out a survey to each President asking for their position. The Empire Chapter now pays \$10-\$15 per month to maintain our site with a local consultant. The National Society would charge between \$30-\$100 per month to maintain our site for us, distribute our monthly newsletter and maintaining an up-to-date e-mail list.

Currently the Empire Chapter receives \$520/year from the total amount of dues we pay to the National Society in the amount of \$75.00 per member. Questions were raised as to what Ankeny actually provides us beyond the \$520.00.

Steve Machovec recommended that the Empire Chapter continue with its web site, newsletters and e-mail list updates as we have in the past.

**AGREED** – Dan will inform the National Society that we are satisfied with our current system and like the idea of independent web sites rather than national conformance.

**Treasures Report: Jim Hotaling/Lisa Miller**

Jim reported that the Chapter has total assets in the amount of \$11,526.25 with an additional accounts receivable of \$18,990.

Other current assets amount to \$39,674.44 for a total liabilities and equity of \$70,190.99

Jim recommended that we not make any adjustments in the general endowment fund, Fletcher endowment fund or the MM scholarship funds as we currently have some flexibility within each.

**Budget approved as presented.**

**Recommendations approved as presented.**

**Annual Business Meeting – Tibor Horvath**

The annual meeting will be held at the Auburn Holiday Inn on November 2, 2005.

Steve Groff has been confirmed as the primary speaker with his subject being “Economics of Conservation on Farming”.

Other topics suggested for presentations were tillage, grazing and the CEAP project.

**ACTION** – Gary Lamont will check on seeing if someone from the NYC Watershed CEAP project would like to make a presentation at the annual meeting.

**Awards: Sarah Kron**

Sarah was not present, no report provided.

**Book Sales: Lisa Miller**

Lisa reported that Don Lake has been conducting numerous training sessions this year requiring her to order and reorder the Field Notebook several times. This has been both time consuming and not very cost efficient. Currently both she and Don order based on immediate or demand but they do not always use the same vendor.

Lisa recommended that the Chapter look into consolidating the sale and printing of all books.

The “Big Book” still has not been finalized although there has been some information communicated that it has been. Lisa said she gets several requests for the new book and has to explain that it is not yet in print.

As Don has indicated he will be retiring in the near future, Lisa says now is the time to consolidate all printing.

Currently Jeff Carmichael is the lead for the book sales and has had that task for several years. Dan would like to find a replacement for Jeff as it is felt that Jeff has served his duty well.

It was **AGREED** that the Chapter should consolidate our printing jobs to add efficiency to the overall process.

**ACTION – Dan will put a notice on our website looking for a CEPSCE member and a Chapter member that would be willing to take over the book sales. If a volunteer is found, we will begin the printing consolidation process.**

### **NYS Envirothon Committee Report – Jim Hotaling**

Jim reported that the NYS Envirothon Committee has donated \$1,000 to the Chapter for use in hosting the National SWCS meeting.

Several new members have been added to the committee.

This year’s annual Envirothon will be held at SUNY Oswego May 25-26.

The Envirothon Committee will be offered the use of the Chapters complimentary booth at the SWCS Annual meeting in Rochester.

### **Chapter History – Dan Dostie**

No action to report since the last meeting.

Dana has not yet supplied Dan with an update on past members and officers as was requested.

The existing materials have not yet been scanned into the computer for easier updating and formatting, etc.

**ACTION – Dan will provide Tony with hardcopy of the materials he has in hand and Tony will complete the scanning process.**

**Membership: Lee Telega**

Lee was not present so no report was provided.

Dan did update the committee that we now have 134 members and that information was sent to committee members recently.

**Mini-Grants: Bill Keating**

Bill stated that the new procedures for applying for the min-grants was published in the Chapter newsletter.

Two applications have been received using the new procedure.

Elbow Creek Watershed Assessment Project – Hamilton County SWCD  
(\$1,000.00)

Newfane Ecology Fair Project – Lake Plains RC&D (\$500.00)

A **motion** was made by Jim Hotaling, seconded by Steve Machovec to approve both applications. **Motion Passed.**

**ACTION** - Bill will inform the sponsors of the Newfane Ecology Fair Project that the Empire Chapter SWCS needs to be identified as a sponsor.

**Website: Dan Dostie**

Dan is handling all updates and adds new information as it becomes available. Any member that has information they would like posted should send it to Dan.

**Chapter Display**

The Chapter display is in serious need of being updated.

**ACTION** – Dan and Ellen will contact Karen Williamson to see if she would be willing to work on the update.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A request was received from Joseph Driscoll, District Manager, Washington County SWCD, requesting the Chapter donate \$400.00 to the SWCD's of Washington, Saratoga, and Fulton Counties to support the Regional Envirothon. Discussion took place on the request.

Bill Keating made a **motion** to support the request at an amount of \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Don Kuhn. **Motion Passed.**

There was discussion on the Chapter providing stipends for members who volunteer to work an 8 hour shift at the National SWCS meeting in Rochester.

Jim recommended that the first 20 volunteers receive \$185.00 if they agree to work at least 8 hours. Dan explained that this type of stipend was already being offered by Ankeny by way of the reduced registration and members have already been informed.

Jim then amended his proposal and restated that the first 20 members that volunteer will have the full registration paid for by the Chapter.

The **proposal was tabled** at this time until further information from Steve was provided based on some recent National NRCS Headquarters correspondence dealing with NRCS employees volunteering for 501C-3 organizations.

A **motion** was made by Jim to sponsor the Board of Directors Saturday night reception in an amount not to exceed \$1,500. The motion was seconded by Tony Esser. **Motion Passed.**

Dan asked if the Chapter should purchase shirts with the Chapter logo imprinted that can either be raffled or sold at the National meeting. After discussion it was agreed that Dan should investigate the cost associated. Steve recommended that Dan contact Lauri Eipp at the State Office as she already has several sources that can be contacted based on NRCS purchases for clothing items.

**ACTION** – Dan will contact Lauri concerning the shirts to get some idea of cost.

There being no further business, a **motion** was made by Don Kuhn to adjourn, seconded by Bill Keating. **Motion Passed.**

The meeting officially adjourned at 3:20pm.

Steve Machovec  
Secretary