

Local Arrangement Committee Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2005

The final LAC meeting was held on October 20, 2005 at Emerson Park in Auburn, New York. The meeting began at 10:30am. In attendance were Dana Chapman, Gary Sick, Don Kuhn, Don Wild, JoAnn Kurtis, Jim Hotaling, Lisa Miller, Jenna Miller, Jeff Carmichael, Kris Skopeck, Tony Esser, Dan Dostie, Tibor Horvath, Sarah Kron and Steve Machovec.

Each of the Committee Chairs gave a final report of their activities and how they felt the National SWCS Meeting had gone.

Jim Hotaling reported that the Empire Chapter of SWCS had made a \$12,200.93 profit from the meeting after all bills had been paid. Jim made a recommendation that all open accounts now be closed so as to finish the process. The last item that needs to be taken care of is to send the National SWCS office in Ankeny a check for \$260.00. Jim also recommended that at this point in time, that the \$12,200.93 be transferred into the Empire Chapters general account. Consensus of the LAC was to close out all accounts, and transfer the \$12,200.93 into the Chapters general fund.

Many thanks to Jim, Lisa and the Cayuga County SWCD for the excellent job they did in handling the finances for the National meeting.

Tony Esser, to thank all the LAC members for the hard work that they did, presented each LAC member in attendance with a Society golf shirt.

There being no other business to be conducted by the LAC, the Committee was officially disbanded.

At the conclusion of the LAC meeting, an Empire Chapter Council Business meeting convened for those members present.

Empire Chapter SWCS Business Meeting

Dan Dostie reported that the last Chapter Meeting was held on April 7, 2005 and the minutes from that meeting were posted to the Chapters Web Page. The minutes from the April 7th meeting were approved as offered.

Chapter Meeting:

The next annual Chapter meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2005. The meeting will be held at the Auburn Holiday Inn beginning at 9:30am. Tibor has done an excellent job in putting together a very informative program. As part of the business meeting, elections of new Chapter Officers will take place. Tony

Esser is the Chairperson of the Election Committee and he asked that anyone interested in becoming an officer to contact him.

Membership:

Dan reported that our current Chapter membership stands at 141. We are growing but slowly. When Dan receives membership information from Ankeny, he sends it out to all Council members in an attempt to keep everyone informed.

National Notes:

There was discussion about how Dan should handle the minutes he receives from the National office. Currently he sends them out to all members. Those present at this meeting felt that the only information that is really important are the notes submitted by Norm Berg. It was suggested that at the November 11th meeting, Dan ask members if they still want the entire set of minutes or would they prefer just seeing Norms' notes.

Chapter Display:

The Chapter display is in poor shape at this time. Dan stated that he would like to have it refreshed now that Kristen has provided the Chapter with numerous photos's that she took at the National meeting. Dan will solicit volunteers to assist him in the rework. He also stated that he would like to have the Chapter display ready so it can be used at the November 14th AEM training session being held in Waterloo.

Regional Director Report:

Jim Hotaling did not have a Regional Director report as by attending this meeting, he was actually missing the scheduled teleconference. No other Regional meetings had been held since Rochester.

Treasurers Report:

Jim and Lisa presented the Chapter financial report. Our current checking balance is @\$29,000. Jim again stated that the proceeds from the National meeting should go into the Chapters general fund. Some discussion took place as to if we should place some of the funds into the mini-grants program and the scholarship fund. Jim stated that we needed to make sure that we had enough money in the general account to cover the cost of the newly printed "Blue Book" as we will be billed for \$30,000 for the printing and collating services provided. Consensus was to follow Jim's recommendation and a decision can be reached later on how to distribute the proceeds.

There was also discussion as to if we had sold the easels that were used at the National Meeting to the Keystone Chapter, host of the next National SWCS meeting. Lisa was not sure at this time and will look into it. She remembers sending some items to the Keystone Chapter but that may have been the green vests. She will check and let Dan know the outcome.

Jim also made a motion to support the Conservation Skills Workshop in the amount of \$500.00. The motion was seconded by Tony Esser and passed on a voice vote.

Book Sales:

Jeff Carmichael reported on the "Blue Book". Cortier Printing of Syracuse was contracted with to produce the copies of the book and handle the collating. The cost was \$30.00 per book and the Chapter ordered 1,000 copies. The Chapter in turn will sell each book for \$50.00. Lisa stated that orders have already begun to be received. She also said that orders for the Chapters other publications, the Contractors Handbook and the "Little Blue Book" have been increasing. The Chapter will have 60 days to pay the final bill to Cortier, and we will be billed in two installments of thirty days apart. The Reducing Impacts book is currently undergoing revision and should be done fairly soon.

Envirothon:

Jim said he is stepping down as the Chair of the Envirothon Committee this year. Cayuga County is in the process of a large \$3.5 million digester project proposal and he needs to spend time administering that grant. He said he has loved the opportunity to work with the kids over the years but feels it's time for someone else to take over the Chairmanship.

Scholarships:

Ellen Luchsinger was not able to attend this meeting but she did pass along a message that she would like to step down as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. She would be willing to work with the new Chair to make a smooth transition.

Awards:

Sarah Kron stated that nominations are coming in but slowly. She has only received two at this date. Jim H. said he will be providing her with additional award recommendations next week. Discussion took place as to the potential need to increase the number of Special Achievement Awards or Merit Awards for this year. Normal practice has been to have only one award in each category. It was felt that because the Empire Chapter hosted the National meeting and there were a lot of folks who should receive recognition for their efforts at the National

meeting that it may be appropriate to increase the number. A motion was made by Jim Hotaling and seconded by Tony Esser to increase the awards budget by \$500.00. This could be used to increase the number of awards presented in the two specific categories. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Tony and Dan Dostie will assist Sarah in the review of the awards.

Website/Newsletter:

Dan stated that he would like some assistance with the newsletter issues. He is willing to continue his work on the website. He stated that the Chapters History is now on the website, with Tony's assistance, and it is current up to 1992. The incoming officers will need to update the history to present times.

Minigrant:

No report provided.

Annual Business Meeting:

Tibor reviewed the agenda for the annual business meeting to be held on November 9, 2005 at the Auburn Holiday Inn.

Nominations:

Tony reported that Brian Boerman will seek the office of President and that Sarah Kron will seek the office of Vice President. Elections will take place at the Annual business meeting.

New Business:

Tony made a motion to present a Society Golf shirt to the following individuals for their assistance at the National Meeting in Rochester:

Mark Burger, John Whitney and Mark Horvath.

The motion was seconded by Jim Hotaling and passed by a voice vote.

There being no additional business, Sara Kron mad a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Hotaling, meeting was concluded at 11:45am.

After the business meeting, a very nice buffet was held for the LAC members present.