

SWCS Empire Chapter – Annual Business Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2008, 8:00 am
Holiday Inn, Waterloo, NY

Present: Bill Keating, Scott Fitscher, Jim Calhoun, Henry Kelsey, Greg Albrect, Peter Wright, Pat Barry, Craig Schutt, Josh Hornesky, Dianna Power, Heath Eisele, Ellen Luchsinger, Elaine Dalrymple, Brad Schwab, Dana Chapman, Gary Sick, Bill Boyer (NE Regional Rep.), Don Kuhn, Jim Hotaling, Bub Barra, Lisa Miller

1. September Council Minutes – Dianna Power
 - Motion by Jim Hotaling to accept the minutes
 - Motion seconded by Craig Schutt
 - Motion was carried

2. Treasurer's Report – Brad Schwab /Lisa Miller
 - National SWCS Meeting Reimbursements have been paid out
 - Expenses: Postage for Publications
 - PayPal: Income coming in from online sales is held in a PayPal account, not yet available in our checking account.
 - Previous plan to invest scholarship and endowment funds in Vanguard account moving forward. All documents will be signed today and be finalized.
 - Motion by Craig Schutt to accept the minutes
 - Motion seconded by Henry Kelsey
 - Motion was carried

3. Lisa Miller – Office Management
 - Due to audits of the Cayuga SWCD, auditors and SWCD management are concerned about Lisa Miller being reimbursed by the society as well as being paid full-time by the SWCD
 - To avoid confusion and concern, Lisa Miller has agreed to continue to act as Office Manager for the SWCS from her home as a private contractor
 - A new agreement has been developed by revamping and editing the previous agreement between the Empire Chapter and the Cayuga County SWCD
 - Agreement outlines \$20/hour rate for Lisa's services
 - Estimate 10-15 hours/month
 - Need to purchase new filing cabinet to be utilized at Lisa's residence
 - Motion by Dana Chapman for Chapter to accept and sign agreement with Lisa Miller
 - Motion seconded by Jim Hotaling
 - Motion was carried

4. PayPal (online credit card payment system)
 - PayPal system requires the use of a Social Security Number
 - Whose social security number should be used? What are implications?
 - Results: Continue to try to use Chapter Tax ID Number, do not give PayPal anyone's Social Security Number
 - Sales Tax must be paid on all publication orders
 - Lisa Miller is in process of registering the Empire Chapter for a Certificate of Authority with NYS for paying Sales Tax
 - PayPal will account for sales tax by county

5. T-Shirts

- Many boxes of t-shirts/golf shirts remain from the 2005 National SWCS Conference in Rochester, NY
- Motion by Dana Chapman to give a free t-shirt to any new member and advertise this on the chapter's website
- Motion seconded by Jim Hotaling
- Motion was carried

6. Reimbursements

- Motion to approve reimbursement to Lisa Miller for \$1378.49
- Motion to approve donation of \$1500 to NYS Envirothon
- Motion made by Jim Hotaling
- Motion seconded by Josh Hornesky
- Motion was carried

7. Nomination/Election of Officers – Peter Wright

- During September Council Meeting:
 - Peter Wright nominated Dianna Power for Secretary
 - Peter Wright nominated Greg Albrect as President
 - Dianna Power nominated Peter Wright as Past-President
- During the Annual Business Meeting:
 - Dianna Power nominated Josh Hornesky for At-Large-Rep
 - Craig Schutt nominated Scott Fitscher for Region 4 Rep
 - Brad Schwab nominated Don Kuhn for Region 1 Rep
 - Jim Hotaling nominated Henry Kelsey for President-Elect
- Motion was made to close nominations and vote once to elect all nominees
- Motion made by Dana Chapman
- Motion seconded by Jim Hotaling
- Motion was carried

8. Scholarships – Josh Hornesky

- See attached "2008-2009 Empire Chapter SWCD Scholarships"
- Motion made by Josh Hornesky to pay scholarship recipients \$1000 each, 1 year SWCS Student Membership and 1 Free T-shirt for SWCS Scholarships and for Fletcher Scholarship: \$500 for recipient, 1 year SWCS Student Membership and 1 Free T-shirt
- Motion seconded by Peter Wright
- Motion was carried

9. Next Meeting: Council Meeting at 10:00am at Cayuga SWCD Office, 1/28/09

10. Motion to adjourn made by Dianna Power, Ellen Luchsinger seconded the motion, and Motion was carried

2008-2009 Empire Chapter SWCS Scholarships

Overview:

- Applications sent to many schools financial aid offices, including department and faculty chairs related scholarship criteria.
- 12 applications received
- All applications received were eligible and very worthy of award
- Five chapter members were judges and assisted in evaluating scholarships:
 - Peter Wright
 - Dianna Power
 - Mark Burger
 - Jessica Skinner
 - Josh Hornesky

Cherie Sage

- Senior at ESF, major: Conservation Biology
- NRCS Earth Team volunteer completing over 300 hours of service
- Assisted biologists, DC's, and field personal in 5 counties with survey, design, installation, and technical support for programs including WRP, CRP, and WHIP.
- Assisted in many survey's and on site support during WRP construction with NRCS biologist
- Assisted with layouts of buffers strips
- Unique Project: Almost done with brochure to assist landowners in choosing New York State native seed mixes (mostly forbs) after restoration projects have been complete. Final brochure will be handout to landowners so they can visualize what property may look like after seeding as taken place (heights, colors, etc of vegetation).
- Has presented various lessons to K-6 graders in celebration of earth week at local schools
- 3.9 GPA
- Career goal: Biologist

Stephen Zelno

- Senior at Cornell, major: Biological Science
- VERY big into composting. Works as "Student Sustainable Coordinator" at Cornell Dinning Hall. Expanded composting program from one dinning hall to four with two more underway.
- Graduate of Tompkins County Master Compost Program. Spends volunteer hours teaching workshops and giving presentations at elementary schools, and different community events around campus related to composting
- Currently Agriculture and Environmental Intern at CCE. There he helped organize rural farmers markets, created local food guides for agricultural and environmental events, created GIS maps for town agriculture planning.
- 3.4 GPA
- Future plans: join Peace Corps after graduation as Agricultural or Environmental Program volunteer before continuing onto graduate school. Would like to pursue career in academia, extension or non-profit sector.