

SWCS Empire Chapter Council
Annual Business Meeting

January 21, 2010, 8:00 am, Holiday Inn, Waterloo, NY

Present: Greg Albrecht, Henry Kelsey, Scott Fitscher, Dianna Power, Josh Hornesky, Pat Barry, Brad Schwab, Don Kuhn, Bub Barra, Cherie Sage, Steven Hall, Brian Hall, Lisa Miller

1. Introductions
2. Review and Approval of December 16, 2009 Empire Chapter Council Minutes
 - Motion made by Brad to accept minutes
 - Seconded by Scott
 - Motion was carried
3. Treasurer's Report – Brad Schwab and Lisa Miller
 - Lisa: Final financial reports sent to accountant for October to December. IRS has accepted our change in fiscal year of January through December
 - Lisa: Vanguard Endowment Account balance is \$35,466.13. Vanguard Fletcher Account balance is \$9,070.60
 - Lisa: QuickBooks accounting software will be updated to new January to December fiscal year and will add 2010 budget
 - Motion made by Greg to accept Treasurer's Report
 - Seconded by Henry
 - Motion was carried
4. Review Orders and Publication Inventories – Brad and Lisa
 - Brad: Publication sales down in 2009, may need to reassess the average sales figures that were used to estimate publication income in the budget
 - Brad: Sales may also be down due to the availability of the manuals online through NYS DEC website
 - Lisa: Lisa talked to Don Lake and Don recommended that the chapter encourage the sale and marketing of the Field Notebooks (current inventory is 900), as updates will be coming out in the next year or two. A possible strategy would be to market and reduce the price for county SWCDs.
 - Don Kuhn: Don recommends that the chapter send a letter to all SWCDs asking them to announce the availability of the publications through the SWCS during any local Stormwater training sessions.
 - Action: Henry will develop and send out letter the SWCDs regarding the marketing of Stormwater publications during local Stormwater trainings
 - Lisa: Overall publication inventories are adequate at this time
5. Review of 2009-2010 Budget – Greg and Brad
 - Income: All figures except for Manual and Guide sales are pretty fixed.

- Expenses: Some more flexibility for the future if the publications sales continue to trend downward.
 - Brad: Scholarship funds could potentially be paid out of endowment in the future rather than chapter operating funds.
6. Joint Summer Meeting Opportunity with Keystone SWCS Chapter – Greg
- Greg was approached by Martin VanderGrinten, NRCS Plant Materials Center (PMC), Big Flats and Joel Myer, Keystone SWCS
 - Opportunity to do a joint meeting with the Keystone SWCS Chapter this summer
 - Also opportunity to dove-tail this with planned PMC Field Days
 - PMC already has a BioFuels Field Day scheduled for July 28, 2010
 - Overall response was positive that Empire Chapter should pursue this opportunity with the Keystone Chapter
 - Empire Chapter is looking for a member to take the lead in working with the PMC and Keystone Chapter in developing this Field Day. Contact Henry or Greg if interested
7. Mini-Grant update – Greg
- Updated Request for Proposal (RFP) will be out in the next few weeks
 - The new Mini-Grant program will focus on outreach and education, maximum \$1500 per grant, may offer 2 RFPs (spring and fall) each year
 - Impacts of grants and products will be posted on Empire Chapter SWCS website
8. Nominations and Elections of Council Officers – Greg
- Nominations:
 - President – Henry Kelsey
 - Past-President – Greg Albrecht
 - Secretary – Cherie Sage
 - Region 2 Representative (CNY) – Aaron Weiss
 - Region 3 Representative (Southeast NY) – Pat Barry
 - President-Elect – VACANT
 - Vice President – VACANT
 - President-Elect and Vice President nominations will continue to be accepted, if you have any nominations, please contact Greg
 - Motion made by Don Kuhn to accept existing nominations except President-Elect and Vice President and elect officers
 - Seconded by Josh
 - Motion was carried
9. Scholarship – Josh
- Scholarship recipients:
 - Fletcher Scholarship: Alexander Smith, Sophomore, Paul Smiths College
 - Chapter Scholarships: Marlene VanEs, Junior, Cornell University

- Chapter Scholarships: Alissa Kilanowski, Senior, St. Lawrence University

10. Next Council Meeting will be following the Water Quality Symposium, Friday, March 12, 2010, 1:00 pm at Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY.

11. Adjournment

- Motion made by Dianna to adjourn meeting
- Seconded by Greg
- Motion was carried

DRAFT