

SWCS Empire Chapter Council Meeting
December 16, 2009, 1 pm, Cayuga County CCE Conference Room, Auburn, NY and
teleconference

Present: Peter Wright, Greg Albrecht, Josh Hornesky, Henry Kelsey, Brian Aldrich (Cayuga
CCE), Lisa Miller. On the phone: Dianna Power, Brad Schwab, Don Kuhn, Scott Fitscher, Bub
Barra

1. Review and Approval of July 17, 2009 Empire Chapter Council Minutes
 - Motion made by Peter to accept minutes
 - Seconded by Don
 - Motion was carried
2. Review of September 10, 2009 Empire Chapter Council Minutes
 - Motion made by Brad to accept minutes
 - Seconded by Scott
 - Motion was carried
3. Lisa Miller's Invoice (#8): 09/08-11/11/09 for \$480
 - Motion made by Greg to accept and pay Lisa's invoice via email
 - Seconded by Don
 - Motion was carried
4. Lisa Miller's Invoice (#9): 11/12-12/13/09 for \$297
 - Motion made by Peter to accept and pay Lisa's invoice
 - Seconded by Dianna
 - Motion was carried
5. Lisa Miller's Memorandum of Agreement for 2010 – Greg
 - Same as 2009 except for section 6(a): The hourly rate increase from \$20 to \$25
 - In 2009, the Chapter paid less than \$4000 for Lisa's administrative services
 - The 2010 Budget shows \$4000, based on \$25 rate
 - Peter made motion to increase Lisa Miller's rate to \$25, effective January 1, 2010
 - Seconded by Bub
 - Motion carried
6. Annual Chapter Budget – Greg
 - Council has reviewed and discussed budget
 - Goal for Council is to update the annual budget each year prior to the Empire Chapter Annual Meeting
 - It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to lead the update to the budget annually
 - Lisa will incorporate the budget into QuickBooks in January
7. Change in Chapter Fiscal Year from October-September to January-December
 - Change complete based on approval at last meeting
 - Lisa worked with accountant
 - An additional tax return will be filed for 10/09-12/09
 - There was an additional cost to the chapter of \$100
8. Council Elections/Nominations – Greg
 - Send in nominations to Greg
 - Open seats are:
 - Region 3 Rep (currently Craig Schutt)
 - Region 2 Rep (currently Bub Barra)
 - Secretary (currently Dianna Power)

- Vice President (currently Jim Hotaling)
- President-Elect (currently Henry Kelsey)

9. Treasurer's Report – Brad/Lisa

- Treasurer's Report from September 10, 2009:
- Motion made by Peter to accept Treasurer's Report 9/10/09
- Seconded by Greg
- Motion was carried
- Lisa: Low publication sales this fall, no need to order more publications now
- Brad: Endowments show increases in both accounts compared to the last Treasurer's Report, why? Lisa thinks it is because of market changes in September; she will look into it and email everyone. Recommend showing changes quarterly in future Treasurer's Report
- Peter: Interested in showing the change in inventory on the Treasurer's Report
- Brad/Lisa: PayPal checking account shows negative change as a result of there being a balance in the account to begin with, and a \$0 balance at the end of the quarter
- Treasurer's Report:
 - Motion made by Greg to accept Treasurer's Report 12/16/09
 - Seconded by Peter
 - Motion was carried

10. Awards – Lisa/Greg

- No nominations received yet
- Contact Jim Hotaling with nominations

11. Empire Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting – Henry

- Annual Meeting will be held at Holiday Inn, Waterloo, NY on January 21, 2010
- Speakers are lined up and agenda and registration info will be coming out this week
- Registration deadline will be the 2nd week of January
- Greg will send out agenda for Annual Business Meeting at the beginning of January

12. Mini-Grant – Greg, Scott

- Goal is to revise and finalize the updated program info/RFP before the January 21st Annual Meeting
- Scott and Dianna will work together to update the current Mini-Grant forms/RFP
- Mini-Grant Subcommittee (Greg, Scott, Henry, Dianna) will have a teleconference 1/7/2010 at 10am to review draft RFP/forms
- Still recommend tabling Monroe County SWCD request for Invasive Species Brochure until new Mini-Grant program is released in January

13. Financial Support Request: NYS and Canon Envirothon - Greg

- Greg received letter of request from Sandy Huey, NYS Envirothon Chair asking for \$1600 (\$1500 previously provided and an additional \$100 to cover costs of sending winning team to Canon Envirothon in Colorado in 2010)
- Council approved \$4500 in overall donations in 2009, including \$1500 for the NYS Envirothon
- The \$1600 donation secures a booth for SWCS display and brochures
- Motion made by Peter to approve request for \$1600 for NYS Envirothon
- Seconded by Josh
- Motion was carried
- SWCS is in need of a representative to sit on the NYS Envirothon committee. If interested, contact Greg

14. Scholarships – Josh
 - 8 applications received for the Chapter scholarship from diverse colleges
 - Packets sent out to reviewers, have recommendations back to Josh by 12/24/09
 - 1 application for the Fletcher Scholarship (Paul Smith's) received

15. Other Topics – Greg
 - Climate Change Conservation Initiative, sponsored by Paul Salon is moving forward
 - There will be a Symposium track at the National SWCS meeting in 2010 and at the National Agronomists and Soil Scientists Annual Conferences
 - NE Regional Tech Conference, NJ in 2010, will also present CCCI topics
 - Council recommends leaving options open to support reimbursements of travel costs for NJ conference

16. Stormwater Manual - Peter
 - Chapter received a letter from a local Stormwater Consultant asking for updates to the Stormwater Manual to account for new technologies/techniques
 - Peter talked to Don Lake and they concurred that updating the manual was needed
 - Peter will pursue the updates, however it will likely be a complex and difficult process
 - Peter will talk to Don Lake to strategize how/who will update, as well as discuss with DEC

17. Next Council Meeting will be Empire Chapter, Annual Business Meeting January 21st, 2010 at 8am at Holiday Inn, Waterloo, NY

18. Adjournment
 - Greg made motion to adjourn
 - Seconded by Henry
 - Motion Carried