

SWCS Empire Chapter Council Meeting
July 11, 2008, 10:00 am, Cortland USDA Center

Present: Peter Wright, Dianna Power, Greg Albrect, Brad Schwab, Bub Barra, Josh Hornesky,
Jim Hotaling, Lisa Miller, Bill Keating (via phone)

1. Acceptance of May 2, 2008 Chapter Minutes
 - Motion made by Brad S. to accept minutes
 - Seconded by Josh H.
2. Treasurer's Report – Brad/Lisa
 - Standards and Specs Book – new order
 - Dianna made a motion to order 500 more books at \$21,066
 - Josh seconded the motion
 - Motion was carried
 - Jim Hotaling made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report
 - Greg seconded the motion
 - Motion was carried
3. Investment Options for Scholarship/Endowment Funds – Brad
 - Vanguard fund –
 - Charges 0.32% Operating Fees
 - Earned on average ~7.8% over last 10 years
 - Jim Hotaling made a motion to combine the endowment and MM Scholarship (\$31,445.24) and invest in Vanguard STAR
 - Greg seconded the motion
 - Motion was carried
 - Dianna made a motion to create a separate Vanguard fund for the Fletcher Scholarship fund (\$8035.29)
 - Brad seconded the motion
 - Motion was carried
4. National Meeting - Peter
 - Reimbursement Requests Approved for: Peter Wright (\$1500), Jim Hotaling, Jeff Carmichael, Margaret Fusco, Rich Wildman and Brad Schwab (\$1000 each)
 - NE Exhibit – Jim Hotaling
 - With the late notice, the chapter has decided not to contribute to a Northeast Display at the National Meeting
5. Website Progress – Greg
 - Council member Training at Ancient Wisdom occurred the end of May
 - Greg, Dianna and Josh have worked to get the content of the site entered and updated
 - Council member should go into the website and review structures and content and send suggestions/comments to Greg as soon as possible
 - PayPal has been setup to accept online publication purchases
 - officemanager@swcsnewyork.org email was setup to go directly to Lisa Miller for questions regarding publication orders
 - PayPal charges 2.9% + \$0.30 for each transaction
 - With additional internet charges, there was discussion on whether to raise prices
 - Jim Hotaling made a motion to increase prices of the publications to: \$70 for the blue book, \$45 for the white book and \$35 for each field book
 - Brad seconded the motion
 - Motion was carried
 - Discounts –
 - SWCDs receive 5% discount for orders over 10 books

- All others receive 5% discount for orders over 50 books
- Discounted orders will not be able to go thru PayPal, orders will have to go directly to Lisa

6. Annual Meeting - Greg

- Discussion of topics for presentations
 - Climate Change Impacts on NY
 - Climate Change to Vegetation
 - Biofuels – Impacts on NE economies
 - 2008 Farm Bill
- Location – Waterloo and Auburn Holiday Inns are both available
 - Waterloo selected for Thursday, 11/13/08
- 30 minute website presentation/state of the chapter Business Meeting in the morning of the agenda
- Action – Greg will develop a tentative agenda for the Annual Meeting

7. Other Topics - Peter

- Mark Rice, NC, is working on a project doing confidential environmental assessments
 - May be role for chapter to sponsor a meeting to assist
 - Encourage use of AEM process in NY to be incorporated into environmental assessments

8. Next Meeting: September 12, 2008 at 10:00 am via Teleconference

9. Bill Keating made a motion to adjourn

- Bub seconded the motion
- Motion was carried