



# Michigan Chapter

## Executive Council Teleconference

Friday, October 5, 2018

### MINUTES

**(“Action Required” Items are in red italics)**

**Call to Order:** 10:04 a.m. by President Hugh Brown

**Roll Call:**

<b>Present:</b>	Hugh Brown	President
	Dan Kesselring	Secretary
	Rebecca Bender	Region 1 Director
	Dan Busby	Region 2 Director
	Gerald Miller	Region 3 Director
	Tim Harrigan	Region 4 Director (called in at 10:44 a.m.)
	<b>( 5 present – quorum achieved, according to Bylaws)</b>	
<b>Excused:</b>	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Jon Bartholic	Past President
	John Freeland	President-elect
<b>Absent:</b>	Dave Lehnert	Vice President
<b>Others:</b>	Katie Droscha, Candidate for Vice President.	
	Tim Catron, Legislative Committee Chair	

**Agenda:** Hugh asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Hugh declared the agenda approved.

**10/5/18 Minutes:** Hugh asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the previous teleconference. Hearing none, Hugh declared the minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kelly was not available. *She will email a report later.*

**Disbursements:** None presented.

**Motions approved by email prior to this teleconference:** None.

**New Business:**

**Scholarship Application Form:** Hugh presented the proposed form for approval. Moved by Dan K., supported by Jerry, to approve the form as presented. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Professional Development:** Jerry deferred to sub-committees.

**Fall Field Trip:** Dan B. reviewed the plan and agenda. Registration has been opened through a Survey Monkey prepared by Kelly. The Field Trip will be held Monday, October 29, and will start at 4:30 p.m., travel to one farm and return by 6:30 p.m.

**MACD Conference Breakout Session:** Katie reported that the session would focus on the introduction of a new on-line tool that is being developed by MSU-IWR with funding from USDA-NRCS scheduled for 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 30. It will include a farmer panel.

**ANR Seminar:** Tim reported that the Seminar will be held Wednesday, March 6, in St. Johns this year. He has contacted Linda Prokopy from Purdue University to be a speaker and she has the date on her calendar. He will contact her again next week. The committee also has Zach Curtis, MSU-IWR, to discuss Western Michigan watershed issues and a panel to discuss the Regional Conservation Partnership Program relevant to Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay. Hugh asked whether the noon meal should be sandwiches or a full meal. Consensus was to go with a full meal.

**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 29. Hugh presented a proposed agenda and asked for suggestions for any possible additions. Rebecca suggested some additional ideas which Hugh will consider. Dan has prepared a registration application through Survey Monkey, has notified members about the Annual Meeting and the registration process, and has placed an announcement on the website.

**Membership & Outreach:** Rebecca reported that membership is holding steady. She also discussed a plan for contacting early career professionals who are members concerning what benefits they expect to receive from their membership.

**Legislation:** Tim Catron reported on HB6153 and the lack of progress on some legislation.

**President's Report:** Hugh provided his written report in a separate email. See Appendix #1.

**Work Plan Update:** The work items for October were appended to the agenda. Hugh commented that one of the items was the Awards Program. *Dan will update the Awards application forms on the website and prepare an article for the October newsletter.*

**Member Comments:** There were none.

**Next Teleconference:** 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 7, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary

**President's Report from Hugh Brown  
For October 5, 2018 Teleconference**

**New Business**

Scholarship Committee

Kelly Goward, James Rasmussen (Aquinas College) and I are serving on the committee and have reviewed the 2018-2019 Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program application form. It is now on the Chapter's website along with supporting information.

<http://www.miglswcs.org/awards-jobs-and-scholarships/scholarships/>

Under new business, I would like a motion to approve the application form.

**Committee Reports**

Annual Chapter Business Meeting

The Chapter's Annual Meeting will take place at Shanty Creek Resort near Bellaire MI from 10 to 11:30 am on Monday, October 29. I developed an agenda and it is attached for your input. I am looking into the possibility of using Zoom as a means of allowing off-site users to join the meeting. The free version is limited to 40 minutes for a single program, but we may be able to do back-to-back meetings to overcome that limitation. If anyone on the Executive Council has access to a more robust version of Zoom or equivalent, please contact me. The backup plan is to use the chapter's phone teleconferencing arrangement. To help ensure a quorum, Dan set up a registration page at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7WDYP3X>

In our last teleconference, we decided to sponsor the MACD Annual Conference at a level (\$100 total) which allows us to put an insert into the registration bag and to put materials on the registration table. Erika Crady, at headquarters in Ankeny, is sending 275 copies of the Society's membership brochure to Keystone Solutions in Dewitt (MACD's vendor for the conference). I will update the Michigan Chapter's two-page brochure "Healthy Land, Clean Water, For Life" and print copies for the event.

**Professional Development**

Fall Field Trip

Dan Busby has arranged a tour of Providence Farm for Monday, October 29 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Pepper Bromelmeier will join us for the program. To facilitate the carpooling arrangements, a survey has been set up for registration. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/72538JJ>

MACD Annual Conference Session

Jon Bartholic, Katie Droscha and others have been working on a session which will be held on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Details are provided below:

Title: Computer Assisted Nutrient Management Planning Program (CANMaPP);

A discussion with developers, farmers and conservation field staff for tool integration, planning, support and conservation assessment.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (MiSWCS) are hosting a session at the Michigan Association of Conservation District (MACD) Fall Conference about a new tool that may be very useful to farmers and conservation field staff. The Computer Assisted Nutrient Management Planning Program (CANMaPP) is an online tool, currently in development, that assists with nutrient management plan implementation and documentation. More specifically, users can import existing nutrient management plans into CANMaPP and document the implementation of their plan in a consistent format suitable for review by various agricultural and conservation agencies. The tool is designed for use by farmers, field office technicians, Extension educators, agency personnel and other conservation professionals. This project is led and developed by the Michigan State University Institute of Water Research (IWR) and is supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Fall MACD session will present an initial version of the CANMaPP tool and conclude with an interactive and hands-on feedback. Part 1 of the session starts with a panel that includes farmers discussing the challenges of performing nutrient management on their land. Part 2 will be a discussion of the CANMaPP Tool development and future goals by the NRCS State Office. Part 3 will end with a discussion led by developer Laura Young (IWR), covering the potentials of the CANMaPP tool, and the project rollout. The final CANMaPP tool will be available in summer 2019.

#### ANR Seminar Committee

The ANR Committee, chaired by Tim Harrigan, had a conference call on Sept. 18 and decided to use the AgroLiquid location in St. Johns. After a series of emails, Wednesday March 6, 2019 was selected as the date of the Seminar. Speakers discussed included: Jim Isley in the River Raisin watershed (<https://www.waterqualityfarming.org/>), Eileen Kladviko (Purdue University), and Rebecca Power, North Central Region Water Network Director and SWCS Board representative. The Committee still needs to draft a program description.

AgroLiquid has a list of approved caterers that can provide lunch. I have contacted Litwiller and Crave Catering and have menus that I will share with the committee. The facility provides coffee and other drinks all day long. We can bring snacks in, but can't use the kitchen.

#### Membership and Outreach

Rebecca Bender posted the monthly newsletter for September that featured strong content about the chapter and conservation news. I encourage officers to consider submitting an article for the October issue which should go out by the 19<sup>th</sup> in order to promote the Annual Meeting and Fall Field Trip.

#### Nominations/Election Committee

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Andrew Gust, developed a roster of candidates:

Vice President: Katie Droscha and Sherman Reed

Region 2 Director: Dan Busby

Region 4 Director: Timothy Harrigan and Jim Marshall

The President Elect position still has no candidate.

Dan sent the ballot to members on October 2 with instructions and a deadline of voting by Oct. 19. An Elections Committee composed of Jon Bartholic, Elaine Brown Bartholic, and Tim Cattron will meet in the Lansing area to tally the ballots prior to the Annual Meeting.

#### Legislative Committee

I have emailed Tim Cattron, Committee Chair, several times recently about bills in the Michigan Legislature. He is planning to give an update during the call.

#### 2018 Work Plan Items

Award nominations are due by Dec. 15

We need to submit a program description for the ANR Seminar to MSU

Draft 2019 work plan

Draft 2019 budget