



# Michigan Chapter

## Executive Council Teleconference

Friday, July 6, 2018

### MINUTES

*("Action Required" Items are in red italics)*

**Call to Order:** 10:00 a.m. by President Hugh Brown

**Roll Call:**

<b>Present:</b>	Hugh Brown	President
	Jon Bartholic	Past President
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Dan Kesselring	Secretary
	Rebecca Bender	Region 1 Director
	Gerald Miller	Region 3 Director
	(6 present – quorum achieved)	
<b>Excused:</b>	John Freeland	President-elect
	Dan Busby	Region 2 Director
	Tim Harrigan	Region 4 Director
<b>Absent:</b>	Dave Lehnert	Vice President
<b>Others:</b>	None	

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

**6/1/18 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 emailed the Treasurer's Report. The current balances are: \$3,984.33 in the General Fund Chase Bank Checking and Savings accounts, \$9,393.72 in the Marshall Community Credit Union Scholarship Fund Savings Account and CDs, and \$6,192.63 in the two Vanguard Funds. Moved by Jerry, supported by Dan K., to approve the Treasurer's Report as emailed. Motion passed.

**Disbursements:** None presented.

**Motions approved by email prior to this teleconference:** Moved by Gerald Miller, supported by Jon Bartholic, to submit the proposed Bylaws amendment, as submitted by Hugh Brown and Dan Kesselring via email, to the membership for vote in the next election ballot. (See Appendix #1 President's Report for proposed amendment.) Votes: Jerry Miller – aye; Jon Bartholic – aye; Dan Kesselring – aye; Tim

Harrigan – aye; Dave Lehnert – aye; Dan Busby - aye. Kelly, John and Rebeca didn't vote. Motion passed.

### **New Business:**

**Scholarship:** Hugh asked Kelly if she thought the Scholarship Funds were going to have enough available to offer a \$500 Scholarship this fall. Kelly stated that she thought there would be enough from the Vanguard Funds interest and dividends, added to the earnings in the Marshall Community Credit Union CDs and the balance in the MCCU Savings. to cover a \$500 Scholarship. Dan moved, Jon supported, to offer a \$500 Scholarship for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. Motion passed. Suggestion by Jerry: if there is any excess left from the Annual Conference Silent Auction Fund that officers donated to, maybe that could be added to the Scholarship Fund.

**Strategic Plan update Mini-retreat:** Hugh asked for discussion to find a suitable date for this mini-retreat. After discussion it was decided to try for a date in late July through early August. *Hugh will set up a Doodle poll to determine the date most suitable to all.*

### **Old Business:**

**International Conference attendance:** See President's Report (Appendix #1)

**Bylaws revision for Regions:** Hugh referenced his President's Report (Appendix #1) that he emailed previously. The copy of the Bylaws revision proposal shown in his report is the version that the Council approved by email.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Professional Development:** Jerry Miller, Chair, deferred to Jon Bartholic.

**Breakout Program at the MACD Summer Conference:** Jon reported that there was a good turnout for the session, that feedback was positive, and that the presentation resulted in a request for a presentation to NRCS staff. He also stressed the good relationship developed with MACD.

**Fall Program at the MACD Annual Conference:** Since Dan Busby was unable to attend today, Jerry said he would contact Dan B. and then email an update to the Council. Jon commented about using SWCS to integrate with MACD, NRCS and IWR. Also, see President's Report (Appendix #1).

**Membership and Outreach:** Rebecca commented we haven't achieved any new members over the past month, but membership is stable. *She again appealed for items and ideas for the monthly newsletter.*

**Nominations:** See President's Report (Appendix #1).

**Legislative:** Hugh commented on the status of the Federal Farm Bill and Michigan House Bill 5638. See President's Report (Appendix #1) for more.

**President's Report:** See Appendix #1.

**Work Plan Update:** Work Plan Items for July were appended to the Agenda.

**Member Comments:** There were none.

**Next Teleconference:** 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 3, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary

APPENDIX #1

**President's Report from Hugh Brown  
For July 6, 2018 Teleconference**

**New Business**

Jerry Miller, Jon Bartholic and I are interested in having another strategic planning session this summer. Please check your calendars for late July and early August and see what dates would be available or (if it is easier) what dates are unavailable. We will determine if there is a week or two that would be fairly open and then I can send out a Doodle Poll to narrow the choices. The Institute of Water Research at MSU can host the session and we can arrange to have phone access for those who want to call in.

**Old Business**

SWCS Annual Conference in Albuquerque NM

I don't know anyone who plans to attend the Society's Annual Conference (July 29 to August 1). Unless someone is identified soon, we may not have a representative at the House of Delegate's Meeting. Dan Busby agreed to assemble a basket of Michigan products for the silent auction and we collected more than \$100 for that purpose. We may need to send the item via UPS or other delivery service so fresh food may not be suitable.

Regional Redistricting

With a version based on Dan K's edits, we approved the materials to be sent out with the Election Ballot. If the bylaws change is approved by the membership, the transition would start at the end of the 2018 Annual Meeting. Under the proposed bylaws, Region 1 combines the Upper Peninsula and the Northern Lower Peninsula, Region 2 changes to the Southeast, Region 3 remains in the Southwest, and a new At-large Director is elected in even years. The proposed language is appended below (note that some of the material in my June report is inconsistent with the new version and should be discarded).

**Committee Reports**

Annual Meeting/Fall Field Trip

Dan Busby and his committee are working on the program. The Executive Council will develop the agenda for the Annual Business Meeting.

Nominations Committee

Andrew Gust chaired a call of the Nominations Committee on June 27 which included Katie Droscha, and me. Thomas Berndt and Marty Arford were asked to participate via email with another call scheduled for July 13. Several names were proposed for the positions to be elected: President, Vice President, Region 2 and Region 4 Representatives.

## Legislative Committee

I emailed Tim Catron and invited him to provide an update. HB 5638 that changes the approval process for water withdrawals was approved by the Legislature and has become Act No. 209. My read is that it is similar to the original House bill except that it eliminates the blockage of public access to information. The Farm Bill has passed both chambers of the US Congress and will now go to a conference committee. There are major differences between the two bills which may complicate passage before the existing law expires in September. [See more at:](#)

## ANR Seminar Committee

Tim Harrigan, Committee Chair, is scheduled to return from Burkina Faso on July 9. I have appointed Jerry Miller and Dan Kesselring, and Jeff Jacobsen, Executive Director of the North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (he is housed at MSU), to serve on the committee. Let me know if you are interested in volunteering for the group.

## **PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISIONS 2018**

### **Introduction and Summary of Bylaws Proposal**

The Michigan Chapter Executive Council, with guidance from the Chapter Policy Committee, has been considering a reorganization of the Michigan Chapter's Regions that involves the merger of Regions 1 and 2 and adding an At-large Director. The main justification for the proposed bylaws change is to provide more equitable representation of our membership on the Executive Council. Recent membership numbers in the Regions are Region 1=3, Region 2=8, Region 3=24, and Region 4=29. The At-large Director would provide geographical flexibility to the Nominating Committee (for example in a case where two good candidates are from the same region). The At-Large Director also maintains the current number of 10 officers in the Chapter.

A draft of the Chapter Bylaws revision (see below) proposes combining Regions 1 and 2 (along with a shift of three counties, Bay, Isabella and Midland, from existing Region 4) and providing for an At-large director.

If the proposed bylaws are approved, they would take effect immediately as dictated by the existing Bylaws. The existing Director for Region 1 would become the Director for the new Region 1 and would serve until they are replaced in the next election (2019). The representatives from existing Region 2 and Region 4, elected this year, would serve until the election of 2020, however, the person elected to be the Director of existing Region 4 would become the Director of the new Region 2, and the person elected to the existing Region 2 would become the new At-Large Director. The election in 2019 would select representatives from the SW (Region 3) and the new northern Michigan Region (1). The 2020 election would select an At-large representative and one for the new Region 2 (SE).

To summarize: if passed, the implementation of these bylaws shall take effect at the end of the Annual Meeting in 2018. Representatives elected in 2017 will complete their terms with Region 1 covering Northern Michigan. Candidates elected in 2018 will represent the new Region 2 (SE) and the At-large position. The 2019 election will select representatives for the new Region 1 (N MI) and existing Region 3 (SW).

## **PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

**Note: The significant changes in Bylaws language are in bold italics.**

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1 - The officers of the Chapter shall be the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, **three** Regional Directors and **one At-large Director**, each of whom shall be a member of the Michigan Chapter. No individual member shall simultaneously hold more than one office in the Chapter, except as provided in Section 4 of this Article. A member who holds an office in the National Society may also hold a Chapter office.

Section 3 - The President-Elect and Vice-President shall be elected annually as hereinafter provided. The current year President-Elect shall automatically assume the position of President the following year. However, if the President-Elect is unable to assume the position of President, then the position of President shall be elected to fill the vacancy. The **three** Regional directors **and the At-large Director** shall be elected for a term of 2 years hereinafter provided. Regional directors of Regions **2 and the At-large** shall be elected in even numbered calendar years. The Regional director of Regions 1 and 3 shall be elected in odd numbered calendar years.

#### ARTICLE VII Regions

To give the membership the greatest opportunity to participate in Chapter affairs, the Chapter will be divided into **three** Regions. **An At-large representative shall be elected in alternate years from any of the three Regions.** A member's voting Region shall be the area in which **their** address of record at SWCS Headquarters is located.

The Regions of the Chapter are:

1. **Northern Region - Comprising all of the upper peninsula of Michigan and the Northern portion of the Lower Peninsula comprising the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Isabella, Iosco, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Midland, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, and Wexford.**
2. Southeastern Region - Comprising the counties of Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Tuscola, Washtenaw, and Wayne.
3. Southwestern Region - Comprising the counties of Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Van Buren.

**(Note: The following article is in the current bylaws.)**

#### ARTICLE XIV Effective Date of Bylaws

These Bylaws shall take effect immediately after approval by a two-thirds majority of those members voting in a special or general election. Procedures will be the same for the adoption of amendments.