



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2024

MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red *italics*)

Call to Order: At 12:10 p.m. by Sarah Fronczak, President-elect

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Sarah Fronczak	President-elect
	Heather Varboncoeur	Vice President
	Katie Droscha	Past President (joined later)
	Tess Van Gorder	At Large Director
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
	Zachary Curtis	Region 2 Director
	Gary Boersen	Region 3 Director
	(7 Officers present – quorum achieved)	

Others Present: Gerald Miller, Chair, Professional Development Committee

Officers Absent:	Steve Schaub	President
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer

Agenda: Sarah Fronczak asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Moved by Heather Varboncoeur, supported by Tess Van Gorder, to approve the agenda. Motion passed by voice vote.

04/11/2024 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Dan Busby, supported by Zachary Curtis, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motions approved by email prior to this meeting: None.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Goward had submitted the 5/9/24 Treasurer's Report by email. The balances as of 4/11/24 were: General Fund \$8,146.13; and Scholarship Fund \$16,130.33 . Moved by Zachary Curtis, supported by Gary Boersen, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion passed by voice vote.

Disbursements Needing Approval: None presented.

New Business:

Potential Summer Event: “Bonfire night” on August 13th as part of the MDARD Regenerative Agriculture Workshop (hosted by MSU Extension), at Lake City Cons. Station, targeting Cons. District and NRCS technicians

Request to MISWCS from Sarah Fronczak: sponsor the event and provide funds for snacks (not to exceed \$100). The event would include discussion of membership recruitment to MiSWCS.

Dan Busby will take the lead on coordinating for this event and report back at the June meeting for further discussion amongst the Officers.

2024 MACD Summer Conference MiSWCS display/booth? Question at hand: should MiSWCS consider teaming with MSU IWR for a booth at the 2024 MACD meeting? It was proposed that it may not be worthwhile, as this year's event is not targeting technicians, nor are they required to attend by MDARD. Others suggested that there might be more appropriate opportunities in the fall or winter (e.g., at the Regen Ag workshop). This ended up being the consensus. *Katie was to draft an email for MSU IWR regarding our decision, and share the draft with Jerry, Sarah and Dan B before sending to MSU IWR.*

Sarah F suggested alternatives for teaming with MSU IWR to publicize useful tools: online workshops, or broadcasting links/resources to relevant parties.

Old Business:

Chapter Representation at SWCS Annual Conference July 21-24: It was reported that Caryn Dawson, who is a member of MiSWCS, plans to attend the Conference. *Dan B. will contact Caryn to ask if she can be the Chapter Representative, which requires attending the House of Delegates session. Dan B will also look into an auction item for the Conference.*

March and April Work Plan Reminders – Work Plan Items for May and June, and remaining items from prior months, were appended to the agenda.

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Jerry and Tess reported on progress of Farm Bills at federal and state levels. At federal level, an outline of the bill is to be shared in the House of Representatives the week of May 20th. At the state level, Senate Bill 758 was recently passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. This bill would provide about 6 million USD in funding for conservation districts. House Bill 2211 was recently shared from the Agriculture Committee.

Membership and Outreach: *Zach will contact Glenn O'Neil to find out when he needs articles for the Spring Newsletter.* Zach and Dan B indicated they planned to submit articles.

Policy: *Katie Droscha, Chair, indicated she would request the Chapter President to appoint new members to the Policy Committee,* as some of the existing members do not actively respond to Committee communications. Officers agreed that this was reasonable.

Committee Assignments Review: The Committee listing was **updated 02/09/24** and is available on our Website at

<https://www.migswcs.org/app/download/7124127463/2024+Executive+Council+and+Committees.pdf>

Next Executive Council Meeting: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 12:57pm

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Curtis, Acting Secretary