



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Thursday, August 8, 2024

MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red *italics*)

Call to Order: At 12:02 p.m. by Steve Schaub, President

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Steve Schaub	President
	Sarah Fronczak	President-elect
	Katie Droscha	Past President
	Heather Varboncoeur	Vice President
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
	Zachary Curtis	Region 2 Director
	(7 Officers present – quorum achieved)	
Others Present:	Caryn Dawson	Chapter Delegate
Officers Absent:	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Gary Boersen	Region 3 Director
	Tess Van Gorder	At Large Director

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

07/11/2024 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Sarah Fronczak, 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 was unable to be present or to submit the 08/08/24 Treasurer's Report by email until after this meeting, so motion to approve will be postponed until the next Executive Council Meeting. However, the reported balances as of 8/08/24, based on available bank statements, were: General Fund \$8,236.32; and Scholarship Fund \$16,634.99.

Kelly had also mentioned by email the need to decide whether to extend the current \$1000 CD set to expire in September. Since the next Executive Council meeting is scheduled prior to the CD expiration date, and there will also be a 10 day grace period following expiration, *President Schaub requested the CD question be placed on the September agenda.*

Disbursements Needing Approval: None presented.

New Business:

SWCS International Conference Report: Caryn Dawson attended the SWCS International Annual Conference as Chapter Delegate and reported on the experience with an oral report and photos shared by Zoom screen share. *Caryn was asked to write some paragraphs about the different events she experienced and submit them for publication in the Chapter newsletter.*

2025 ANR Seminar Site Booking: Steve commented that he understood that the Agri-Liquid Conference Center was getting booked up for next year, and thought that we should get the facility booked for our Seminar. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Katie Droscha, to book the Agri-Liquid Conference Center for our 2025 Seminar on March 7, 2025. Motion passed by voice vote. *Kelly will contact Agri-Liquid.*

Old Business:

Lake City Bonfire Night Event: Sarah Fronczak reported that 27 have registered for the Extension training event. *Sarah and Dan Busby are still working on the evening MiSWCS sponsored event.*

Academic Year Fall 2024/Spring 2025 Scholarship Level Recommendation: Zachary Curtis reported that the Scholarship Committee had met and discussed the status of the Fund and recommends that the Scholarship amount be set at \$750 for the next two years. Moved by Steve Schaub and supported by Zachary Curtis to set the Scholarship amount at \$750 for the next two years. Motion passed by voice vote. *Steve asked Zach to finalize the committee, then proceed with publicity as appropriate.*

Zach reported that the committee had also discussed possible ways of increasing the Scholarship fund amount in order to achieve enough interest and dividends to increase the scholarship to \$1000 per year. One alternative could be to appeal to the membership. Steve suggested that we might consider doing an appeal on “Giving Tuesday”. *Zach and Steve will have further discussion with others about this option.*

Nominations Committee: *Steve reported that he is continuing to work on setting up this committee.*

Work Plan Reminders – Work Plan Items for July and August, and remaining items from prior months, were appended to the agenda.

Committee Reports:

Professional Development: Gerald Miller, Chair, reported by email that the committee does not have any event plans for the rest of the summer.

Legislative: Gerald Miller, chair, reported by email.

State Legislation: The Governor signed the FY25 Budget last week. Legislature is now on recess until approximately mid-September. Governor made a line-item veto pertaining to funding \$3.0M for SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel – ethanol). Not aware of other line-item veto’s.

Federal Farm Bill Budget. Congress is now recessed until after Labor Day. Farm Bill discussions between Reps. & Dems. isn’t positive. On August 5 GT Thompson (House Ag Chair) was informed by CBO (Congressional Budget Office) that his bill is \$33B over funding authorization.

Membership and Outreach:

Membership Status: Currently 51 members.

Committee Assignments Review: The Committee listing was **updated 08/08/24** and is available on our Website at

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

Open Discussion: None.

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

Adjournment: Being no further business, President Schaub adjourned the meeting at 1:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary