



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, July 24, 2026

MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red italics)

Call to Order: 1:03 p.m. called to order by Zachary Curtis, Chapter President

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Zachary Curtis	President
	Adam Reimer	President-elect
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Katie Droscha	Vice President
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Mila Resetar	Region 2 Director
	Sherman Reed	Region 3 Director

7 Officers present

Officers Absent	Steve Schaub	State-wide At Large Director
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director

Others Present: Gerald Miller, Chair, Professional Development Committee

Agenda: Chapter President Curtis asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, the agenda was approved.

6/09/2026 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Sherman Reed, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motions approved by email prior to this meeting: 6/11/26 Steve Schuab made a motion to approve the following: “SWCS has initiated an offer of financial support in the amount of \$2500 towards the field day entitled, “Incorporating the Principles of Regenerative Agriculture to make my farm more resilient and successful.” The event is a collaboration between MISWCS, Tuscola CD, MSU Extension and MDARD and will be held September 3rd, 2026, at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center. MISWCS agrees to submit an invoice, W9 and the outcomes survey upon acceptance and completion of the use of the funds. The funding is contingent upon approval by the SWCS contact at the USDA/NRCS, the agency providing the funding. Funds will be paid to MISWCS. MISWCS may reimburse the Tuscola CD or MSU Extension for expenses with receipt documentation for expenses directly related to the event not to exceed \$2500 or the amount of funding contracted for, whichever is less. Attachments are provided in this email for clarification.” Supported by Sherman Reed. Votes: Sherman Reed – aye; Adam Reimer – aye; Dan Busby – aye; Dan Kesselring – aye; Steve Schaub – aye. 6/17/26 – motion declared passed by President Zachary Curtis.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Goward, Treasurer, submitted her Treasurer's Report by email. The reported balances as of 6/30/26 were: General Fund \$11,719.31; and Scholarship Fund \$19,303.36. Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Adam Reimer, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion passed by voice vote.

Disbursements Needing Approval: Silent Auction donation. Kelly Goward reported that \$100 for this was in the budget, and that this kind of donation has been done in previous years because physical donation items have often not received the auction bid value that they had cost. Dan Kesselring moved that in lieu of providing items for sale in the 2026 International SWCS Conference Silent Auction, the Michigan Chapter SWCS send a \$100 check to the Chapter sponsoring the Silent Auction. Motion supported by Katie Droscha. Motion passed by voice vote. *Kelly Goward will send the \$100 donation pending identification of the sponsoring organization.*

New Business:

Chapter Display update/replacement: Professional Development Committee Chair Gerald Miller informed Executive Council members about the condition of the Chapter table top display. He is asking the Executive Council to consider purchasing a new display. Dan Kesselring stated that he knew the display was in use back in 2004, and that it had been a USDA-NRCS display prior to that. After discussion, *Zach said he would look into the costs and availability of a replacement, and would also ask Kelly to do the same.*

Chapter Awards Program: Dan Kesselring reported that he and Kelly Goward had updated the Chapter Awards Nomination Form and it is now available on the Chapter website <https://www.miglswcs.org/awards-and-scholarships/>.

Old Business:

Summer Tour Partner Event Planning Update: See Professional Development Committee Report.

Work Plan Reminders: Work Plan items were appended to the agenda.

Committee Reports:

Land Judging Guide Ad Hoc: Dan Kesselring, Chair, reported that he had a meeting with Michigan FFA Association members regarding proposed changes in the Guide and all had been agreed to other than Part Four which is still in discussion.

Professional Development:

Summer Tour Partner Event Planning Update: Since Steve Schaub was unable to attend this meeting, *President Curtis will ask him to give us an update by email.*

Membership and Outreach:

Membership: Membership currently stands at 54.

Newsletter: *Zachary Curtis reported that the newsletter is pending.*

Legislative: Gerald Miller reported.

Federal Action: Federal: Farm Bill update. Senate status for Farm Bill 2.0 [Title 2: Conservation | Farm Bill 2.0](#)

State Action: Governor signed FY27 budget on July 22, 2026

-Funds Michigan Conservation Districts at \$3.0M (\$40K per CD). No FTE cuts.

-Reduced Fresh Water Trust Fund by \$500K (Fund provides allocation for MAEAP)

-Governor signed Conservation District Proclamation for 89th Anniversary of PA239 of 1937 [July 17, 2026: Conservation District Day](#)

Scholarship: Zachary Curtis, Chair, asked to postpone this report.

Committee Assignments Review: The Committee listing was **updated 3/5/26** and is available on our Website at

<https://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7124127463/2025+Executive+Council+and+Committees.pdf>

Open Discussion: Gerald Miller discussed the NACD event that had occurred in Grand Rapids.

Next Executive Council Meeting: 4:00 p.m., Monday, August 17, 2026.

Adjournment: Having no further business to be discussed, President Curtis adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary