Michigan Chapter

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Friday, August 17, 2026

MINUTES

("Action" Items are in red italics)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Zachary Curtis, Chapter President, at 4:01 p.m.

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Zachary Curtis	President
	Adam Reimer	President-elect
	Sarah Zeiler	Past President
	Katie Droscha	Vice President
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Steve Schaub	State-wide At Large Director
	7 Officers present	
Officers Absent		
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
	Mila Resetar	Region 2 Director
	Sherman Reed	Region 3 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. Moved by Sarah Zeiler, supported by Steve Schaub, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

7/24/2026 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Sarah Zeiler, 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, Treasurer, submitted her Treasurer's Report by email. The reported balances as of 7/31/26 were: General Fund $11,532.77; and Scholarship Fund $19,345.33. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Adam Reimer, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion passed by voice vote.

Disbursements Needing Approval: Kelly Goward reported that the current $9000 4 month Chase Bank CD will mature on September 15, and she needs authorization to renew. Moved by Dan Kesselring, supported by Steve Schaub, to put $9000 from the expiring CD into another short term high earning CD (the best available on September 15), and to put the interest earned on the expiring $9000 CD in the Chase Bank checking account. Motion passed by voice vote.

New Business:

Report on SWCS International Conference: President-elect Adam Reimer reported on his experience at the SWCS 2026 Annual Conference. He attended the Awards Luncheon and accepted the Chapter Awards for the Michigan Chapter.

Annual Meeting date and time: *President Curtis will poll the Executive Council to find the best time and date for the Annual Meeting.*

Chapter Awards Program: Dan Kesselring reminded that the Awards Nomination form and instructions are now on the website at https://www.miglswcs.org/awards-and-scholarships/.

Old Business:

Chapter Display update/replacement: President Curtis had sent an email with information about sources to purchase a display and types of displays available. Dan K suggested that he resend that email. *President Curtis volunteered to put together an example of what could be on the display.*

Work Plan Reminders: Work Plan items were appended to the agenda. Priorities were Appoint Nominations Committee and Renew State Incorporation Status.

Committee Reports:

Land Judging Guide Ad Hoc: Dan Kesselring, Chair, reported that the guide review and revision is near completion, and that the Michigan FFA Association Board of Directors will be receiving a report on it in September.

Professional Development:

Regenerative Agriculture Field Day Update: Steve Schaub reported that everything is ready to go.

2027 ANR Seminar: The committee will convene virtually in late September or early October to develop the 2027 ANR Seminar Program scheduled for March 5 at the Michigan Farm Bureau, Lansing.

Membership and Outreach:

Membership: Membership currently stands at 55.

Legislative: Gerald Miller reported.

Federal Action: Farm Bill. The Senate Ag Committee failed to approve the pending FY26 Farm Bill on a vote of 10 Yes, 11 Nays. An issue is in Title IV – Supplemental Nutrient Assistance Program (SNAP) requiring states to pickup funding based on existing error rates. Read the following extract:

Background: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) was signed into law last summer, significantly cutting federal spending on SNAP by shifting costs to states. Historically, the federal government has covered 100% of benefit costs and 50% of administrative expenses; that will change once the administrative cost shift takes effect on Oct. 1 this year, followed by the benefit cost shift on Oct. 1, 2027. The law shifts 5%-15% of benefit costs to states with payment error rates above 6% and requires states to pay 75% of the program's administrative costs. Payment error rate is the average of overpayments and underpayments that a state makes to enrollees. State lawmakers are now facing the likelihood of enormous budget impacts (estimates by State from Food Research and

Action Center) with few options given their need to balance the budget. In Michigan, about 1.4 million people (about 14% of the population) utilize SNAP to help with the cost of groceries. The exact percentage of payments that states will be responsible for will be determined by FY25 or FY26 data, which is not yet available. Based on FY24 data, Michigan had a payment error rate of 9.53%. If that remains the same, Michigan would be responsible for 10% of the benefit payments - or more than $306 million. Along with the new administrative costs, Michigan will need to allocate about $602 million…when they were accustomed to paying $192 million. $410 million will be very hard to find in the state budget.

Michigan's error rate is listed at 9.89% SNAP-Cost-Shift-Table.pdf resulting in a $602M bill if adjustments are not made to the pending Farm Bill.

Senator Boozman, Committee chair, will convene the Senate Ag Committee on September 14 following the current recess.

State Action: Septic System Code. Senator Singh proposed (D, Dist-28 representing portions of Clinton, Eaton and Shiawassee Counties) Septic Code Bill, SB 771, Septic systems standards legislation introduced in Michigan state senate - Flow Water Advocates is moving forward in the Senate. A complimentary bill introduced by Rep Skaggs (D, Dist 80) is pending in the House.

Scholarship: Zachary Curtis, Chair, Reported that the Scholarship and Finance Committees are recommending the Executive Council approve a $1000 Scholarship for the 2026-2027 Academic Year Scholarship. Kelly Goward recommended that the entire amount can be withdrawn from the Vanguard Money Market account. Moved by Sarah Zeiler, supported by Steve Schaub, to approve these recommendations. Motion passed by voice vote.

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: None.

Next Executive Council Meeting: 4:00 p.m., Monday, September 21, 2026.

Adjournment: Having no further business to be discussed, President Curtis adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary