



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2025

MINUTES

“Action” Items are in red italics

12:00 call to order by Sarah Zeiler, Chapter President

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Sarah Zeiler	President
	Zachary Curtis	President-elect
	Katie Droscha	Vice President
	Steve Schaub	Past President
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	6 Officers present – quorum achieved)	

Others Present: Gerald Miller, Chair, Professional Development Committee

Officers Absent:	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
	Mila Resetar	Region 2 Director
	Gary Boersen	Region 3 Director
	Heather Varboncoeur	State-wide At Large Director

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

10/14/2025 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Kelly Goward, supported by Katie Droscha, 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 submitted the October Treasurer's Report by email. The reported balances as of 10/31/25 were: General Fund \$10,188.11; and Scholarship Fund \$18,620.37. Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Steve Schaub, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion passed by voice vote.

Disbursements Needing Approval: None

New Business:

Officer election process change: President Zeiler explained that she and Kelly Goward were working on changing the election from an email ballot process to a digital Google form process that would make voting easier. Dan Kesselring asked if maybe there should be a motion to approve the process since it is different from what is described in the Bylaws. Moved by Kelly

Goward, supported by Zach Curtis, to approve a motion, to be clarified by Dan Kesselring, that covers the variance. Motion passed by voice vote. Clarification follows.

Whereas, the Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Bylaws state as follows:

1. *A Nominations Committee and an Elections Committee consisting of Chapter members shall be appointed by the President not later than 180 days before the annual meeting. The Nominations Committee shall have state-wide representation. The Elections Committee may all be from one general area, so it may quickly and efficiently meet to do its required business.*
2. *The Nominations Committee shall nominate and submit to the President, not later than 60 days before the annual meeting, a list of candidates for the elective offices who have consented to have their names appear on the ballot.*
3. *At least 30 days before the annual meeting, the President shall be responsible for delivering a notice thereof to each member together with instructions for voting and a ballot containing a list of all candidates verified by the Nominating Committee. Suitable instructions for returning the ballots shall be made available to members. The completed ballots shall be received by the Secretary at least 10 days before the annual meeting. The Secretary shall then deliver the ballots to the Election Committee chairman.*
4. *Upon receiving the ballots, the Elections Committee shall meet and count the ballots, and certify results of the election to the President. A ballot marked for more than one candidate for the same position shall be held void with respect to that position.*
5. *The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected to that position. In case of a tie vote for a position in any election, the Executive Council shall determine, by an unbiased method, who shall be elected to that position.*
6. *The Elections Committee shall deliver the counted ballots to the Secretary who shall make them available for inspection by any member for six months after which they may be destroyed.*
7. *Announcement of the results of the election shall be made at the annual meeting and in the official newsletter of the Chapter.*

Therefore, whereas Paragraphs 1 and 2 have been fulfilled prior to this Executive Council meeting, and Paragraph 3 shall be carried out as usual except that the results of the election shall be delivered to the Secretary and President simultaneously by the digital results via a Google form, and physical ballots will not be delivered to the Elections Committee. In addition, there will be no need for an Elections Committee to count the ballots as described in Paragraph 4, so that committee shall not be appointed.

The remainder of Paragraph 4 and all of Paragraphs 5,6 and 7 shall be carried out as described except that individual ballots will not exist, so the Google file containing the input and results of the election shall be retained in digital format for at least six months.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting Agenda: Sarah Zeiler reviewed a rough draft agenda appended to the Executive Council meeting agenda. Details are yet to be worked out.

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

Committee Reports:

Professional Development: Gerald Miller reported the committee met again November 3, and reports that event planning is progressing rapidly with many speakers contacted and committed. The agenda is developing and should be available soon.

Scholarship: Zachary Curtis reported that 7 applications have been received and the committee will be reviewing the applications and will email the results to the Executive Council for final approval.

Membership and Outreach:

Membership: Membership currently stands at 47.

Newsletter: Zach Curtis reported that he hopes to get a Newsletter published before the Annual Meeting.

Legislative: Gerald Miller sent an email with the following: “On Monday evening November 10, 2025, the Senate passed a government funding package with a 60-40 vote which consisted of seven Democratic senators and one Independent. The package includes three bills that fund the USDA, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Veteran Affairs, Military Construction, and Congressional operations for FY2026. All other agencies will be funded through January 30. The package guarantees that federal employees laid off during the shutdown will be rehired, provides federal employees backpay, and prohibits RIFs in any department or agency at least until the January 30, 2026, end date of the continuing resolution. In addition, the package includes an extension of the current farm bill through September 30, 2026. Majority Leader Thune has also promised a December floor vote in the Senate on legislation to extend expiring Affordable Care Act tax credits. As part of the Agricultural Appropriations package, NRCS Conservation Operations is funded at \$850 million.”

Committee Assignments Review: The Committee listing was **updated 9/13/25** and is available on our Website at

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

Open Discussion: Katie Droscha requested a discussion about a Chapter supported speaker for the MACD Annual Conference.

Next Executive Council Meeting: 12:00 p.m. Thursday, December 11, 2025.

Adjournment: Moved by Dan Kesselring, supported by Kelly Goward, to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote. President Zeiler adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary