



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024

MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red *italics*)

Call to Order: At 12:01 p.m. by Steve Schaub, President.

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Steve Schaub	President
	Sarah Fronczak	President-elect
	Heather Varboncoeur	Vice President
	Katie Droscha	Past President
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
	Zachary Curtis	Region 2 Director
	Tess Van Gorder	At Large Director
	(9 Officers present – quorum achieved)	

Others Present: Gerald Miller, Chair, Professional Development Committee

Officers Absent: Gary Boersen Region 3 Director

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

02/08/2024 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Tess Van Gorder, supported by Heather Varboncoeur, 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 3/13/24 Treasurer's Report by email. The balances as of 3/11/24 were: General Fund \$10,347.11; and Scholarship Fund \$15,942.38. Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Tess Van Gorder, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted and explained. Motion passed by voice vote. Dan Kesselring commented that the fact that the Chapter's total financial assets have exceeded \$25,000, in the past that would have required the annual audit to be official. He also noted that the assets will likely soon drop below \$25,000 because of Seminar expenses still pending. *Kelly Goward said she would look into the audit comment.*

Disbursements Needing Approval: None presented.

New Business:

AgroLiquid Ag Expo Exhibit offering: Kelly Goward explained that she had received an email from AgroLiquid asking if we would be interested in having an exhibit at the AgroLiquids 2024 Summer Ag Expo. She said the fee for an exhibit would be \$850. Following discussion, it was agreed that due to the price and the fact that potential members probably would not be attending, it would not be reasonable to have an exhibit there.

Priority from Work Plan:

Plan for June MACD Summer Conference SWCS sponsored event: Katie Droscha reported on some things that may be, or could be, happening at this conference. Gerald Miller, Professional Development Chair, explained that MACD has gone through some changes in their program planning which seem to limit the potential for presentations such as ours. After further discussion, *President Schaub asked that this item be kept on the agenda for next month while options are being researched.*

State FFA Land Conservation Contest April 19: Dan Kesselring explained that the Michigan Chapter SWCS has been involved in the Michigan FFA Land Conservation Contest since it was created in 1954. The Guide for Land Judging in Michigan was written by Chapter members Delbert Mokma, Eckart Dersch and Donald Schaner, and published in 1982. The current version of the guide was published in digital format in 2010 by Mokma with assistance from Dersch and Kesselring. Chapter members Gaylynn Kinter and Dan Kesselring have assisted with the contest for the past 20 years. Kinter and Kesselring are both retired USDA-NRCS. Michigan chapter member Heather Varboncoeur, USDA-NRCS, helped last year. *Dan said that at least one more volunteer is needed from the Chapter.* Michigan FFA staff and volunteers fill many other positions needed to carry out the contest. Michigan Chapter SWCS members serve to maintain the integrity of technical aspects of the contest. *Steve Schaub suggested contacting a USDA/NRCS Soil Scientist.*

Potential Summer Event: Sarah Fronczak asked to add an item to the agenda. She explained a trivia contest feature she had seen at another event and wondered if the Michigan SWCS Chapter could host a similar event in the evening of a training event MSU Extension is planning in August. *Steve Schaub suggested this might be a summer event for the Professional Development Committee. Dan K suggested also the Membership and Outreach Committee. Dan B. said he would be willing to help since the event would be near him.*

Old Business: None presented.

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

Committee Reports:

Professional Development: Gerald Miller, Chair

ANR Seminar Post event review and Attendee Feedback: Gerald Miller reported that the event went well other than some internet glitches. He said the internet issues we've had over the past two years might suggest to us that we should try to avoid using offsite connections. Kelly Goward said that she hasn't summarized the feedback yet. It should be available by our next meeting.

Legislative: Tess Van Gorder and Gerald Miller reported that not much is happening with the Federal Farm Bill right now because of other legislative priorities.

Membership and Outreach: Membership currently stands at 56.

Policy: Katie Droscha, Chair, reported no current activity.

Committee Assignments Review: Steve Schaub asked that the Strategic Plan be put on the April Executive Council Meeting agenda. The Committee listing was updated 02/09/24 and is available on our Website at <https://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7124127463/2024+Executive+Council+and+Committees.pdf>

Next Executive Council Meeting: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Adjournment: Moved by Sarah Fronczak, supported by Heather Varboncoeur, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary