



# Michigan Chapter

## Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024

### MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red *italics*)

**Call to Order:** At 11:21 a.m. by Sarah Zeiler, President

#### Roll Call:

<b>Officers Present:</b>	Sarah Zeiler	President
	Zachary Curtis	President-elect
	Steve Schaub	Past President
	Katie Droscha	Vice President
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
	Mila Resetar	Region 2 Director
	<b>8 Officers present – quorum achieved)</b>	

<b>Others Present:</b>	Gerald Miller	Professional Development Chair
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<b>Officers Absent:</b>	Heather Varboncoeur	State-wide At Large Director
	Gary Boersen	Region 3 Director

**Agenda:** President Zeiler asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Zachary Curtis, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

**11/14/2024 Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Katie Droscha, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

**Motions approved by email prior to this meeting:** 12/04/24 Moved by Dan Kesselring to approve issuing the \$750 Scholarship to Elizabeth Kelley, Senior, Hope College, Holland, Michigan. Motion supported by Heather Varboncoeur. Votes: Dan Kesselring – aye; Heather Varboncoeur – aye; Sarah Zeiler – aye; Tess Van Gorder – aye; Katie Droscha – aye. 12/05/24 Motion declared passed by Steve Schaub, Chapter President.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kelly Goward submitted the December Treasurer's Report by email. The reported balances as of 12/13/24 were: General Fund \$8,879.16; and Scholarship Fund \$17,327.22. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Dan Busby, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

**Disbursements Needing Approval:** Based on prior email discussion, Kelly Goward stated that the Chapter could afford to pay the PayPal fees incurred through the Giving Tuesday Scholarship Fund donation appeal from the General Fund. Those fees were \$26.81. Then the gross donations received of \$1050.00 will be deposited in the Scholarship Fund. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Dan Busby, to approve paying the \$26.81 in PayPal fees from the Chapter General Fund. Motion passed by voice vote.

#### New Business:

**State investment in Conservation District Operations Resolution:** Steve Schaub explained that the Chapter is being asked to consider writing a letter to the Michigan Legislature in support of funding for conservation districts to increase technical assistance for conservation work. Gerald Miller, Legislative Committee Chair,

added comments. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Dan Busby, to get the letter prepared and sent. Motion passed by voice vote. *Sarah Zeiler asked Steve to prepare and submit this letter.*

**Executive Council Year 2025 Meeting Schedule:** Consensus to continue meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

**2025 General Fund Budget:** Finance Committee Chair Kelly Goward presented the Finance Committee's recommendation for the Chapter General Fund Budget for 2025. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Katie Droscha, to approve the Budget as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

**Hoosier Chapter Joint Workshop inquiry:** Dan Kesselring briefly reported on an inquiry received from the Hoosier Chapter. President Zeiler referred this to the Professional Development Committee for followup. *Professional Development Committee Chair Gerald Miller asked Dan to send him contact information and he will followup on the request.*

#### **Old Business:**

**Giving Tuesday, December 3, for Scholarship Fund results:** Zachary Curtis reported that the Chapter's first Giving Tuesday fund raising effort for the Scholarship Fund was an outstanding success resulting in \$1050 being donated. He also said that a \$500 matching offer from an anonymous donor helped the effort. With the General Fund covering the PayPal fees, the entire \$1050 will be deposited in the Vanguard Money Market account to generate additional interest income for the fund. *Kelly Goward will handle the transfer.*

**Work Plan Reminders:** Work Plan Items for November and December, and remaining items from prior months, were appended to the agenda. Awards nominations are due December 31. *President Sarah Zeiler requested that a reminder be sent to the membership.*

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Professional Development:** Gerald Miller, chair, reported that the committee is recommending that the registration fees and the sponsorship fees remain the same as in 2024.

Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Zachary Curtis, to hold the registration fees at the 2024 level: \$50 for member, \$65 for non-members and \$15 for students. Motion passed by voice vote.

Moved by Kelly Goward, supported by Katie Droscha, to keep the sponsorship fees and benefits at 2024 levels: \$300 for Gold level, \$200 for Silver level and \$100 for Bronze level. Motion passed by voice vote.

Miller reviewed the agenda approved by the Professional Development Committee.

#### **Legislative:**

**Federal Farm Bill.** No current activity to report.

#### **Membership and Outreach:**

**Membership:** Membership currently stands at 53.

**Policy:** Chair Katie Droscha reported that there had been no activity since last month, and that since the Bylaws call for the Past President to chair this committee, *the Chair position now transfers to Steve Schaub.*

**Scholarship:** Zachary Curtis reported that the Scholarship winner has been notified, a cashier's check has been mailed and all other applicants have been notified.

**Committee Assignments Review:** The Committee listing was **updated 11/14/24** and is available on our Website at

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

**Open Discussion:** Katie Droscha brought up that the Strategic Plan approved last spring should now be looked at to evaluate progress, consider what needs to be done, and update progress. *President Sarah Zeiler requested that this be on the January meeting agenda.*

**Next Executive Council Meeting:** 12:00 p.m. Thursday, January 9, 2025.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Zachary Curtis, to adjourn the meeting. President Sarah Zeiler adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary