



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Zoom Conference

Friday, February 4, 2022

MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red *italics*)

Call to Order: 10:02 a.m. by Shelby Burlew, President

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Shelby Burlew	President
	Katie Droscha	President-elect
	Gerald Miller	Vice President
	Glenn O'Neil	Past President
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Dan Kesselring	Secretary
	Gary Boersen	Region 3 Director
	Steve Schaub	At Large Director
	(8 Officers present – quorum achieved)	

Others Present: Tim Harrigan, Former Past President

Officers Absent: Zachary Curtis Region 2 Director
Dan Busby Region 1 Director

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

01/07/2022 Minutes: The minutes of the previous conference were appended to the agenda. Gerald Miller moved to approve the minutes as presented. Katie Droscha supported the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Goward had submitted the Treasurer's Report by email. The balances were: General Fund \$5062.57; and Scholarship Fund \$17,201.86. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Glenn O'Neil, to approve the monthly Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion passed by voice vote.

Disbursements Needing Approval: None presented.

Motions approved by email prior to this teleconference: None.

New Business:

PayPal Account update: Dan Kesselring reported that the Chapter is now enrolled in the PayPal Giving Fund, and the account is now listed as a 501c3 non-profit charity organization. This change means that the PayPal fees for transactions, such as registration, will be lower, and the Chapter could be eligible for donations, such as automatic donations from transactions at other websites, such as eBay, if connected or coordinated.

IRS Chapter Name correction: Dan K. explained that the Chapter's name has been incorrect at IRS for some time, probably since the Society changed its name in 1987. We have been doing our annual Chapter report to IRS with the EIN we've had since about 1989. However, in 2021 Dan K. made a donation to the Chapter through PayPal, and PayPal tried to report that to IRS, but the name they had didn't match with the EIN IRS had. So, Dan has sent a letter with documentation to IRS concerning the issue and describing how the error may have come about. The Chapter's official name is “Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. IRS has “Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Amer.” PayPal has

“Michigan Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society, without “of the”. Dan guesses that when the Chapter name changed from Michigan Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, someone inserted “and Water” into the name, but neglected to delete “of America”. Then maybe the box IRS had available for a name at that time wasn't long enough, so the “ica” got left out. We'll probably have to wait some time to hear from IRS.

Old Business:

Membership Committee Chair: We currently do not have a membership committee chair. *Glenn O'Neil volunteered to research the membership list for suggestions for Shelby to contact.*

Chapter Membership Flier: Kelly had volunteered to work on an update to the Michigan Chapter membership flier 2019 edition, but due to workload and Covid had not yet been able to. One update needed is the contact person. *Kelly said she could start the revision after this conference.*

Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Student Chapter status: Dan K. and Kelly reported they had not yet been able to schedule a meeting with the GVSU Chapter. *Consensus was to refer this to the Student Chapter Committee.*

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning Ad Hoc: *Committee Chair Glenn O'Neil reported that he will be getting the committee together again to see if they can wrap the proposed revision up.*

Professional Development: Gerald Miller, Chair

Systems Based Planning: Katie Droscha gave a brief update on the Committee activities.

2022 ANR Seminar:

Program - Tim Harrigan reported that the speakers and timeline is pretty well set except for one still pending.

Logistics – Kelly reported that facility arrangements are set, and the box lunch arrangements are still pending.

Registration – Dan K. reported that registration is low yet, but sponsorships have started to come in.

Gerald stated that the Planning Committee will hold another virtual conference to make final decisions on in-person vs. virtual, etc.

Future Webinar Sessions: Gerald reported that there are no new activities currently being planned.

Membership and Outreach:

Newsletter: No decision has been made yet on an editor for a newsletter, and what the newsletter should be in the near future.

Membership Status: Currently 55 members.

Legislative: Gerald Miller reported. Federal: On January 26 the U.S. House of Representatives Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, a group of more than 70 climate-conscious members, formally launched three task forces (TF) aimed at tackling key aspects of the climate issues. The TF's are: 1) Climate and Agriculture, 2) Climate and National Security, and 3) Power Sector. The TF's are led by Representatives Chelle Pingree (ME) and Kim Schrier (WA). The concept is to move forward climate legislation included in the Build Back Better legislation which was passed by the House and now stalled in the Senate. The Climate and Agriculture TF recommendations will be positioned for the FY23 Farm Bill.

On February 3 USDA Secretary Vilsack announced an initiative to create climate-smart commodities. This class of commodities, grown with practices that are designed to address climate change and make farms more resilient, are aimed at incentivizing farmers to farm differently. On February 7 Vilsack is scheduled to announce the details of the climate-smart commodities initiative.

State: The Michigan House of Representatives Budget committee has started subcommittee discussions for the FY23 state budget. The Michigan Association of Conservation Districts is in the process of scheduling meetings with both the House and Senate Agriculture budget committees. Meeting dates are pending.

Committee Assignments Review: Dan K. reported the Committee listing was updated 1/30/22 and is available on our Michigan Chapter SWCS [Google Drive](#) and on our Website at <https://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7124127463/Executive+Council+and+Committees.pdf>

Work Plan Update: Items for February were appended to the agenda.

Next EC Conference: Next EC conference is 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 4, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary