

SWCS Michigan Chapter

9/9/2022 Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Called to order at 10:08 AM by Shelby Burlew, President.

Attending: Shelby Burlew, Gerald Miller, Katie Droscha, Steve Schaub, Zach Curtis, Jon Bartholic, Dan Kesselring (joined meeting about 10:15 a.m.) and Glenn O'Neil.

Absent: Kelly Goward, Dan Busby, Gary Boersen

No proposed changes to the agenda

Approval of prior meeting minutes:

- Motion: Miller
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Droscha
- Aye: all
- Nay: none
- Motion passes

Treasurer's report:

- Presented by Burlew in Goward's absence
- Refer to Goward's email to the EC from 9/8/22
- Approval:
  - o Motion: Schaub
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup>: Miller
  - o Aye: all
  - o Nay: none
  - o Motion passes

New business:

- Scholarships:
  - o Kesselring: we need to adjust the bylaw language regarding scholarship funds to include dividends in addition to accrued interest.
  - o Curtis: proposes adjusting eligibility language to allow graduate students to apply
  - o Curtis: plans to put out call for applications soon, with a due date of 11/1/22.
  - o Miller: suggests making the award at the annual meeting in December, and allow the recipient to receive in-person acknowledgement at the ANR seminar in March 2023.

- Kesselring: new language about eligibility is not consistent with scholarship bylaws. To change it we need to put it out to the membership for a vote as part of the annual election ballot.
- Curtis: given the challenge of getting applications for the past two years of scholarship opportunities, there is a need to update the eligibility language. We should put it to membership.
- Motion to change scholarship bylaw language to allow for graduate student applications
  - Motion: Curtis
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kesselring
  - Discussion
    - Burlew: best to table this motion and send it back to the Scholarship Committee to draft the new language and present to Executive Council for review prior to putting out to membership for a vote.
- Motion to table the changes to scholarship bylaw language
  - Motion: Miller
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Droscha
  - Aye: all
  - Nay: none
  - Motion passes

#### Annual Meeting

- Droscha: question to whether SWCS annual meeting should be in-person at MACD in December or as its own virtual meeting. MACD will take place during the Great Lakes Expo, which may be a conflict for MAEAP staff to attend our meeting. Proposes a virtual meeting to avoid the conflict.
- Kesselring: better chance of attendance with a virtual meeting
- Burlew: Virtual meeting would likely prohibit a tour, but still seems a better option
- Motion to have a virtual Annual Meeting with an educational session to follow
  - Motion: Kesselring
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Curtis
  - Discussion:
    - Droscha: How many days do we need to announce the meeting ahead of time?
    - Kesselring: Ballots must go out 30 days prior.

- Droscha: If we do an education session, Jeremiah Asher of IWR-MSU said that he is interested in presenting. We should check his availability, and that of any other potential speakers, prior to picking a date. Will follow-up over email.
  - Kesselring: Best to schedule sometime after MACD
- Aye: all
- Nay: none
- Motion passes

#### Chapter Nominations

- Burlew: We have one on the committee, Heather Varboncoeur from NRCS. Still waiting on response from Dave Leonard. We need two more, at least.
- Kesselring: We strive to have a representative from each region. Heather could cover Region 3 or the state-wide position.
- Schaub: Asked Carol Schaad of NRCS about serving in past years. She declined, but can ask her again.
- Burlew: Will review the membership list and make cold-calls if necessary.

#### Professional Development

- Miller: Should we have a session at the Fall MACD meeting?
- Droscha: Because of our proposed virtual meeting and educational session in December, perhaps we should just host a booth at the Fall meeting.
- Miller: There may be a lot of competition for concurrent sessions at the Fall meeting. We should wait and see what the MACD planning committee comes up with.
- Miller: Regarding the ANR seminar, Tim Harrigan will lead the planning while Kelly Goward will work on logistics. We need to ID a primary date between 3/6/23 and 3/10/23 to propose to Agro-Liquid
- Schaub: Kelly suggested 3/10/23
- Motion to set Friday 3/10/23 as the primary date for the ANR seminar, with Wednesday 3/8/23 as the secondary date
  - Motion: Miller
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Schaub
  - Aye: all
  - Nay: none
  - Motion passes

### Systems planning

- Bartholic: MSU Natural Science received a \$1 million grant to study water resources, including the development of new models to explore surface and groundwater movement. The chapter should keep tabs on this effort and look for opportunities to provide leadership.

### Strategic planning

- O'Neil: Committee members have provided updates to the goals and objectives of the plan. I have started drafting the implementation plan. Will coordinate with the other members of the committee, with a goal of providing the Executive Council a draft of the updated plan by November, so that it could then be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in December

### Membership:

- O'Neil: Drafted an outline of the next newsletter. Will reach out to the council for volunteers for contributions with a goal of a November release.

### Legislative:

- Miller: \$20 billion inflation reduction act:
  - o Initial allocation of \$225 million for EQIP
  - o Unsure how that will affect the 2023 farm bill conservation allocation
- Miller: At the state level, Chair of the Appropriations Committee in the House (Albert), announced that it will not consider supplemental appropriations for FY23 because of recession fears
- Miller: Ducks Unlimited, NRCS, and NWF have joined for a cover crop initiative (\$10/acre/year for 4 years) focused in WLEB, southwest MI, and Saginaw Bay

### Work Plan reminders:

- Kesselring: Fill out the Nominations Committee

Adjourn: 11:13AM

Minutes recorded by Glenn O'Neil, Past President