Executive Council Zoom Conference  
Friday, May 12, 2023  
MINUTES
(“Action” Items are in red italics)

Call to Order: At 3:03 p.m. by Katie Droscha, President.

Roll Call:

Officers Present: Katie Droscha President  
Steve Schaub President-elect  
Gerald Miller Vice President  
Kelly Goward Treasurer  
Dan Kesselring Secretary (Logged in at 3:20 p.m.)  
Dan Busby Region 1 Director  
Zachary Curtis Region 2 Director  
Gary Boersen Region 3 Director  
Tess Van Gorder At Large Director (Acting Recording Secretary)

(9 Officers present – quorum achieved)

Others Present: None

Officers Absent: Shelby Burlew Past President

Agenda: Katie asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Katie proceeded with the published agenda.

04/14/2023 Minutes: The minutes of the previous conference were appended to the agenda.

- Moved: Steve Schaub
- Second: Zach
- Passed, no dissent

Motions approved by email prior to this teleconference: None.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Goward had submitted the Treasurer's Report by email.

- Budget report, will resend account balance
  - Vanguard balance increased, date of initial investment included
- Speakers gift and mileage reimbursed, Krista's Catering check still waiting to be cashed
- Will wait until next meeting to approve April Treasurers report to have updated information
- Under budget for March Seminar
- Motion to table April 2023 Treasurer report until June 2023 Meeting:
  - Moved: Jerry Miller
  - Seconded: Steve Schaub

Fostering the science and art of soil and water conservation in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region.
Motion passed by voice vote

- Will need motion to remove from the table in June meeting

Disbursements Needing Approval: None presented.

New Business:

**SWCS Representative for the Nature Conservancy Awards Committee:**
- Katie will be out of the country. Steve Schaub agreed to be the Michigan Chapter SWCS representative to Michigan Nature Conservancy Soil Health Hero Selection Committee.

Old Business: None.

Committee Reports:

**Professional Development:** Gerald Miller, Chair

- MACD Summer Conference SWCS Program: Dr. Rowntree presenting during kick-off lunch, MACD covering overnight Sunday
  - Does SWCS have budget to cover mileage for Dr. Rowntree if needed?
    - Katie will check with MACD if they will cover mileage and send out update to the group

- Summer Workshop & Tour:
  - Township Hall for location, Friday in September - no charge, but may need to set-up chairs & tables
    - Afternoon session, James/Jerry will work on refreshments.
  - James DeYoung will be one of speakers, working on Dana Kirk at MSU and Brightmark speaker
  - Next planning meeting is on June 2nd at 9am.
  - Plan promotion 6-8 weeks out

- System-Based Planning Update - Zachary Curtis. Chatted with Jon Bartholic to re-engage on this

Committee Postpone: Strategic Planning & Newsletter updates postponed until June

**Policy Committee**: Postponed until June

**Membership Status**: 47 members

**Legislative Update**: Jerry

- House members holding Farm Bill hearings in their districts
- Discussion around budget
  - Increase in EGLE & DNR budgets
  - Working out where Conservation District funding falls
- MACD Legislative Day next Thursday

**Committee Assignment Review**: Make sure to double check you have access to the Google Drive

- Dan: committee reports
  - Committee Reports "As Available" to list active committees and their committee chairs listed on the agenda even if they don't have reports
  - Need to inform committee chairs of Executive Council agenda if they're on the agenda

**Work Plan**:

- Appoint Nominations Committee 180 days before annual meeting:
• Had two members last year
• Used to have 4
• Katie will reach out to some active members to see if they would be willing to serve on the nominating committee

• Newsletter deadline is now June 30th
  • Projects partners are working on: MFB, CDs, IWR, etc.
  • Up and coming problems
  • Soil & water conservation related/adjacent
  • Glen can send out ask to members for contributions

• Highway Clean-Up: June 6
  • Longest running organization?
  • Potential newsletter article?

• Determine if making donation to annual conference silent auction:
  • If no one attending, may forgo donation - will wait to hear more from National
  • Kelly confirmed that silent auction is in the preliminary program
    • No call for donations at this point
    • Event is August 6-9, silent auction 6-7

• Already covered summer tour

• April 2023:
  • National hasn't asked for House of Delegates Rep and alternate
  • Issue papers & resolutions to headquarters: haven't done in a while, opportunity for professional development

Motion to Adjourn:
• Motion: Jerry
• Second: Dan K.
• Adjourned 4:10 pm, 5/12/23

Next Executive Council Conference: 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 12, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Recorded by: Tess Van Gorder, Acting Secretary
Edited by: Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary