



Michigan Chapter

Annual Business Meeting Tuesday, December 16, 2022

Held by Remote Video Conference

DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order: 12:32 p.m. by President Shelby Burlew

Roll Call: Chapter Secretary Daniel Kesselring reported that there were 9 officers present and 9 members who were not officers present. Since the Bylaws call for at least 5 officers and at least 5 members who are not officers be present to represent a quorum, Dan stated that a quorum was present. Those Chapter Officers and members attending were as follows.

Chapter Officers Attending: Glenn O'Neil, Past President; Shelby Burlew, President; Katie Droscha, President-elect; Dan Kesselring, Secretary; Kelly Goward, Treasurer; Steve Schaub, At-large Director; Dan Busby, Region 1 Director; Zachary Curtis, Region 2 Director; and Gary Boersen, Region 3 Director.

Other Chapter Members attending: Tess Van Gorder, Lynette Robertson, Tim Harrigan, Laura Campbell, James Klang, Carol Shadd, Zouheir Massri, and Jon Bartholic.

Others present: Renee Bouldin, Chapter and Community Builder, SWCS International Headquarters.

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

Introductions: President Burlew then introduced the Chapter Officers in attendance.

12/03/21 Annual Meeting Minutes: President Burlew asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting. Glenn O'Neil moved that the minutes be approved as printed. Katie Droscha supported the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Goward, Treasurer, provided and explained 2 documents for her Treasurer's Report on her shared screen. The 2 documents were also posted on the Chapter website. The documents were: a 2022 Monthly Budget Statement covering January through December 8th, and a Statement for all Accounts as of December 8th. The December 8th fund balances were: General Fund = \$5,302.11 and Scholarship Funds = \$15,998.72. Moved by Steve Schaub and supported by Katie Droscha to approve the Treasurer's Reports. Motion passed by voice vote. A year-end Treasurer's Report will be provided to all Chapter members after December 31st.

Committee Reports:

Membership and Outreach Committee: Glenn O'Neil, Committee Chair, presented the report. He noted that he has taken over the newsletter after John Freeland had managed it for the past 2 years, and just published the Fall 2022 issue which is now available on the Chapter website. Current Michigan Chapter membership is 49 members.

Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee: Glenn O'Neil, Committee Chair, reported that a group of Chapter officers started working on an update of the Michigan Chapter Strategic Plan in 2021 and hope to complete the update by January, 2023. He then shared his computer screen and discussed some of the highlights of the plan.

Professional Development Committee: Katie Droscha, President-elect, reported in Committee Chair Gerald Miller's absence. Gerald had previously provided a printed report of Committee activities which was available on the Chapter website. The report is **Appendix 1** of these minutes.

Scholarship Committee: Zachary Curtis provided a printed report on the status of the Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program Fall 2022-Spring 2023 Academic Year Scholarship. The report was made available on the Chapter website and is **Appendix 2** to these minutes.

Outgoing President's Report: President Burlew stated that she had learned a lot over the past two years as President-elect and then Chapter President. She thanked all officers for their work over the past year. She advised all members and newcomers to make connections with other members and share your knowledge with land users.

Election Results: President Burlew reported that 16 ballots had been cast and Steve Schaub was elected President elect; Gerald Miller was reelected Vice President; Zachary Curtis was reelected Region 2 Director; and Tess Van Gorder was elected State-wide At Large Director. In addition, the proposed revision of the Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program Bylaws was approved unanimously.

Outgoing Chapter President Burlew then called on incoming Chapter President Katie Droscha for her comments going forward to year 2023.

Incoming President's Message: Katie Droscha commented on her aspirations for the coming year, and the need to get more Chapter members involved in the activities of the Chapter.

Open Discussion: President Droscha reminded members of the upcoming Michigan Chapter SWCS Webinar at 2:00 p.m. and if they had not registered for this they still had about 15 minutes to do so. They would need to contact Secretary Kesselring for instructions on how to register.

Then President Droscha adjourned the 2022 Michigan Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary

APPENDIX #1

Professional Development Committee Report for 2022

The Professional Development Committee is a permanent committee of the Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Committee members are: Jon Bartholic, Dan Busby, Katie Droscha, Kelly Goward, Tim Harrigan, Glenn O'Neil, Steven Schaub and Jerry Miller, Chair. Chapter Secretary Dan Kesselring serves as a resource to the committee.

Committee activities during the year included coordinating multiple professional development events. Activities included:

1. A concurrent session during the virtual 2021 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference coordinated by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic.
2. 2022 ANR Week Seminar chaired by Tim Harrigan.
3. A concurrent session during the in person 2022 MACD summer conference coordinated by Katie Droscha.
4. The committee served as the chapter representative to the Maple River Regional Conservation Partnership Program led by the Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University. The chapter has committed \$200 for in-kind support.

A summary of select activities implemented by the Professional Development Committee include:

1. Organized and presented a concurrent session during the virtual 2021 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference. The 90-minute virtual presentation occurred on November 10, 2021. The title of the session was "Conservation Connections - examples of how to facilitate networking, partnerships, and innovative technologies to address and manage resource concerns." Presenters included: Connor Crank, Institute of Water Research, MSU; Kelly Goward, Outdoor Discovery Center Net; Becky Huttenga, Ottawa County Department of Strategic Impact; and Paul Sachs, Ottawa County Department of Strategic Impact.
2. The annual chapter Agriculture and Natural Resources Seminar was held on March 11, 2022. The Seminar theme was: Sustainable Intensification of the Rural Landscape: Protecting Soil Health, Water Quality and Farm Profitability. The keynote speaker was Dr. Stephen Gasteyer, Michigan State University. His title was "Engaging Local Knowledge: Farmers and Community Involvement in Watershed Management". The agenda for the Seminar is posted at <https://www.migslwcs.org/app/download/7126775896/2022+SWCS+ANR+Seminar+Agenda+v6>
3. Presented a concurrent session during the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Summer Conference held on June 7, 2022. Chad Kotke, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Specialist at Trout Unlimited, presented the session title: Case Studies in 2-Stage Ditch Restoration – Bringing economics, land conservation and production, and the environment together for success.
4. The committee fulfilled the chapter's Maple River Watershed match committed via the concurrent session during the November 2021 MACD annual conference and an interview of Katie Droscha for the Institute of Water Resources, MSU, newsletter.

Upcoming activities planned by the committee include:

1. Webinar scheduled for December 16, 2022, presented by Dr. Jeremiah Asher, Assistant Director, Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University. The webinar title is “Edge-of-field monitoring for tillage management impacts on water quality and quantity in St. Johns, Michigan”.
2. The 2023 Agriculture and Natural Resources Annual Seminar scheduled for March 10. The Seminar is being planned as an in-person event. Tim Harrigan chairs the planning committee for the annual seminar. Committee members are in process of identifying topics and speakers.
3. The committee will be available to assist Michigan Association of Conservation Districts for a presentation during their June 2023 Summer Conference and the 2023 Annual Conference of the association.
4. Virtual webinars are being discussed for each quarter (Apr – Jun and Jul – Sep).

Report submitted by Gerald Miller, Committee Chair

APPENDIX #2

Scholarship Committee Report for 2022 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Chapter SWCS

The 2022-2023 Michigan Scholarships in Conservation was awarded to Isabelle Hammond, a senior at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) majoring in Biology, with a focus in Ecology and Evolution. Isabelle has demonstrated her interest in (and commitment to) natural resources conservation as a student research assistant at GVSU where she supported an ongoing research project on sand filtration methods on the Grand River for reducing E. coli levels. She was also recently involved with sustainable management activities in the Macatawa watershed as a Watershed Management Intern. Isabelle is a member of the Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS).

The Chapter plans to offer a student scholarship for the Fall 2023-Spring 2024 academic year. As you probably know, the award is to be made to a deserving student who shows promise in the field of natural resources conservation. A call-for-applications will be made in late summer 2023. The Scholarship Committee responsible with reviewing this year's applications and selecting a recipient includes Kelly Goward, Daniel Kesselring, and myself (Chair).

Zachary Curtis, Ph.D.
Region 2 Director.