



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Zoom Conference

Friday, November 10, 2023

MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red *italics*)

Call to Order: At 10:01 a.m. by Katie Droscha, President.

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Katie Droscha	President
	Steve Schaub	President-elect
	Gerald Miller	Vice President
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Zachary Curtis	Region 2 Director
	Tess Van Gorder	At Large Director
	(7 Officers present – quorum achieved)	

Others Present: Heather Varboncoeur, Nominations Committee Member

Officers Absent:	Gary Boersen	Region 3 Director
	Shelby Burlew	Past President
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director

Agenda: Katie asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Dan Kesselring asked to add a brief discussion of General Fund accounts right after the Treasurer's Report is approved. Moved by Zachary Curtis, supported by Tess Van Gorder to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed by voice vote.

10/13/2023 Minutes: Minutes from the previous conference were appended to the agenda. Moved by Gerald Miller, supported by Tess Van Gorder, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motions approved by email prior to this teleconference: None.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Goward had submitted the October Treasurer's Report by email. Kelly noted that the Budget Report shows a \$300 expense for the Seminar in January, and a \$550 expense in October. These are both for conference hall rental. That rental fee has increased by \$150, and payment is due earlier this year, so that will negatively affect the net for the Seminar this year. The October balances were: General Fund \$5,650.61; and Scholarship Fund \$15,699.57. Moved by Gerald Miller, supported by Zachary Curtis, to approve the October Treasurer's Report as submitted and explained. Motion passed by voice vote.

Disbursements Needing Approval: None presented.

New Business:

General Fund Management Question: Dan K. had requested an item concerning General Fund management be added to the agenda right after the Treasurer's Report. Dan explained that Jerry's July comments concerning Scholarship Fund investments had prompted Dan to also consider the General Fund. Dan explained that the General Fund has \$1000 in a Savings Account earning very little interest,

and that Chase Bank is now advertising a 9 month CD earning 4.5% interest. He is recommending that \$1000 be placed in a 9 month CD, and possibly even closing the Savings Account. He explained that up until July 2017 the Savings Account had been reserved for the Scholarship Fund, and now that the Scholarship Fund is held in a different location, the Savings Account could be closed. He said information from the Chase Bank website indicates a checking account is not dependent on a Savings Account.

Following discussion Gerald Miller moved, Steve Schaub supported, *to authorize Kelly Goward, Treasurer, and Daniel Kesselring, Secretary, to research the Savings Account question to assure no impact on the Checking Account, invest \$1000 in the most advantageous Chase Certificate of Deposit, make the most appropriate decision on the Savings Account and report the results to the Executive Council.* Motion passed by voice vote.

Strategic Plan Draft Review: Katie explained that the draft plan has been shared with all officers, and that we need to have a discussion about it because we're now 4 years past due on the revision. Dan K. pointed out that Glenn O'Neil had expressed concern that there may now be too many goals set for 2024. *Katie then requested each officer to review the Strategic Plan and send their comments by December 1, and she will ask Glenn how he would like to receive the comments.*

Nominations Committee Update: Heather Varbencouer reported that they had found candidates for all four positions up for election, and that the ballot is due to go out on November 15.

Priority From Work Plan: *The top priority for November is to have articles for the newsletter submitted by November 17.*

Old Business: None presented.

Work Plan Reminders – Other Work Plan Items for November were highlighted and appended to the agenda.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee: Zachary Curtis, Chair, reported that he has received 10 Scholarship applications, and one application support letter for a student that we hadn't received an application from. The Scholarship Committee members will now be reviewing and rating the applications and have a meeting scheduled for November 21 to share results and determine the winner recommendation. That recommendation will be announced to the Executive Council on November 22.

Professional Development:

Summer Tour follow-up: Jerry reported that, concerning the gift membership reward the Council agreed to provide to the speakers, he had contacted the speakers asking for the address information we needed for the gift membership, had received that information from James DeYoung and forwarded that to Kelly, but had not heard from Dana Kirk. He said we should conclude that Dana is not interested.

Workshop with Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is planned for 90 minutes. The Business Meeting normally lasts about 30 minutes, so about 60 minutes will be available for brief 5 minute presentations from various individuals concerning their own work activities. Jerry said that they had the following commitments for these presentations.

Dan Busby – MAEAP

Steve Schaub – Envirothon

Katie Droscha – life of a CTAI Technician

Zachary Curtis – life of a Conservation Consultant

Heather Varboncoeur – life in NRCS

Kelly Goward – life of a non-profit organization conservationist (alternate)

Seminar: Jerry reported that the Seminar Committee held another Zoom conference and discussed alternatives for the program. They will be moving ahead getting commitments from some of them. Also, they discussed sponsorships and fees. The draft sponsorship form had been emailed to the Council.

Moved by Gerald Miller, supported by Steve Schaub, to set the sponsorship fees at \$300 for Gold, \$200 for Silver and \$100 for Bronze and to not include variable lengths of time for sponsorships to be listed on our website. All sponsorship levels will be publicised equally. All other benefits listed on the form shall remain the same as last year. Motion passed by voice vote.

Concerning registration fees: moved by Stev Schaub, supported by Gerald Miller, to keep the registration fees the same as last year: \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members and \$15 for Students. Motion passed by voice vote.

Membership and Outreach: Glenn O'Neil reported that he hopes to publish a Fall Newsletter in November. Articles for the publication are due by November 17. Membership currently stands at 49.

Legislative: Gerald Miller and Tess Van Gorder reported briefly that the Farm Bill will likely not be developed this session, and that a State Energy Package of bills has been sent to the Governor's desk.

Committee Assignments Review: The Committee listing was updated 10/07/23 and available on our Michigan Chapter SWCS Google Drive at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KpAGoFKZe8trhgzy8k4tmdJFOPaiCeaf>

and on our Website at

<https://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7124127463/2022+Executive+Council+and+Committees.pdf>

Next Executive Council Conference: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 8, 2023.

Moved by Dan Kesselring to adjourn this Conference. Supported by Tess Van Gorder. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary