



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2024

MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red *italics*)

Call to Order: At 12:01 p.m. by Steve Schaub, President

Roll Call:

Officers Present:	Steve Schaub	President
	Sarah Fronczak	President-elect
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Zachary Curtis	Region 2 Director
	Tess Van Gorder	At Large Director
	(5 Officers present – quorum achieved, according to Bylaws)	
Others Present:	Caryn Dawson	Chapter Member and Young Career Professional
Officers Absent:	Katie Droscha	Past President
	Heather Varboncoeur	Vice President
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
	Gary Boersen	Region 3 Director

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

05/09/2024 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Tess Van Gorder, supported by Zachary Curtis, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motions approved by email prior to this meeting: None.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Goward had submitted the 6/12/24 Treasurer's Report by email. The balances as of 6/12/24 were: General Fund \$8,522.32; and Scholarship Fund \$16,326.15 . Moved by Sarah Fronczak, supported by Tess Van Gorder, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion passed by voice vote.

President Schaub requested that the 6 month budget review be put on the July meeting agenda.

Disbursements Needing Approval: None presented.

New Business:

Chapter Representation at SWCS Annual Conference July 21-24: Caryn Dawson, MiSWCS member and in attendance at this meeting, plans to attend the SWCS Annual Conference and will represent the Michigan Chapter at the House of Delegates Meeting, and will also attend the Awards Banquet and accept the awards to the Chapter on behalf of the Chapter. President Schaub thanked Caryn.

Persuant to this, since the Chapter Budget includes a \$200 stipend to assist the Chapter Delegate to attend the Conference, Dan Kesselring moved, and Sarah Fronczak supported, to award the \$200 stipend to Caryn Dawson. Motion carried by voice vote.

Envirothon Team Support: Steve Schaub explained that the Michigan Envirothon winning team will be traveling to the National Envirothon contest this summer, and is appealing for financial assistance for the trip. Steve asked if the Executive Council would like the Michigan Chapter SWCS to offer some support. Dan Kesselring asked Kelly Goward if the Chapter had provided financial support to Envirothon in the past. The answer was “yes”. Dan Kesselring moved to authorize \$100 for travel expense assistance to the Michigan Envirothon winning school. Zachary Curtis supported the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

Old Business:

Bonfire Night Event: During the last Executive Council meeting in May, a “Bonfire night” on August 13th, part of the MDARD Regenerative Agriculture Workshop hosted by MSU Extension at Lake City Conservation Station targeting Conservation District and NRCS technicians, was discussed. Sarah Fronczak had asked if the Michigan Chapter SWCS could sponsor the event and provide funds for snacks (not to exceed \$100). The event could include discussion of membership recruitment to MiSWCS. This invitation was accepted.

To authorize the Treasurer to cover this expense, Dan Kesselring moved to authorize up to \$100 for snacks and other relevant costs to sponsor this event. Zachary Curtis supported the motion. Motion passed by voice vote. *Dan Busby will continue to represent the Executive Council in coordination for this event.*

Scholarship Fund Status Review: Dan Kesselring has prepared a spreadsheet showing the status of the Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Fund since the 2017 investment in Vanguard Funds and the establishment of a separate account at the Marshall Community Credit Union. Dan had emailed this document, along with explanation, to officers previously. Dan briefly explained a few things that change on a monthly basis and that the opportunity for another \$750 scholarship appeared favorable.

Since the Chapter Work Plan calls for the Executive Council to determine the availability and extent of a scholarship in July, *Steve Schaub requested that this be put on the July agenda.*

Work Plan Reminders – Work Plan Items for June and July, and remaining items from prior months, were appended to the agenda.

Committee Reports:

Professional Development: Gerald Miller, Chair, reported by email. No new information to present. Will visit with President Schaub regarding a potential event for the September time frame.

Legislative:

State Legislators shared that they will not meet the mid-June self-imposed deadline for passing the FY25 State Budget. Now planning to approve and send FY25 budget to the Governor NLT 30 June. MDARD budget is pending Senate-House conference committee meeting. Not aware of date for meeting.

Federal Farm Bill Budget. A tug of war is underway between House and Senate proposals. House Chair Thompson (R-PA) released a committee bill on May 24. Minority Chair Scott (D-GA) has different views and little communication has occurred between the two members and their staffs. Senate chair Stabenow has major reservations regarding the House bill.

Membership and Outreach:

Newsletter: Newsletter items due by June 30.

Membership Status: Currently 52 members.

Land Judging Guide Ad Hoc Committee: Dan Kesselring reported that the Michigan FFA Land Conservation Contest was again held in April with assistance from Michigan Chapter SWCS members Gaylynn Kinter and Heather Varboncoeur along with some non-members. The Contest is based on a guide that was prepared and revised by Michigan Chapter SWCS members. There have been some requests for revisions/updates in the guide in the past, and were requested anew this year. Dan K decided

to attempt to bring a committee/group together to discuss changes, but this would be a new Ad Hoc committee of the Chapter which should be authorized/appointed by the Chapter President or Executive Council. President Schaub, who has agreed to participate in this committee, then authorized Dan Kesselring to proceed with developing the committee and recruiting whoever he felt necessary.

Committee Assignments Review: The Committee listing was updated 02/09/24 and is available on our Website at

<https://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7124127463/2024+Executive+Council+and+Committees.pdf>

Next Executive Council Meeting: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, July 11, 2024.

Adjournment: Moved by Sarah Fronczak, supported by Zachary Curtis, to adjourn this meeting. Meeting Adjourned at 12:57pm

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary