

President's Outgoing Report for the 2024 Annual Business Meeting
Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

December 12, 2024

It has been my great pleasure to serve as your President for the past year. In my report as incoming President at the 2023 annual business meeting, I had mentioned that one of my goals for the organization was to increase membership and to continue to participate in the SWCS Emerging Leaders Program sponsored through our International Organization. We accomplished both, increasing membership and increasing participation in the emerging leaders program. Last year, we graduated four members from the program, with three of them serving leadership roles in the organization. Caryn Dawson attended the SWCS International Conference in South Carolina, Rising Together: Collaborative Conservation for All. She brought back a report of her attendance at the conference. Patty McNinch and Mila Resetar, two other graduates, served on the nominations committee for our Michigan Chapter, providing a ballot slate and Mila went on to run herself for the Region 2 director position.

The new group of emerging leaders look very promising. They have already started working on their capstone projects and we had a group dinner for the 6 that live and work in the Bay City/Saginaw area on December 9th. All are excited to participate and learn from each other and our Michigan Chapter leadership.

Another great winter seminar was put together by our planning committee this past March. It was well attended, and the feedback was very positive. Although we did not have time to put together a summer tour this year, members continued to work together on other projects such as Envirothon, and many of our members are on the planning committee for the 2025 Envirothon season and have already been working hard on regional and state competition in partnership with MACD and other organizations.

The scholarship program got a boost from our donation campaign, and we continue to provide a scholarship to a deserving college student. Bringing in students and new members to the organization continues to be a goal of mine. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President and I look forward to working with you all in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Schaub