



# Michigan Chapter

## Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Friday, March 14, 2025

### MINUTES

(“Action” Items are in red *italics*)

**Call to Order:** At 12:01 p.m. by Sarah Zeiler, President

#### Roll Call:

<b>Officers Present:</b>	Sarah Zeiler	President
	Steve Schaub	Past President
	Katie Droscha	Vice President
	Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
	Gary Boersen	Region 3 Director
	<b>5 Officers present – quorum achieved, according to Bylaws)</b>	

**Others Present:** None

<b>Officers Absent:</b>	Kelly Goward	Treasurer
	Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
	Mila Resetar	Region 2 Director
	Zachary Curtis	President-elect
	Heather Varboncoeur	State-wide At Large Director

**Agenda:** President Zeiler asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Gary Boersen, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

**02/11/2025 Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Steve Schaub, 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 submitted the February Treasurer's Report by email. The reported balances as of 2/28/25 were: General Fund \$10,969.23; and Scholarship Fund \$17,869.25. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Katie Droscha, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

**Disbursements Needing Approval:** None

#### New Business:

**Marshall Community Credit Union Scholarship Fund CD Renewal:** Daniel Kesselring reported that the Finance Committee recommends the current Scholarship Fund 10 Month CD at the Credit Union, which expires on March 23, be renewed or reinvested in a new 10 Month CD. The Credit Union is currently advertising a 10 Month CD earning 3.8% apy and a 25 Month CD earning 3.35% apy. The Finance Committee recommends the 10 Month CD because of the higher interest rate and because it gives greater flexibility for management of the funds. All of the current 10 months CD value should be invested in the new CD rather than pulling the current interest earnings out to rest in the savings account which earns very low interest. Moved by Steve Schaub and supported by Katie Droscha to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation. Motion passed by voice vote.

**Chapter Member Annual Conference Grant Request:** Chapter member Zouheir Massri sent an email asking to be considered for financial support to attend the SWCS Annual Conference this summer. Dan Kesselring said the Chapter Budget includes \$200 to support a Chapter member to represent the Michigan Chapter at the House of Delegates meeting during the conference. Sarah Zeiler suggested that Zouheir should be applying to an entity she knows of for better funding. Steve Schaub suggested that our priority should be to support an officer attending, or a young conservation professional, and that we should postpone our decision to May or June. Concensus was to postpone the decision. *Sarah Zeiler will contact Zouheir to inform him of our decision to postpone our selection and to discuss the potential of another source of funding.*

Dan Kesselring suggested that the amount of the support needs to be increased considering inflation. Sarah Zeiler suggested that the amount offered should cover the cost of registration in the future. This will be discussed during budget review later this year.

**Old Business:**

**Strategic Plan Annual Review:** Katie Droscha pointed out that this had been discussed at the last meeting and should not be on the agenda again until next year.

**Work Plan Reminders:** Work Plan items for March, and remaining items from prior months, were appended to the agenda.

**Committee Reports:**

**Professional Development:** Gerald Miller, Chair, was not present, but had sent emails previously.

**ANR Seminar:** There were 13 attendees who provided feedback through the fillable feedback form. Feedback was generally positive and supportive. *Steve Schaub moved that Kelly Goward, Treasurer, be directed to contact AgriLiquid and arrange to reserve the facility for March 6, 2026.* Motion supported by Katie Droscha. Motion passed by voice vote.

**Legislative:**

**Federal Farm Bill.** Tess Van Gorder and Gerald Miller were not available to report.

**Membership and Outreach:**

**Membership:** Membership currently stands at 53.

**Policy:** No Report.

**Scholarship:** No report.

**Land Judging Guide Review Ad Hoc Committee:** Dan Kesselring, Chair, reported that the Committee has held one virtual meeting, and discussion is on-going through email. A second virtual meeting is scheduled for March 18.

**Committee Assignments Review:** The Committee listing was **updated 1/30/25** and is available on our Website at

<https://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7124127463/2025+Executive+Council+and+Committees.pdf>

**Open Discussion:** None.

**Next Executive Council Meeting:** 12:00 p.m. Thursday, April 10, 2025.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Katie Droscha, supported by Steve Schaub, to adjourn the meeting. President Sarah Zeiler adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary