



Michigan Chapter

Annual Business Meeting Thursday, December 12, 2024

Held by Remote Video Conference

DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order: 10:01 a.m. by President Steve Schaub

Roll Call: Chapter Secretary Daniel Kesselring reported that there were 7 officers and 7 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: Katie Droscha, Past President; Dan Kesselring, Secretary; Kelly Goward, Treasurer; Steve Schaub, President; Sarah Zeiler, President Elect; Tess Van Gorder, At-large Director; Zachary Curtis, Region 2 Director.

Other Chapter Members attending: Mila Resetar, Patty McNinch, Laura Campbell, Zach Bates, Kate Chamberlain, Alexa Hempel and Gerald Miller.

Others present: Elizabeth Kelley, Academic Year 2024-2025 Scholarship recipient, Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program.

Agenda: President Schaub asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Moved by Tess Van Gorder, supported by Katie Droscha, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

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

12/15/2023 Annual Meeting Minutes: The 2023 Annual Meeting minutes had been provided on the Chapter website prior to this meeting. President Schaub asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting. Zachary Curtis moved that the minutes be approved as printed with a minor time correction. Sarah Zeiler 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 2024 Monthly Budget Statement covering January through December 8, and a Statement for all Accounts as of December 8. The December 8 fund balances were: General Fund = \$8,879.16 and Scholarship Funds = \$17,327.22. Moved by Tess Van Gorder, supported by Laura Campbell, 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, was not able to be present. He has published two newsletters this year, one in the winter and one in the summer. These are available on the Chapter [website](#). Currently, the Michigan Chapter has 53 members.

Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee: Glenn O'Neil, Committee Chair, was unable to be present, but provided a [link](#) to the Strategic Plan in the agenda. The Strategic Plan update was approved by the Executive Council on April 11, 2024.

Professional Development Committee: Committee Chair Gerald Miller submitted a written [report](#) which was posted on the Chapter website.

Scholarship Committee: Zachary Curtis provided a printed report on the status of the Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program Fall 2024-Spring 2025 Academic Year Scholarship. The [report](#) was made available on the Chapter website. Zachary also introduced Elizabeth Kelley, the winner of this year's Scholarship. She was present during this Annual Meeting

Zachary then introduced Alexa Hempel, winner of the Fall 2023-Spring 2024 Academic Year Scholarship and Chapter member, for a brief interview and presentation of what she has been doing since receiving the scholarship, and what her goals are following graduation. Her future includes employment with the National Park Service in southwestern United States.

Outgoing President's Report: See Appendix A.

Election Results: President Schaub then introduced Patricia McNinch, Chair of the Elections Committee. Patricia reported that 15 ballots had been cast and Zachary Curtis was elected President elect; Katie Droscha was elected Vice President; Mila Resetar was elected Region 2 Director; and Heather Varboncoeur was elected At Large State-wide Director.

Outgoing Chapter President Schaub then introduced incoming Chapter President Sarah Zeiler.

Incoming President's Message: Sarah Zeiler commented on some of the plans and hopes for the coming year.

Open Discussion: President Zeiler then asked if there was any further discussion requested by those present. Hearing none, President Zeiler then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment: Tess Van Gorder moved, Katie Droscha supported, to adjourn this 2024 Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting. Motion passed by voice vote. President Zeiler adjourned the 2024 Michigan Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary

APPENDIX A

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