



Michigan Chapter

Executive Council Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

MINUTES

("Action" Items are in red italics)

10:02 a.m. called to order by Zachary Curtis, Chapter President

Roll Call:

Officers Present:

Zachary Curtis	President
Adam Reimer	President-elect
Daniel Kesselring	Secretary
Sherman Reed	Region 3 Director
Steve Schaub	State-wide At Large Director

5 Officers present – quorum achieved according to Bylaws)

Officers Absent

Sarah Zeiler	Past President
Katie Droscha	Vice President
Kelly Goward	Treasurer
Dan Busby	Region 1 Director
Mila Resetar	Region 2 Director

Others Present: Gerald Miller, Chair, Professional Development Committee

Agenda: Chapter President Curtis asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, the agenda was approved.

4/14/2026 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the previous Executive Council meeting were appended to the agenda. Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Sherman Reed, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motions approved by email prior to this meeting: 05/13/26 Dan Kesselring moved to revise two previous Chase Bank CD renewal motions to replace "2 month Chase Bank CD" with "CD for whatever time period (less than 12 months) provides the best interest rate". Dan Busby supported. Votes: Adam Reimer – aye; Sarah Zeiler – aye; Dan Kesselring – aye; Dan Busby – aye; Mila Resetar – aye; Steve Schaub – aye; Sherman Reed – aye. 5/16/26 Motion declared passed.

Votes being revised:

- 1) "Moved by Steve Schaub, supported by Adam Reimer, to approve merging the two CDs into a new 2 month Chase CD on 5/15/26 or as soon as possible thereafter. Motion passed by voice vote."
- 2) "Then Daniel Kesselring moved to supplement the previous motion that the 4/30/26 CD be transferred to the checking account upon maturity, and then when the 5/15/26 CD matures that it

and sufficient funds from the checking account be used to create a \$9000 2 month Chase Bank CD. Motion supported by Steve Schaub. Motion passed by voice vote.”

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Goward, Treasurer, was unable to attend and will provide the reports later.

Disbursements Needing Approval: None

New Business:

Chapter Award Announcement and Discussion: Zach discussed that this award needs to be announced to the membership and that *he will put it in the upcoming Chapter newsletter. Dan K stated that he would put it on the Chapter website when he gets a copy of the award.*

North Central Region 6/2/26 Leadership Virtual Meeting Minutes: Minutes are attached as Appendix A. Steve Schaub, Dan Kesselring and Adam Reimer attended.

Old Business:

SWCS Annual Conference Attendees/Delegates: Dan Kesselring brought up that the Chapter has traditionally had a Chapter Delegate and Delegate Alternate appointed to attend the Council of Delegates meeting at the Conference. Adam Reimer has been appointed Chapter Delegate. Zouheir is also attending and Dan suggested he might be appointed Alternate. *Zach said he would contact Zouheir.* Dan moved to appoint Zouheir Alternate Delegate, if Zouheir agrees. Adam Reimer supported the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

Work Plan Reminders: Work Plan items were appended to the agenda.

Committee Reports:

Professional Development: Gerald Miller, Chair, referred to Steve Schaub. Steve reported that the Chapter will be partnering on a Summer Tour to be held at the Saginaw Valley Research Farm on September 3 starting at 1:30 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. with a catered dinner. *More details will be coming.*

Membership and Outreach:

Membership: Membership currently stands at 54.

Newsletter: *Zachary Curtis reported that the newsletter is pending.*

Legislative: Gerald Miller reported.

Federal Action: The House has passed two of the necessary 12 appropriations packages for FY27. Importantly, last week they passed HR 8646, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This bill eschews parts of the President’s budget by continuing to fund important programs like Conservation Technical Assistance and Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations though at slightly lower levels than FY26. Appropriations bills must be reconciled between the House and Senate before they are signed in to law by the President. The Senate Appropriations committee is still hearing testimony related to budget needs and NACD will provide in-depth review of all relevant appropriations decisions as they are passed by the full Congress. A primary issue among Senators is Title IV – Nutrition, for funding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

State: The Michigan Legislature has stated they plan to finalize the FY27 budget by June 30. The House appropriations bill includes \$3.0M for the 75 Conservation Districts. The Senate appropriations bill includes \$3.5M for the 75 Conservation Districts. Final

decisions regarding funding the Quality-of-Life Departments (DNR, EGLE, MDARD) will be made in the joint legislative conference committee and presented to both chambers for approval followed by the Governors signature.

Committee Assignments Review: The Committee listing was **updated 3/5/26** 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: 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2026.

Adjournment: Having no further business to be discussed, President Curtis adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel F. Kesselring, Secretary

APPENDIX A

SWCS North Central Region Leadership Meeting Minutes

6/2/26

Attendees: Renee Bouldin (headquarters), Krista Kirkham (IL), Meg Leader (IN), Gabi Bolwerk (MN), Diane Bradley-Redden (MO), Sheila Schroeder (IN), Helen VanBeck (IL), Kelsi Sieren (IA), Steven Schaub (MI), Adam Reimer (MI), Daniel Keselring (MI), Jeff Boeckler (IL), Emma Hunter (IL), Jill Reinhart (IN), Sarah Reilly (IN), Miranda Haes (IA)

Meeting notes:

- **Headquarters Updates and Annual Conference Planning:** Renee Bouldin from SWCS headquarters provided updates on the upcoming annual conference in Missouri, including registration deadlines, exhibitor and sponsor opportunities, silent auction details, and special registration grants for emerging leaders. Additional information was given from Diane Bradley-Redden.
 - **Conference Registration Deadlines:** Renee Bouldin announced that the early bird registration deadline for the annual conference is June 16th, offering a significant discount, and the exhibitor and sponsor deadline is June 12th, with only a few spots left.
 - **Silent Auction Coordination:** Diane Bradley-Redden explained that the Missouri chapter is organizing a silent auction for the conference, requesting chapters to donate baskets or items, and provided details about unique items such as Hugh Hammett Bennett memorabilia, wine, Anheuser-Busch horseshoes, and other donated goods.
 - **Emerging Leaders Registration Grants:** Renee Bouldin shared that a grant is available to cover registration for 30 emerging leaders this year and next, with a few spots still open for alumni, and encouraged interested participants to contact them directly.
 - **Emerging Leaders Program Applications:** Applications for the 2027 Emerging Leaders Program will open July 15th and close August 15th, with recruitment efforts planned during the conference and ongoing support for early-career professionals.
 - **NRCS Attendance and Approval:** Diane Bradley-Redden and Renee Bouldin discussed efforts to secure NRCS staff attendance at the conference, noting recent leadership changes and ongoing approval processes, with hopes for up to 70 NRCS representatives.
 - **Conference Volunteer Opportunities:** Renee Bouldin confirmed that volunteer slots for the conference are nearly filled, but last-minute volunteers may still be accommodated, especially for those seeking registration discounts.
 - **Awards and Scholarships Announcement:** Recent awards and scholarships winners were announced, with press releases sent to chapters and direct emails to chapter leaders for promotion and celebration of recipients.
 - **Chapter Leader Communication:** Renee Bouldin emphasized the importance of chapter notes, which are monthly emails sent to chapter leaders and offered to add anyone not receiving them to the distribution list.

- **Chapter Report Outs and Event Planning:** Chapter leaders from Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan shared updates on recent and upcoming events, leadership changes, and conference attendance estimates.
 - **Indiana Summer Social and Water Quality Event:** Sheila Schroeder described the Hoosier chapter's upcoming summer social on June 24th at Morgan Monroe State Forest, featuring speakers on water quality, geology, and farming practices, with a carry-in lunch and an RSVP deadline of June 17th.
 - **Illinois Chapter Leadership and Scholarship Program:** Krista Kirkham and Helen VanBeck reported on the Illinois chapter's leadership changes, the Commodities for Communities scholarship program, and plans to sponsor a soil health event and participate in the IL Association of Soil and Water Districts meeting.
 - **Missouri Fall Forum and Conference Preparation:** Diane Bradley-Redden announced Missouri's fall forum with a forestry theme scheduled for October 21st, and detailed preparations for the international conference, including silent auction promotion and NRCS attendance coordination.
 - **Minnesota Chapter Revival and Survey:** Gabi Bulwark highlighted Minnesota's chapter revival efforts, including a June 17th webinar, field days in August, ambassador meetings, and a recent survey to guide future activities, with networking identified as a key interest.
 - **Iowa Chapter Events and Scholarship Review:** Kelsi Sieren shared Iowa's recent board meetings, participation in Celebrate Iowa Outdoors Day, Earth Day activities, upcoming RAGBRAI tent, summer meeting on June 12th, and ongoing scholarship application review.
 - **Michigan ANR Seminar and Conference Attendance:** Steven Schaub and Adam Reimer discussed Michigan's successful ANR seminar in March and plans for a summer field day with Michigan State University. Michigan NACD meeting will be July 19-21 in Grand Rapids, MI.
 - **Ontario Chapter:** Renee Bouldin reported that the Ontario Chapter is rebuilding and new board members have been elected (Krista has their contact information). They have a meeting on the evening of June 10.
- **Networking and Leadership Training Initiatives:** Krista Kirkham discussed plans for a North Central Region chapter gathering at the conference, solicited input on leadership training needs, and encouraged sharing of successful chapter development strategies, with additional input from Sarah Reilly and Gabi Bulwark.
 - **Conference Networking Event Planning:** Krista Kirkham proposed organizing a Sunday evening gathering for North Central Region chapters during the conference, aiming to facilitate networking and social interaction among attendees.
 - **Leadership Training Needs Assessment:** Krista invited chapter leaders to suggest topics for professional development and nonprofit leadership training, expressing interest in coordinating future training sessions based on group needs.

- **Sharing Chapter Development Strategies:** Krista encouraged leaders to share effective chapter development practices and resources, noting the value of exchanging ideas for strengthening chapters.
- **Chapter Meeting Formats and Member Engagement:** Gabi Bulwark raised questions about chapter meeting frequency and formats, prompting responses from Miranda Hayes, Jill Reinhart, Steven Schaub, and Krista Kirkham on in-person and virtual meetings, networking events, and member engagement strategies.
 - **In-Person and Virtual Meeting Practices:** Chapters reported holding two in-person meetings annually, often with speakers and networking opportunities, while Michigan utilizes virtual meetings for annual business and partners with universities for field days.
 - **Member Engagement Approaches:** Social events, field tours, and leveraging online tools for quarterly meetings were identified as effective ways to engage members, with winter virtual meetings suggested to address travel challenges.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Silent Auction Donations for Conference:** Coordinate and send chapter or individual donations for the Missouri chapter's silent auction at the upcoming conference, ensuring items are brought on site or sent to Diane as per the instructions in the SWCS email. (All chapter leaders)
- **Conference Attendee List Sharing:** Request and obtain a list of registered conference attendees from each state after the early bird and online registration deadlines to facilitate chapter coordination and networking. (All chapter leaders, Erica, SWCS)
- **Emerging Leaders Program Promotion:** Promote the Emerging Leaders Program application period (July 15–August 15) to eligible early-career conservation professionals and encourage applications. (All chapter leaders)
- **Chapter Leadership Training Needs:** Email Krista with suggestions or requests for specific leadership or professional development training topics for future meetings. (All chapter leaders)
- **Promote SWCS Gear Purchase:** Remind chapter members to purchase SWCS gear from the bonfire store before the conference to ensure timely delivery