

NM Chapter SWCS Board of Directors Meeting

February 6, 2007, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Meeting held by teleconference

Members present: Steve Kadas (Pres.), Linda Scheffe (Treas.), Jean Foster (Sec.), Paul Vanio (Pres-Elect), Cliff Sanchez (Reg. 2 Rep.), Juan Gauna (Reg. 4 Rep.).

Welcome and Introductions

With a quorum present Steve began the meeting just after 9:00 a.m. No introductions necessary.

Minutes - Review and approve

Jean reviewed the minutes of the Nov. 1, 2006, meeting. Cliff motioned to approve the minutes and Linda seconded the motion. All agreed.

Reports

Treasury Report - Linda reported that our checking account balance was \$13,607.87 as of Dec. 31, 2006. Savings holds \$1,528.05 @ 1.5% annually. She will send out the check register to our membership. The John Werner Scholarship (JWS) account in the amount of \$5,500 will be established as a separate interest bearing account with the goal of not tapping into it upon motion by Steve, seconded by Paul. All agreed and discussion ensued about making it an endowment fund. Also discussed was the idea of siphoning any funds earned with workshops or conferences into this JWS account. Linda will check into the feasibility of using an ING account for both checking and savings accounts. Juan will contact Pete Stewart (Reg. 5 Rep.) to investigate endowment funds. All agreed that the financial information does not need to be on our website at this time.

Membership Report - Ken Leiting (Membership Chair) was not able to attend so Steve gave the report. We have increased our membership by mostly University of New Mexico students and two transfers, Dennis Alexander and Mary Podoll (NRCS NM State Conservationist and NM NW Area Conservationist respectively). Mary has expressed an interest in becoming very active with our chapter. Jean will get an updated roster from National SWCS and send out information on upcoming activities (see below). Jean will also send a new officer list to National SWCS, as well as Paul for our website.

Activities - Steve announced the **upcoming tree planting** (approximately 4 hours) with the Valencia SWCD on Saturday Mar. 3, 2007. Charlie Sanchez, Valencia SWCD Chairman, invited our organization as well as NM NRCS. The NM Plant Materials Center (Greg Fenchel is director and a NM member) is involved, donating 500 cottonwood poles, and perhaps other plants, for an area near Belen. Steve proposed covering the bill for lunch for the event, all agreed. All agreed to have our Chapter gather before driving down to Belen in order to carpool, possibly at the Pit parking Lot near UNM.

Greg Fenchel submitted and was accepted to give an **oral presentation at SWCS national conference**, July 21-24. The presentation is titled "Southwestern Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting Methods That Require Minimal or No Irrigation" which will be delivered by Steve.

Annual reports - Steve announced that there are 5 chapter annual reports due Feb 15, with the Core Report being mandatory. The others are Outstanding Chapter, Chapter Achievement, Sustained Performance and Professional Development. Steve will contact Past President Corinne Brooks (who has moved to Salinas, CA) to do the Core Report.

New Member Reception - The date for the reception is set for March 17, 2007, with Mar. 10 as a backup date. Jean reviewed the ideas that Steve, Linda and she discussed about a month ago. We thought to make it middle of the day, maybe a potluck or outdoor walk through the Rio Grande Nature Center (both?). Jean will contact Shawn and inquire if these dates will accommodate students as they are our largest group of new members.

Other Activities - Juan asked if we know of any Earth Day activities so we asked him what was going on in Lee County and he said tree planting (Red Cedar, Arizona Cypress, Red Juniper, etc.) is a typical activity with Master Gardeners and the Re-Leaf program as two participants. Mention was made of a Water Quality Monitoring meeting next month. Discussion ensued about creating a monolith/profile of the NM state soil, Penistaja, for exhibit here at the USDA State Office and one in the State Hall. All agreed that this is a good idea and discussed the idea of asking someone in the state legislature to sponsor a bill making this so, for the governor's approval of designating a New Mexico state soil.

Presidents Message - Steve spoke to adopting a diversity of events to draw more people out, focusing on members, and putting some heart behind our outreach and membership. He mentioned Corinne Brooks, past president, and said she raised the level of the NM Chapter and that we should build on that. He suggested one activity per quarter and involving more people in these activities, and pointed out that we do have funding approved (\$1,000) for outreach and membership. Jean suggested that the Region Chairs work within their own regions to draw people in.

Annual Plan - Steve will review past minutes and create a straw plan to distribute to the executive board for additional ideas. In a month we can meet and approve this plan, with a budget attached. We can add this to our website and it will help with organizing activities.

Discussion and Other Items - Paul needs a new officer list for the website, Jean will send it to him. Juan mentioned a Rural Economic Development Through Tourism (REDTT) conference coming up April 26 & 27 in Carlsbad and suggested we put up an information booth. All agreed this was a good idea and Steve will ask Barbara Garrett if she can help with a display. Planning for our next workshop was discussed with a variety of events suggested. Adding an annual event to the Annual Plan, choosing a focus a few years ahead and rotating topics were discussed. Steve spoke about the Missouri SWCS and the Natural Resource Conference they hold once a year with cross training and a focus on 4 agendas at one time. Linda brought up the idea of using a watershed approach.

Steve thanked participants and with no further business the **meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.**