

NM Soil and Water Conservation Society Spring Business Meeting Notes

The New Mexico Chapter of the SWCS met at K-Bob's restaurant in Socorro at 11:00 a.m. on May 18, 2006. Present were Corina Brooks, Steve Kadas, Ken Leiting, Paul Vanio and Jean Foster. In the absence of a quorum the meeting proceeded with a review of the agenda and recommendations for actions at the next meeting of the NM Chapter.

Corina opened the meeting at 11:15 a.m.; introductions were skipped as all present knew one another.

The treasurer's report shows a balance of \$15,171.29 as of 5/10/06. The expenditures (\$18,499.74) and income (\$27,426.60) from the Riparian Restoration Conference held in March were reviewed. These numbers will be reviewed by Steve and Mike Sporcic and formalized at our next meeting. Discussion ensued about CD's as opposed to Money Market funds and the recommendation was made by Ken to establish 3 different money market accounts with the bank: 1) John Werner scholarship account, for \$5500 since these funds were earmarked many years ago and never spent, 2) A special project account, using the bulk of the profits from our Riparian Restoration (RR) conference (approx. \$7500) and, 3) An operations account. All agreed to adopt this recommendation.

Steve went over the evaluation sheet distributed at the RR conference. See attached.

Membership was discussed and ideas for incentives to join SWCS included: Subsidizing the first year's membership for new employees and providing more assistance for using payroll deductions to pay membership fee, giving retirees a reduced fee, reducing the fee for a new member if they attend a conference. Ken will work on a list of membership incentives for our next meeting.

The John Werner Scholarship was discussed and it was agreed by all to recommend keeping a set amount (approx \$5,500) in the fund for using only on scholarships. Jean and Pete Stewart will work together to develop a list of criteria that a recipient must meet to receive the scholarship. All agreed to recommend \$1,000 for a scholarship to be awarded in time for the next school year 06/07. This year, it might be that we contact a professor at NMSU for recommendations due to time restrictions, but this will be further confirmed at our next meeting.

All agreed to recommend that the Chapter's summer meeting be held in conjunction with the NMACD Summer meeting in Ruidoso scheduled for July 10 & 11.

The meeting will be 11:30 to 1:00 on July 10. Jean will check into reserving a space for the meeting at a restaurant. Corina volunteered to help Jean. All agreed to work on a high attendance level of members for this meeting. Phone calling will be most effective, beginning with Regional Representatives. There was general agreement to cover the cost of Jean attending this meeting (not in a tent) , as well as Reg. Reps that aren't approved for government per diem. Time will be on their own.

All agreed to recommend that the following members attend the Annual National SWCS Meeting in Keystone, CO, July 22-26; Corina (official delegate), Steve, Jean, and Ken. Ken will obtain an item for the Silent Auction, not to exceed \$100.

Discussion ensued about the chapter's newsletter. Steve will write up a report on the RR conference, Ken will write a membership article, Corina will write a president's report, Paul will put together a "tech tip" and Jean will compile and distribute the newsletter on or before May 26, 2006.

We talked next about our Annual Business Meeting and all agreed to recommend that it be held in November in conjunction with the State Association meeting in T or C. At the next Chapter meeting (July 10, Ruidoso) the election committee will be appointed by Corina.

Last but not least Ken brought up planning for another event like the RR Conference. Ken pointed out that sponsoring an annual event will help keep our chapter financially viable. Topics suggested included: Watershed assessment/planning, water harvesting, urban water management, drought, agricultural sustainability, and biomass energy. This will be discussed at the July 10 meeting

Meeting closed at 1:25 p.m.