

NM Chapter SWCS
Board of Directors Meeting
May 7, 2007, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
Meeting held by teleconference

Members present: Steve Kadas (Pres.), Jean Foster (Sec.), Paul Vanio (Pres-Elect), Cliff Sanchez (Reg. 2 Rep.), Juan Gauna (Reg. 4 Rep.), Pete Stewart (Reg. 3 Rep.) Mary Podoll (Membership Chair).

Welcome and Introductions

With a quorum present Steve began the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes - Review and approve

Jean reviewed the minutes of the Feb. 6, 2007, meeting. Juan moved to approve the minutes with one (1) change, Lea County instead of Lee. Pete seconded the motion. All approved. Following up on last meeting minutes Juan told us that Dora Dominguez from Rural Economic Development through Tourism (REDTT) presented an overview of their activities at the NM Association of RC&D conference and informed us that REDTT had no funding for 2007, but is funded for 2008. REDTT provides service by helping Chambers of Commerce with mini-grants, brochures and other items. Juan made two suggestions: using an endowment fund for the John Werner Scholarship account: that we work with partners already established in these funds and/or become the lead to draw others in.

Reports

Chapter Achievement Award - Steve said that our hard work has paid off with the award our Chapter will receive at the National Conference in Tampa in July. Paul will add this information to the website.

Draft Budget Overview

Linda had provided a draft budget to Steve. All reviewed the budget and discussion took place later in the meeting (see attached draft budget for suggested changes). Steve said the budget should be an annual item and that it should be part of our annual plan. All agreed.

Annual Plan - Steve and Paul have put together a draft of a basic Annual Plan for the chapter by examining the National awards process and Chapter reports, and matching activities to those items. Draft plan attached, discussion of items below.

Membership - Mary Podoll was welcomed as our new Membership Chairperson. Steve suggested prorating the amount budgeted for membership to reflect actual expenses. All agreed. Jean will send the most current roster to Mary and Juan. Steve said that Harold Klegge has resigned as the SW Region Chair and encouraged regional involvement. Due to Shawn Hardeman's efforts many new members have joined from UNM, and Jean offered to work with Mary to hold a UNM chapter meeting to provide opportunities for member participation. Mary suggested the beginning of 07/08 school year. Shawn was recommended to be invited to be our Chapter Rep. at UNM. Other outreach activities such as the newsletter and workdays will continue.

Technical Development - Paul solicited ideas for a technical workshop. Jean suggested a follow-up to the Riparian Restoration. Juan mentioned that Lea County has more playas than any in the nation and suggested working with state agencies and local ranches who are already working to protect/improve Prairie Chicken habitat. He told us that the Office of State Engineer (OSE) has a project underway to clean up and develop natural springs at the salt Playas near Granger Lake north of Tatum, NM. Steve recommended holding a tour of the area. Juan said there is a display of same coming to the museum in August and he knows of a graduate student working with the NM Environmental Department on

playas and identifying wetlands in Lea County. Steve said we will hold a technical tour of the Sandia Mountain Tributary Dam in Bernalillo at the end of June.

Annual Meetings - Our Annual summer and winter meetings are usually held in conjunction with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) meetings, Ruidoso (July10-11) and various locations TBA(this year Oct. 23-25 in Las Vegas) respectively. Pete asked about attendance at the Annual National SWCD meeting to be held in Tampa, Florida, July 21-25, 2007. Steve plans to attend and upon motion by Steve, seconded by Juan, all approved Paul's attendance with Chapter funding up to the amount of \$1,800. Generally SWCS officers and committee chairs attend the annual meeting if able.

Conservation and Community Projects - All agreed to the Chapter helping out annually at the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area as a spring activity. Cliff suggested we stay in touch with Charlie Sanchez, Chairman of the Valencia SWCD as this is their project. The State Soil Legislation was discussed, with Paul agreeing to contact Wayne Robbie (Reg. 1 Rep.) to check on status. Paul has spoken with Debbie Hughes (executive director NMACD) and will be meeting with Ms. Hughes at the summer NMACD meeting in Ruidoso about establishing the Envirothon in NM. Juan suggested that our chapter help out with a planting at the Hobbs landfill, sponsored by waste management, with approximately 1200 alkalai sacaton plants to be provided by the Plant Materials Center (PMC). Steve asked about the time frame and Juan said it will be the week before or after Memorial Day. Since time is short Steve suggested we help out financially if nothing else, Juan said they mostly need people to work on the ground. Jean will send out an announcement of the event to the general membership.

Elections - Steve suggested that region representatives serve on election committees, all agreed. Jean will send invitation to serve to region reps.

Partnership - Steve has spoken to the Society for Range Management (SRM) in re: workshops for 2008 and 2009.

Awards and Recognition - discussed previously in the meeting, see above.

Fundraising - Steve mentioned that the main fundraising activities should be through workshop income. He also mentioned that the scholarship endowment funds could be raised through commercial exhibitor sponsorships during workshops.

Scholarships - Pete and Jean had tentatively decided to offer the John Werner Scholarship to students at UNM this year (due to number of new members), working through the Region 1 Rep (Wayne Robbie) and a professor at the University (Shawn Hardeman if he agrees). Pete suggested this be an item on the annual plan scheduled each year for the start of the school year. Steve suggested raising the amount to cover the first year membership to SWCS, from \$1,000 to \$1,025. All agreed. Jean will contact Wayne and Shawn.

Chapter Communication - Our quarterly newsletter is our main source of chapter communication, presently sent to the National SWCS as well as NM members via e-mail. Jean sends hard copies to a few members by regular mail. Steve suggested sending the newsletter to other State Chapters in the SW Region. All supported the suggestion. Next newsletter is scheduled to go out in June 2007.

Closing Remarks - Steve solicited other ideas. Cliff said we should get speakers at our summer and/or winter meetings and that Cal Baca, a member of the State Technical Committee, wants to be a speaker in re: a comprehensive wildlife enhancement strategy. Jean asked when we should finalize and approve the Annual Plan. We decide to meet again on May 22, at 10 AM via teleconference to approve a final plan and budget. Steve suggested we keep the plan flexible so we can adapt if needed.

Steve thanked participants and with no further business the **meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.**