

## **New Mexico SWCS Annual Summer Meeting Minutes**

July 10, 2006

The New Mexico Chapter of the SWCS met at Casa Blanca, 501 Mechum Drive in Ruidoso, NM, on July 10, 2006. Members present included: Corinne Brooks (Pres.), Paul Vanio (Reg.1 rep), Pete Stewart (Reg. 3 rep), Juan Gauna, Cliff Sanchez (Reg. 2 rep), Ken Leiting, Ken Scheffe, Jean Foster (Sec.) and Steve Kadas (Pres-elect). The chapter welcomed Loretta Rael and State Conservationist Dennis Alexander and wife Deborah as guests and potential members.

### **Call to order and Introductions**

With a quorum present Corinne called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander arrived at noon and brief introductions were repeated at that time for their benefit.

### **Approval of Minutes of previous two meetings**

The minutes of the Jan 10, 2006 meeting and the May 18, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved upon motion by Steve, seconded by Paul.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mike Sporcic was unable to attend the meeting and sent the SWCS Financial Report with Corinne. With a correction made on the amount deposited 6/12/06 (\$2,050.00 as opposed to \$2,000.00 from NMACD) the treasurer's report was approved upon motion by Steve, seconded by Cliff, motion passed. Balance as of 7/6/06 is \$17, 545.32.

### **Riparian Conference Success Story**

Steve reported on the Riparian Conference held March 1-2 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The evaluation sheet collected from participants reflected high marks all around with the registration process rated on top. Expenses (approx) = \$18,500.00, Income (approx) = \$27,400.00. Steve mentioned our partners, especially the Army Corps (Ondrea) and the NM Riparian Council (Denise) with appreciation for the excellent contributions they made. Mention was made of Ken's suggestion to make this type of conference an annual event to support our chapter. Ideas for future workshops/conferences included erosion control, wildlife habitat, biomass/energy, watershed management and disaster preparedness.

### **Membership Committee Report**

Ken reported 35 members at present. Our chapter has had up to 200 members in the past. Ideas for increasing our membership included encouraging the direct pay option to retain members, encouraging young professionals and students to join and participate on chapter committees, providing NM SWCS information/membership packets to Region representatives and charging them with the responsibility of signing up new members, outreach to other organizations (i.e.-USFS {paid for Pete's membership before retirement}, BLM, NMACD, NM Riparian Council, universities {would need an on-campus advisor to work with students} and more), initiatives for signing up (first year free for the first ten new members), tying in with conferences and workshops, budgeting \$200 for increasing membership. Steve motioned to cover the first year registration for new members limited to 10 and to budget \$400 for increasing membership, Cliff seconded, motion passed. Corinne said that the National SWCS membership committee is working on a membership packet. Ken will work on drafting an outline from these ideas.

### **Scholarship Committee Report**

Pete's draft criteria were reviewed and all present agreed to adopt the following criteria; Regional representative responsible for establishing a contact at the five State universities (rotating alphabetically beginning with NMSU on an annual basis) through a professor who has first hand knowledge of students in a soil-water/natural resource related curriculum that is hard working, serious and making orderly progress in their course of study. The professor will choose three candidates required to answer three questions which Pete will formulate. All present approved the scholarship amount of \$1,000 as recommended at the spring business meeting, and Pete will proceed with contacting a professor at NMSU.

### **SWCS National Meeting in Keystone, CO**

Members approved to attend, funded by our chapter, with expenses up to \$1,000 each: Jean, Ken.

### **Newsletter**

Ideas for the next issue of the newsletter which Jean plans to have out for Fall '06 included a membership article, a write up of the National meeting in Keystone, spotlight on members. Everyone likes having photos in the newsletter.

### **Website Development**

Paul presented what he has put together so far and suggested using a local host, estimating the cost to be under \$200 annually. Ideas for the website included success stories, photos, membership information, by-laws, officers, minutes of meetings, newsletter, future activities, links to National SWCS and other partners. Steve motioned to fund the website up to \$300 annually, Cliff seconded, motion passed. Cliff pointed out that we will need to register the domain name to avoid theft. Corinne suggested that the site be up and running by our annual meeting in October.

### **Annual Meeting and Election**

Our annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the NMACD Annual Meeting in Las Cruces, scheduled for the end of October. October 31st was chosen for the NM SWCS Annual Meeting, although other meeting times must be taken into account and the time is TBA. Juan will head up the election committee which will nominate candidates for Pres-Elect, Region 4 and Region 2 Representatives

### **Discussion of Future Activities**

This discussion took place over lunch so we could get input from those who had to leave early. Ideas suggested included addressing contentious issues with the objective of bringing people together to see both sides of an issue, recognizing the "year of water" concept introduced by Gov. Richardson (in-stream flows, irrigation, restoring riparian areas), developing a southwest strategy/mission, emergency preparedness related to natural resources, watershed management, judging the state science fair and perhaps offering a cash award, subdivision review and regulations workshop (examples of problem to be recognized - Rio Rancho's recent flood events and large ranches developed without good planning), renewable energy, bio-energy (methane/poultry manure), wind erosion, value added products.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. upon motion by Pete, 2nd by Cliff.