

**SWCS Council Meeting  
WI - Chapter  
Portage County Courthouse Annex Building  
1462 Strongs Ave  
Stevens Point, WI 54481**

**Meeting Called to Order:** 10:10 am, September 27, 2007

**Present:** Jim Hebbe, President; Ty Larson, President Elect; Melissa Knipfel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Gene Hausner, Treasurer, Michael Stinebrink, Newsletter; Paula Carow, Region 1 Rep.; Barry Bubolz, Region 3 Rep.; Andy Holschbach, Region 5 Rep.; Jon Field – Membership Chairman. **Absent:** Deanna Stirmel, Secretary; Jane Reigel, Region 2 Rep.; Andy Walsh, Region 4 Rep.; Jodie Reisner, Region 6 Rep.; Stephen Prissel, Matt Otto, Steve Bradley, and Pat Murphy.

**Items added to agenda:**

- New display.
- 2008 Summer Tour.
- 2011 International Meeting.
- 2008 Nominations.
- Newsletter

**These items were agreed upon by consensus of the group.**

**Items of Notice:**

- The council would like to congratulate Peggy James, President of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society.
- The council would like to thank Andy Holschbach for great summer tour held in conjunction with the SE Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association tour. The tour went through the Menomonee River Valley and made stops at the Great Lakes WATER Institute and Concordia University.
- The council would also like to thank everyone that helped at the Farm Technology Days this year. Next years event (2008) will be held in Brown County at the Country Aire Farms, July 15-17, 2008.

**Treasurer's report:**

Gene Hausner gave the Treasurer's report as of August 31, 2007. Discussion occurred regarding each of the accounts and what they are used for such as newsletters, scholarships, focus papers and special projects.

**Motion** by Andy Holschbach was made to accept the treasurer's report as presented, second by Melissa Knipfel. **Motion passed.**

**2008 Annual Meeting of the WI Chapter of SWCS:**

The Annual Meeting will be held January 30 – 31, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI. Discussion occurred regarding the conference focus. Two ideas were discussed; Youth Education in WI and Groundwater Levels in WI. General consensus agreed to the Groundwater Levels in WI - are they coming up or going down?

Potential speakers are to be contacted and confirmed, to Ty Larson, by October 15, 2007. It was discussed that all speakers would receive free registration and a stipend of \$50.00 for speaking.

Postcards announcing the Annual Meeting, requesting nominations and other information will be sent out in mid November.

Ty Larson will contact Pat Murphy regarding nominations for scholarships and Friends of Conservation (Educator, Company/Firm, or Media Rep.) awards.

**Town & Country RC&D Global Warming and Sustainability Meeting, Fall 2008:**

Ruth Johnson, of the Town & Country RC&D, asked the WI Chapter of the SWCS if we would be a partner at this meeting. The council agreed to have a display at this meeting and to give them our membership mailing list for registration. Date and location are yet to be determined.

**Membership Report:**

Currently there are 187 members in WI according to Jon Field, Membership committee chair. Membership lists are sent to the regional representatives. The International SWCS website also lists the members of the WI Chapter. It was discussed to have a link on the WI chapter website to the International membership web page.

Membership remains at \$80.00 per year. A resolution to lower membership cost was submitted at the international delegate meeting in July, but failed.

**2011 SWCS International Meeting:**

Pete Nowak contacted the council about hosting the 2011 International SWCS Meeting in Wisconsin. Ty Larson distributed a handout on frequently asked questions about the SWCS conference roles and responsibilities. Ty Larson contacted Patricia Leavenworth, NRCS State Conservationist for WI, as to supporting the WI-Chapter if selected to host the 2011 meeting. Jim Hebbe and Ty Larson received word that Wisconsin NRCS would support SWCS with media and staff support, if selected to host the 2011 meeting.

**A vote was called for by Jim Hebbe, President, if the council supported the idea of hosting the 2011 International Meeting. All present voted in favor.** Jim will contact Pete Nowak regarding the council's decision; Pete Nowak will prepare Wisconsin's bid proposal.

A letter of appreciation will be written to Patricia Leavenworth, for WI NRCS' support.

**New Display:**

The purchase of a new display was discussed. Barb Jansen is willing to help us with the layout and purchasing of the tabletop display in exchange for a year membership. **Motion** by Barry Bubolz to move forward and purchase a tabletop display, second by Ty Larson. **Motion passed.** Jon Field will work with Barb Jansen on the display.

**Newsletter/webpage:**

Michael Stinebrink has been updating the WI-Chapter SWCS webpage (<http://www.wi-swcs.org/index.html>). Discussed items to be include in the next newsletter.

Ty Larson mentioned the idea of placing an order for SWCS polo shirts; the order form could be in the next newsletter or placed on the website. General consensus agreed to have that available for our members.

An announcement for nominations of Region 1, 3, and 5 representatives are needed, as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President nominations.

Minutes will be posted on the website in the future.

**2008 Summer Tour:**

Currently the council is looking to have their next summer tour (2008) in the northern part of the state. We are looking for ideas in Region 1 or 6. Paula Carow mentioned the Flambeau River bank restoration project, and Barry Bubolz suggested that Door County may be an area to highlight.

**Next Meeting:** November 28, 2007, from 10:00 – Noon, at the Portage County Courthouse Annex Building meeting rooms.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:40 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Knipfel.