

WV SWCS Chapter Meeting

Phone Teleconference

February 24, 2015

The WV SWCS chapter held a teleconference on February 24, 2015 9: 05 a.m. Those present on the phone were Melissa Merritt, President; Jamey Darlington, Treasurer; Suzy Lucas, President-elect; Becky Bowers, Secretary; Jason Dalrymple, Past-President; and Peg Reese .

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Merritt, President.

The Treasurer Report was presented by Jamey Darlington and was emailed before the meeting to those in attendance. The endowment amount available to the WVU Soil Judging Team from 2008-2014, \$1,464.84. The amount for this year is \$77.67. Motion made by Becky Bowers to offer the full amount to the team of \$1, 464.84, Seconded by Jamey Darlington, motion passed.

Secretary Report, emailed to those attendance prior to the meeting. Correction to change from Suzie to Suzy Lucas. Motion was made by Jamey to accept the reading of the minutes and seconded by Jason, motion passes.

Old Business:

Planner credits should have been received for the annual meeting held in January.

Election and introduction of Suzy Lucas to the group. Suzy thanked everyone for the opportunity to become an officer and is looking forward to working with the organization. Everyone welcomed her to membership and the office.

Tom Basden emailed about the committee and would like to participate but would like to discuss further. We will invite him to attend the next meeting.

Website: Change officer's onsite to current positions.

New Business:

Scholarships are due to Jeff Skousen by 2/28/15 and winners will be selected by the end of March. Committee for selection of scholarships will be Jeff, Jamey, and Becky, but Jeff could select others for the committee if he so wished. Jamey explained the process to those in attendance. Applications come into Jeff and then he passes the information onto us to pick by ranking them from 1 through however many we receive.

Endowment Fund: Peg Reese received an email from Jim Thompson- move to WVU Foundation Fund. We have raised \$50, 000.

The pros and cons were discussed by Peg, more publicity, invest in stocks, less work for Jamey , 1.5% fee, no control, and bill's to get money. Peg moved we move the money from the SWCS to WVU Foundation Fund, second by Becky.

Lots of discussion was had and questions on the process and how should the money be split, about how the money is invested, if we take it as the CD expired, etc. The final conclusion was to set a meeting for some time in March to discuss such questions with the WVU Foundation representative, Julie Cryser. Dates selected were March 20th or March 30th. We would invite Jim Thompson to attend. Jamey, Becky, Melissa, and Peg should attend too. Also any others that might be interested in discussion and decision making should also attend.

The motion to transfer funds from SWCS funds to the WVU Foundation was tabled by Jamey and seconded by Becky, motion passes.

Motion was made to meet with the WVU Foundation on March 20th or 30th, by Jamey and seconded by Peg. Motion passes. Melissa will contact them to see what dates will work and then get back with the group.

Melissa talked about the awards and application deadlines nearing for submission, March 16, 2015. Melissa has been part of the Leadership Committee for several years and she talked about the types of awards available for submission and feels we have several candidates worthy of such recognition. Professional Development Award, Outstanding Award, Accommodation Award, and Group Performance Award. Award committee is Jamey, Melissa, and Suzy, appointed by Melissa. The membership should be emailed to see if there are nominations for these awards and to try and get the membership more involved in decision making.

Annual report is due by March 16, 2015 and has already been submitted by Jamey.

Ag and Forestry Hall of Fame representative has been Barb McWhorter for several terms but Jeff Skousen has shared interest in the past to be the representative of this committee. The appointment is for 2 years therefore Jeff will be approached to see if he can attend the event, Melissa will email him to see if he is available to be our representative.

Upcoming training was discussed: Nutrient management is always a hot topic and Manure manager does not look like it will be out anytime soon. Melissa opened suggestions up to the committee. Committee to organize the training would be Suzy, Melissa, and Tom Basden possibly. Location should be decided then usually the topic could follow. Suggestions brought to the group included: DEP and biosolid's, Touring the Waste Water treatment plant in Moorefield, Marcellus shale which they are starting to drill visiting a location and covering seeding plan and preplanning before drilling. Discussion was had in partnering with WVAPSS to provide a better training. Katey Yoast is the President, Peg will reach out to her and invite her to the next meeting. We are looking at dates in June/July.

Other topics discussed included technical training to be a money maker for the group. WV GIS Group, engineering, storm water drain's, NPDES permit's, WV DOH, and contacting Angela Greene, retired NRCS employee to provide technical training if available.

Break in Minutes, Becky lost phone connection.

Melissa will look into partnering with WVAGP (WV Association of GIS professionals). This technical training could possibly be a fall training option.

Melissa will email Suzy's picture for the newsletter to Peg. It has been decided to postpone sending out the newsletter until we arrive at a date for the June tour/nut. Mgmt. training.

Regarding website: members liked the idea of having a website for newsletter and minutes, as well as events. Jamey added that we should NOT include financial documents however. The group discussed how there were issues in the past of everyone not knowing website passwords, and then not being able to update the website. So whatever we pick would need to involve multiple members. Suzy suggested everyone could have the password and then update their own areas.

Melissa agreed to look into how much the national SWCS charges to host a chapter's site. This will be brought up at next call.

Silent Auctions and Fundraisers- Melissa mentioned how we should try and come up with other conferences/opportunities for fundraisers to make money for the chapter. Jamey discussed that there **may** be issues with future district donations to our Partnership conference donations due to the rule of districts not being allow to give money/items to individuals.

A motion was made by Jamey Darlington to provide money for postage for Becky to mail thank you to districts for items at last Silent Auction. Seconded by Jason Dalrymple. Motion Passed.

A 1996 copy of the Long Range Plan was brought before the group. Melissa suggested that we update and look into recreating the document for our group presently. It might also be beneficial to send out to the whole membership. Peg mentioned that we should update it first before we do so. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

OUR NEXT MEETING: Agreed to have our next meeting the same time we have a face-to-face meeting with WVU foundation. If the scholarship applications require review before March 20 or 30th, then we can arrange a conference call for that specific issue.

