

WV SWCS Chapter Meeting

Meeting Penn Alps

March 30, 2015

The WV SWCS chapter held a meeting at the Penn Alps Restaurant. Those present were Melissa Merritt, President; Jamey Darlington, Treasurer; Suzy Lucas, President-elect; Becky Bowers, Secretary; and Peg Reese; guests-Jim Thompson and Julie Cryser.

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Merritt, President at 10:05 am.

The Treasurer Report was presented by Jamey Darlington; Motion made by Becky, Seconded by Jamey Darlington, to accept the treasure report as presented, motion passed.

Secretary Report, Motion was made by Jamey to accept the reading of the minutes and seconded by Becky, motion passes.

Introductions were made by everyone to welcome the guests from the WVU Foundation, Julie Cryser and the Coach from the WVU Soil Judging Team, Jim Thompson.

Old Business:

At our last meeting we tabled a motion to turn our endowment fund over to the WVU Foundation because we had several questions that we wanted answered by the Foundation representative, Julie Cryser. Julie provided a lot of insight on what has occurred since the endowment started. Julie explained how the endowment accounts would work, how they increase the amount in the funding pool by direct mailings, she said a basic endowment would be \$25,000, we could designate a cash amount that could be used when needed by the team and would not bother the endowment amount, she described some benefits of turning the money over to the foundation (less work for the organization, more money available because they are playing the stocks).

Melissa asked how much the actually team would need to use on a yearly basis. He estimated around \$8,000 for 2 contests. Lots of discussion was had on how the money would be used.

The endowment agreement was reviewed and modified to include changes from the group. Julie said the endowment agreement could be amended at any time. Peg discussed what if the soil judging team was ever dissolved. Julie recommended we add some exclusive details to the agreement stating options if such an event should occur. Julie said an annual report will be sent to the group every year. We can call anytime and get an update, we do have some control with the endowment agreement.

Becky said that this option is a win/win situation because we will earn money and more than our cd has for years.

Peg made a motion to bring our previous motion off the table of turning our Soil Judging Endowment Fund over to the WVU Foundation off the table, second by, Becky; motion passes.

Motion was made by Peg to turn the approximate amount of \$34,259.00 based on the March 30, 2015 treasurer report amount over to the WVU Foundation Endowment Fund. Seconded by Suzy; motion passes.

Discussion was had that the \$30,000 amount would be the endowment and then the remaining amount of \$4,259.00 would be placed in the cash budget account.

The Endowment name will be published as: West Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Soil Judging Endowment Fund.

Julie said she would have the endowment agreement to Melissa by tomorrow March 31, 2015. We will receive a press release and we will be listed on the Endowment Wall in the Agricultural Sciences Building at WVU.

Julie and Jim left the meeting.

Moving onto the Marcellus Shale Tour: Melissa has been in contact with Corky DeMarco and Georgie Plower, WVU. She brought information to the group that we would do some classroom activities and then a site visit of an actual drilling site gas processing facility. The focus would be on pipeline disturbance and reclamation. The classroom part would be from possibly a group called National Atkins, Neptune Company-(between Morgantown and Fairmont), Director of Quality Assurance. Restoration plan from the company and reclamation plan approach Jeff Skousen to help with this topic.

We would charge a registration fee of \$25.00/person. We decided not to partner with the WVPASS this time because of the time restraints but we want them to know they are welcome to attend and that next time we would like to partner with them. Tried calling Katey Yoast was not able to reach her at this time. Dates for the meeting would be June 2015 possibly a Tuesday or Wednesday.

Scholarship applications: No scholarship applications were received by Jeff Skousen for 2015, we decided to approach him to see if he would be willing to readvertise a new deadline of June, 2015 for scholarship applications. Motion made by Suzy and seconded by Becky; motion passes.

Women in Ag submission: would be for Barbara McWhorter, motion made by Jamey and seconded by Suzy; motion passes. Deadline for submission is June 1, 2015.

Award submission have been received for the chapter/individual award for Jason Dalrymple.

Ag and Forestry Hall of Fame Awards: no one was able to attend this year but Melissa will approach Barb McWhorter about being the representative for next year.

Website: Melissa has completed some research on starting a website for the WV Chapter of SWCS. She completed research on cost, domain, and functionality of the website. Motion made by Peg to allow Melissa to decide which one to use and spend up to \$120.00/year on the website based on ease of use. Seconded by Jamey; motion passes.

Newsletter: Articles have been received by Melissa. Peg said she is still waiting on a few more articles and will write an article pertaining to the endowment turn over to the WVU Foundation. She is wanting information for the training so we can advertise that way. Would like to have this out before May.

Peg will make changes to the endowment fund policy and provide for our next meeting.

New Business:

GIS Possible training: Melissa has extra bay dollars to spend and would like to involve our organization with her project. WVAGP- fund a training. Options for locations were discussed, Morgantown GIS Tech Center, NCTC in Shepherdstown, and WVU Health Science Center. May ask WVAPSS to partner with this effort too. Possible audience could be County employees, 911 users, or anyone that has to use GIS layers in their job. Mellissa is going to research this information further and bring it to the next meeting.

Motion made by Peg to order 2 books of checks for the Treasurer Jamey and seconded by Suzy; motion passes.

International Meeting: was disused and Suzy agreed to be our representative from the WV Chapter. Conference is July 26-29, 2015 in Greensboro, NC.

Jason had completed some cost estimates and concluded that it would be approximately \$1,387.00 to attend using a GOV. This would include transportation and registration. In the past the agency has paid for the hotel and meals. Luncheon and tours are extra.

OUR NEXT MEETING: Will be April 29, 2015, Wednesday at 9:00 am by teleconference, agenda will be forthcoming.

Adjourn motion made by Jamey and seconded by Becky; motion passes.

