

**SWCS Council Meeting  
WI-Chapter**

**Conservation Hall of Fame  
Schmeeckle Reserve**

**July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Members Present:** Andy Holschbach, Adam Abel, Ryan Gerlich, Jerry Griswold, Gene Hausner, Paula Carow, Christine Bouzek, Jon Field, Chris Miller, Gary Korb, Joe Smedberg, and Milo Harpstead.

The Meeting was called to order by President Andy Holschbach at 10:13 am. Introductions of members present was conducted.

**Agenda and Meeting Minutes**

Agenda and prior meeting minutes were reviewed. *A motion was made by Paula Carow to accept the meeting agenda and meeting minutes from March 15, 2011; seconded by Jerry Griswold, motion carried.*

**Treasurers Report**

Gene Hausner presented the Treasurer's Report. We are currently earning 1.5% interest on the savings account.

Account Balances on 6/30/2011:

Checking Account	\$2101.51
Savings Account	\$2863.15
Conservation on the Land Fund	\$10,559.55
Total Funds	\$15,524.21

*A motion was made by Jon Field to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Chris Miller, motion carried.*

**Old Business**

International Conference - Andy Holschbach gave a report on his trip to the International SWCS Annual Conference in Washington, DC from July 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. He said there were approximately 10 Wisconsin members in attendance. Andy stated he received a lot of information on nutrient based water quality trading, which led to discussion of Wisconsin's Working Lands Initiative, Smart Growth, and the loss of agriculture land. Milo Harpstead would like to see Wisconsin SWCS create a position statement on the Loss of Farmland in Wisconsin. He used the Stevens Point area as one example of where prime farmland is being converted to urban.

Earth Day – Jerry Griswold reported that he worked at the SWCS display at the April 22, 2011 Earth Day in Madison, WI. He said the crowd was smaller than last year, but still well attended. It was held on the UW campus.

#### Region Reports –

Region 1 – Paula Carow reported that it has been difficult getting members in the Northwest, but she has been promoting SWCS at events and meetings she attends.

Region 2 – Christine Bouzek reported a few new members have joined from Discovery Farms. A rising resource concern in her area is due to the Frac Sand mining. Farms are being bought that have a sizeable and accessible layer of St. Peter Sandstone. The Frac Sands are mostly being sent to Canada for extracting petroleum reserves. Discussion followed about wisely using the natural resources while still allowing for economic development.

Region 3 – Jon Field reported that he talked with the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists (WSPSS) about a joint meeting, but it was decided it wouldn't work out. Jon passed out a new members list.

Region 4 – Chris Miller saved his report for New Business.

Region 5 – Gary Kolb reported that he has been contacting new members and discussed the possibility of having a special event for members in Region 5 (and all members in the state), because Region 5 does have the highest membership.

Region 6 – Joe Smedberg had no report.

#### **New Business**

Student Scholarship Promotion – To be eligible for a student scholarship you must be a junior or senior and a member of an SWCS Student Chapter. Pat Murphy will be putting out a call for applications in September. One \$500 scholarship will be set aside for each school in Wisconsin that currently has a student chapter, which is UW – Platteville and UW- Stevens Point. Money for the scholarships comes from the recent Contributors Drive. Jon Field will also send an email directly to the students.

Fall Tour – Chris Miller passed out handouts of the proposed agenda and a brochure of the meeting location. The plan is to have a tour on Thursday October 13, 2011 starting at St. Martins Heritage Park outside of Chilton, WI. We will be discussing and touring the Niagara Escarpment and ground water quality issues. Chris said he needs \$350 to pay for the bus tour and lunch. The meeting location will be \$75, and another \$25 if we need heat. Student attendance cost will be \$15, Member and a member's spouse will be \$20 (\$40 for the 2), and a non-member will be \$25. The board asked that Chris set up a

spectacular flyer for the meeting. *A motion to accept Chris's Annual Meeting plan was made by Gene Hausner; seconded by Jerry Griswold, motion carried*

2012 Annual Conference – Adam Abel reported on his progress in planning the 2012 Wisconsin SWCS Conference. The location will be in Stevens Point on a Tuesday or Thursday in the month of February. Last year's conference attendees will be emailed to see what they'd like to cover. Topics being considered are groundwater increases/decreases, rural water quality, and successful county programs addressing water quality. Milo Harpstead reminded us to always wear our nametags to help people learn who we are.

Membership Promotion – It was discussed that someone would email last year's conference attendees who are non-members to see if we can get any new members. Many non-members were in attendance.

International Conference Attendance Incentive – Discussion occurred regarding the importance of attending the International Conference. *A motion was made by Gene Hausner to establish two - \$200 scholarships, 1 intended for a council member to attend the conference, and 1 for a non-council member to attend. If no member from one group will be going, but members from the other group, they will be eligible to receive both the \$200 scholarships; seconded by Paula Carow, motion carried.*

### **Other Business**

Reviewed the "Position Statement on Climate Change and Soil and Water Conservation" – adopted by the SWCS Board of Directors on July 7, 2011. Discussion followed regarding an oversight that it doesn't mention Ag Land Use versus Urban.

Next board meeting will be October 12, 2011 at 4:00 pm, the evening before the Fall Meeting and Tour. The Calumet Courthouse will be investigated to see if we can meet there.

*A motion was made by Gene Hausner to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ryan Gerlich.*

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ryan Gerlich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President