

**Minutes**  
**South Carolina Chapter**  
**Soil & Water Conservation Society**

**February 26, 2008 – 10:00am**  
**Bishopville, South Carolina**

Present:       Lori Bataller—President  
                  Debbie Mann—President Elect  
                  Hugh Smith—Vice President  
                  Angel Major—Secretary  
                  Hugh Caldwell—Treasurer  
                  Amy Maxwell—Past President  
                  Frank Love—Area I Board Member  
                  Harry Doswell—Area III Board Member

Absent:        Kellee Melton-Area II Board Member  
                  Wayne Cowell- Area IV Board Member

Lori Bataller called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Hugh Caldwell delivered the invocation. Lori then asked that the agenda be accepted Hugh Caldwell so moved, Hugh Smith seconded, and everyone agreed. Lori moved the minutes be accepted. Hugh seconded the motion and everyone agreed.

Hugh Caldwell handed out the financial report. In the 2007 budget the Income was \$21,803.90 and the Expenses were \$20,082.12. The 2008 budget was approved in Myrtle Beach. As of 2/25/08 the balance is \$7,490.56. Hugh then gave the financial breakdown of the two symposiums. For the January Symposium on Smart Farming \$4109 was spent and \$4150 was made giving the net for this symposium of \$41.00. The December 11 Symposium on Urban Development \$2920 was spent and \$9126 was made giving the net total made of \$6205.85. Debbie Mann moved the financial report be accepted, Harry seconded and all agreed.

#### Membership Report

Amy Maxwell reported that there are 7 new members and 2 with supporter level memberships. It was agreed that a Membership packet should be put together to send new members. The packet will include a letter thanking them for joining, list of officers, list of committees, Member area map, and last newsletter. Angel Major and Lori Bataller will work to put together packets. Hugh Caldwell gave Lori Bataller the information that used to be sent to new members to use as a guide and to be updated. Discussion then ensued on the Chapter Supporter level memberships. The fee would be \$35 and would be available for retirees, districts, and district employees. The SC SWCS would keep the list; they would not be on the international roster and would not get voting rights. On the current Chapter Supporter Membership form it states Member it was proposed to have

Kellee Melton revise the form to take Member off and just have Supporter since they would not have the rights that a member would. There is a concern that some international members may want to drop their membership and become a supporter at the \$35 fee instead of the \$80 for international. Hugh Caldwell agreed to promote the Chapter Supporter level to retirees at the March 12 NRCS Retiree meeting.

## Committee Reports

At the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting open slots on the committees were filled except one which was on the Awards Committee. Amy Maxwell nominated Tibor Horvath (the new State Agronomist for NRCS and a new SC SWCS member) and Maxwell is happy to report that he accepted membership on the Awards Committee. She asked that Wayne Cowell, Chair of the Nominations Committee, contact him soon to welcome him. Lori Bataller asked Hugh Caldwell who the contact is between the executive committee and the standing committees.

President Elect ---Programs Committee

Vice President --- Awards Committee

Secretary---Membership Committee

Treasurer--- Audit Committee

Past President was to the Education Committee and it was decided to make Past President contact to the Programs Committee and to have the Treasurer as contact to the Education Committee.

Hugh Caldwell had a copy of the Leadership Manual which has not been revised in some time. It was agreed that the manual should be updated to make it current since it is visible on the website and describes to members and prospective members what the SWCS Executive Board and Committee roles and responsibilities are. Hugh also suggested putting in the responsibilities of the Area Board members along with a map of the area. Amy Maxwell agreed to head up this task and agreed to contact her fellow past Presidents Von Snelgrove and Louis Jackson to look over document as well. Amy did contact them and asked them to assist her in getting this accomplished prior to the next SWCS Board Meeting

An appointment letter needs to be sent to the new committee members. Angel Major and Lori Bataller agreed to get them written and sent.

Hugh Caldwell discussed the Southeast Region Chapter Development Workshop. The workshop is an avenue for different chapters of the SWCS to get together to discuss what each chapter and the national Society is doing and to develop leadership in the chapters. In the last several years there has not been a meeting so during the teleconference Hugh will see if any of the chapters are interested and if so we could host the event this year. The executive board will discuss further planning details once the teleconference has been participated in to see if interest is generated.

The annual Summer Chapter Meeting was discussed. The meeting will be held either Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> or June 14<sup>th</sup> at Hickory Knob State Park. Frank Love and Harry

Doswell agreed to organize a fishing tournament. Hugh Caldwell agreed to talk with Byron Thompson to see if he can help with the local details. Amy and Lori agreed to help if he could do that. Amy Maxwell agreed to talk with Walt Douglas to see if he would be interested in trying to head up a Golf tournament.

Discussion then ensued about ideas for symposiums. The Society would like to host 2 to 3 a year preferably in the summer, fall, and January at conference. Hugh mentioned that we have about \$6000 in scholarships so this is the amount we need to make off of the symposiums to keep funding the scholarships. Amy said from her experience last year that topics which will attract private vendors, those that can make money off of attendees, are the symposiums which are going to bring in revenue. Also if the symposiums offer some type of credits such as certified crop advisor, etc. it generates higher attendance. Amy suggested doing something in the Upstate with the topic of green development or Blue Water Greenways. If it is held there it would be great to get an SWCS member from that area to coordinate on-site details that are hard to do when the person planning is not at the location. Possible Greenville contacts would be Dennis DeFrancesco, Lynne Newton, Dave Demarest, or Dennis Bauknight. Staci Henry will be asked to take the lead on planning this Upstate Symposium. Amy also suggested that the society could target a new group like doing something for small farmers. Hugh suggested doing an Equine Workshop maybe in Aiken to target another audience. A suggestion was made that we could talk with Mike Hall about grazing equine. Hugh suggested that Amy and Debbie who oversee the program committee go ahead and meet with them to give them these ideas. Ideally the committee should come up with a one page paper with action items, dates, etc. to give to the person who will be planning the event.

Hugh Caldwell mentioned that on April 3, 2008 Community Open Land Trust (COLT) is holding a symposium regarding Easements. It costs \$100 dollars to sponsor and the sponsor gets to set up a display. Lori motioned that we pay to sponsor, Frank seconded, and all agreed. Amy agreed to attend along with Hugh and man the SC SWCS display booth.

The executive board agreed to meet every two months on the third Thursday in the different Areas so that the Area Board member can conduct an event or tour for that afternoon. April 17<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting and it will be located in Florence. Lori agreed to contact Wayne Cowell to let him know he will host the next meeting. June 19<sup>th</sup> the board will meet in Abbeville and Frank Love will set up a tour to learn about the Mennonites and we will eat at Yoders. August 21<sup>st</sup> Area II will host. Lori agreed to contact Kellee Melton to let her know. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> the meeting will be hosted by Area III, Harry Doswell is considering a tour of the Constructed Wetlands done in Augusta, GA.

#### Area Reports

Area I Board member Frank Love had nothing to report at this time. Area III Board Member Harry Doswell discussed that he would like to try and reschedule the Canoe Trip for late April or May. Hugh suggested that the area map be revised and put in the revised

Leadership Manual. Amy agreed to contact George Sullivan a new SC SWCS member and ask him to revise the outdated SWCS areas map for the website, leadership manual, and membership packet so that members know which area they belong to. Discussion then ensued about changing the Area names to reflect the watershed name.

Area I – West Piedmont

Area II – East Piedmont

Area III – Savannah-Edisto

Area IV – Pee Dee

The bylaws will also need to be changed to reflect this change.

## Old Business

Minutes – Lori stated that the minutes need to be approved before they are posted to the website so it was suggested that Angel Major send to the executive board to be reviewed. She is to give a week for everyone to do so and send her the needed corrections. Once completed Angel will send the minutes to Amy Maxwell for her to send to David Arthur to be posted on the website and the link emailed to all of the members.

It was decided that email addresses need to be updated so Amy Maxwell sent out an email to all SWCS Board and Area Members asking them to update contact information for the members in their area so that we can get an updated email group distribution list. This will ensure members are kept up to date with the latest meeting minutes, symposium announcements, newsletters, etc.

Amy Maxwell reported that she had a luncheon with Cox & Dinkins an engineering firm to see if they would be interested in being a corporate sponsor. They declined. If anyone is interested they will get national recognition on the website and in the Journal of Soil & Water Conservation. If anyone is interest the name will be passed on to National office and they will contact them from there. Von Snelgrove had mentioned in a previous meeting about Soliciting Sponsors for the SC SWCS so Lori Bataller will contact him and ask him to assist with this task.

The Annual SWCS conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona in June. The President-elect normally attends and Debbie Mann agreed to do so. NRCS normally pays for one delegate who is an employee to go. Hugh Caldwell agreed to contact Niles Glasgow to see if this is still in effect.

Amy Maxwell and Hugh Caldwell worked together to fill out the 2007 Annual Chapter Activity Report. They also nominated the society for the 2007 Chapter Achievement Award and the 2007 Outstanding Chapter Award. Pat Hunt with ARS was also nominated for the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award.

Ocean Breeze Awnings and More owner David Powers is the recipient of the 2007 SC Chapter SWCS Honor Award for his promotion of outdoor living and building with recycled materials. He was out of town during the January Conservation Partnership

Conference, so he still has not received his plaque. Al McNeil needs to follow up and arrange to have the plaque presented to him.

Meeting Adjourned