

Montana Chapter Membership SWCS Meeting

March 30, 2017

Teleconference

Members present: Jane Holzer, Ann Fischer, Eric Watson, Marni Thompson, Shalaine Watson, Roger Hybner, Mark Henning, Travis Lemke, Stacy Eneboe, Kelli Coleman, Joyce Trevithick, Cory Swenson

Meeting called to order by President Mark Henning 8:32 a.m.

Minutes: Motion made by Marni Thompson to approve February 2017 minutes as sent out, Roger Hybner seconded. Motion passed to approve February meeting minutes.

Holzer provided the Treasurer's report.

Treasury Report:

Checking account	\$ 1,450.10
Savings account	\$18,045.91
Investment acct	<u>\$31,362.12</u>
Total	\$50,858.13

Holzer waited on investing \$10,000 until federal interest rate to go up and D.A. Davidson will provide investment opportunities. No expenses or income this month. March is end of Chapter Fiscal Year and then Holzer will submit the IRS electronic reporting form for non-profits in April to IRS. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Fischer, Thompson seconded. Motion approved.

Old Business:

Chapter annual report submitted. - Thanks to Eneboe for compiling and submitting to National SWCS. Keep in mind Chapter Awards for future years. Award is recognition with a plaque.

New Business

SWCS bus tour to Dakota Lakes Farm - Sept. 12 - 14: Dakota Lakes (SD), Menoken Farm and potentially Gabe Brown's Farm (ND)
Costs (see excel budget)- Thanks to Fischer for putting together initial expenses.

Fischer found out from Rocky Schwagler NRCS/Forsyth that Rosebud Conservation District is interested in sponsoring attendees from their area to participate. Discussion came up for Yellowstone CD or other CD sponsorship in some form. Hybner suggested presenting conservation districts with the education value of the producers attending and bringing the knowledge back to the area. Thompson asked if Ann McCauley/SWCDM could send a message to each district to contact us if they are interested. Personal calls/visits are much more effective. The plan is to divide up districts to visit about this opportunity. A sponsorship flier with registration form on the bottom is a tool for a consistent message. Hybner offered to talk to both Carbon and Hill CDs. Thompson asked about calling as a SWCS member on our own time and Henning clarified that that is fine. Eneboe will contact Liberty, Toole, Glacier and Pondera CDs. Henning and Fischer will handle Rosebud, Custer County area. Lemke will present to some Western Mt CDs.

Eneboe asked for a sponsorship amount as a suggestion, such as \$200, that would also cover one person's attendance.. The plan would be to meet in Billings and stop in Miles City to pick up people. Fischer will visit with Gabe Brown for confirmation to tour his farm. Jay Fuhrer/Bismarck NRCS can tailor the sites based on time and interest. Eneboe asked about what entity should receive sponsorship checks - decision was SWCS not SWCDMI. NRCS support needs to be related to employee development and a training opportunity. SARE grant applications are submitted annual in the fall; therefore, too late for this educational event. MSU Extension could be another avenue for some additional funding. Henning will discuss the topic with the agent in Custer County. The Chapter will need rough financial estimates by May in order to make further decisions.

Eneboe asked about the Soil Health Workshops (SHW) branding and if we can use the same logos, etc. to have some connectivity. Henning will check into that for the Chapter. Henning had asked SWCDM about involvement in the tour. One avenue is they are willing to handle registration for us and be kept informed. Discussion with NRCS did not really get traction since current agreements with SWCDM have been fulfilled.
-SRM- Thompson said Nikki Rife with NRCS is going to talk to SRM about a potential partnership as well.

MT SWCS sponsorship for the Conrad and Browning Soil Health Events June 13-16
\$200 sponsorship - a booth and one person's attendance to the event. The main need is for funds to cover the food (two lunches and a dinner). Browning (Thursday and Friday) June 15-16 is a two day event following two days in Conrad. Six sponsors is the minimum needed. We can revisit if more funding needed at a later date. Fischer moved to sponsor \$200 towards the event with a second from Holzer second, motion passed. Registration

forms will be on SWCS Facebook page, in the SWCS newsletter and on the webpage. Preparations are being made to offer CCA and pesticide credits.

Committee Reports-

Soil Painting Kits: Holzer has an order for three kits. Tera Ryan is working on painting templates and explanation of how the kits can be used. Examples will be on the Getting Crafty portion of the webpage as well.

EarthWise Bracelets: Kits are available for spring natural resource days with kids.

Awards: Deadline is May 1. Thompson sent out an email today to all members.

Newsletter: Next issue will be April 5 as a goal. Get your contributions to Joyce ASAP.

Scholarships: Eric Watson suggested sending the application form to all chapter members for distribution to potential applicants. The application is also on the the webpage.

Membership: Coleman will be sending reminder emails and updating contact list that will be sent to Thompson..

Membership idea- Kelli Coleman/Chairman

Coleman proposed an idea to honor term Chapter members. Kit Southerland has been a member for 40 years and John Blaine and Bonnie Thies have each been members for 30 years in 2017. They could receive recognition at the summer meeting and be featured in the newsletter. Ideas mentioned were sponsoring part of their SWCS membership for the next year or a contribution to attend the tour. Going forth, the Chapter could adopt the policy to honor 25-year and 40-year members from this point forward. Coleman could write up a proposal for policy for discussion at a future meeting. Fischer moved to spend \$50 each on three Visa gift cards for the members along with a certificate to honor long time chapter members., Eneboe seconded the motion and it passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for: **April 27th, 2017 @ 8:30 AM**