

SWCS Alabama Chapter

Documents

Revised: 2/99

BYLAWS ALABAMA CHAPTER SOILS AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be Alabama Chapter, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter, of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, hereinafter referred to as the Society.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objectives of this chapter shall be to develop and advance the science and art of good land use and management and to promote the conservation of soil, water, and related renewable natural resources, including trees, grasses, fish, wildlife, and all other beneficial plants and animals; for these purposes, to employ and appropriate means to inform the people to the end that mankind may have use and enjoyment of these resources forever and the future objectives of bringing into closer association members of the Society residing in this vicinity to the end that the exchange of ideas and information of interest to the Chapter may be facilitated.

ARTICLE III - LOCATION AND AREA

Section 1. The headquarters of the Chapter shall be the address designated by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Within the Chapter, there will be five sections aligned by counties as follows:

Section 1

Limestone	Cullman	Winston	Lauderdale
Marshall	Morgan	Madison	Lawrence
Franklin	Jackson	Colbert	Marion

Section 2

Calhoun	Clay	Cherokee	Dekalb
Tallapoosa	Etowah	Cleburne	Chambers
Blount	Elmore	St. Clair	Talladega

Randolph

Coosa

Lee

Section 3

Jefferson

Pickens

Tuscaloosa

Shelby

Autauga

Fayette

Hale

Greene

Lamar

Bibb

Sumter

Perry

Chilton

Walker

Section 4

Choctaw

Washington

Mobile

Escambia

Butler

Marengo

Clarke

Baldwin

Dallas

Wilcox

Monroe

Conecuh

Lowndes

Section 5

Covington

Crenshaw

Henry

Houston

Macon

Pike

Coffee

Geneva

Montgomery

Russell

Barbour

Dale

Bullock

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Chapter shall be limited to members of the Society who are in good standing. On recognition by the presiding officer, members of the Chapter shall have the privilege of the floor at Chapter meetings. Members shall also have the right to vote on any propositions, and in any Chapter election.

Section 2. Membership in the Chapter may be acquired by applying to the Chapter. Membership will be maintained by paying Chapter dues as required by the Chapter and the Society.

Section 3. Membership in the Chapter may be terminated by voluntary written resignation, by failure to pay Chapter dues, or by action of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The executive Committee shall have authority to extend life membership in the Chapter as deemed appropriate upon Chapter recommendations.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The principal officers of the Chapter shall be a President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and five section Vice Presidents, each of whom shall be a member in good standing. Individuals may not hold more than one principal office in the Chapter at the same time.

Section 2. The President-Elect shall be elected as hereinafter provided. The term of office for the President-Elect shall be for one year and elected annually.

Section 3. Each officer shall serve until his successor has been either elected or appointed and officially installed.

Section 4a. In the absence or disability of the President, the President-Elect shall serve. If the President or President-Elect cannot serve, the Executive Committee shall elect, by majority vote present, one of the section Vice Presidents to serve.

Section 4b. Vacancies in office, occurring between elections, shall be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Committee members present.

Section 5. The Secretary of the Chapter shall: issue notices of all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Chapter, keep a record of the proceedings of the Committee and the Chapter, and safely and systematically keep all books, papers, records, and documents including award records of the Chapter, or in anywise pertaining to the business thereof.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall receive and be responsible for all funds of the Chapter and perform all duties incident to the office.

Section 7. Chapter officers shall serve for two years and terms of office shall be staggered. The Vice Presidents for Sections 1, 3, and 5 shall serve two years and be selected in odd years (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) and Vice Presidents for Sections 2 and 4, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve two years and be selected in even years (2, 4, 6, 8). The Treasurer and Secretary shall be eligible for re-election. Section Vice Presidents must reside in the Section they represent and they shall be eligible for re-election. Any Chapter member is eligible for election as a Chapter Officer.

Section 8. The Vice Presidents shall: serve on the Executive Committee of the Chapter representing the Chapter members from their respective sections; promote and coordinate the work of the Chapter in their respective sections; preside over any section meetings held in their respective sections. If a Vice President is unable to serve in that capacity, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member to serve in the position until the next election.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees, other than the Executive Committee, shall be appointed by the President. They may be temporary or standing committees. Temporary committees shall serve until their duties are accomplished, but they may be dissolved upon a majority vote at any meeting of the Executive Committee. Members of standing committees shall serve until the end of the year and shall be eligible for reappointment. The standing committees shall be an Executive Committee, a Membership Committee, a Nominating Committee, and such others as the Executive Committee shall deem necessary or desirable to develop and carry on the program of the Chapter. No committee may expend funds of the Chapter unless authorized by the Executive Committee.

Section 2a. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Section Vice Presidents, and the immediate past President. It shall be responsible for the routine functioning of the Chapter and for developing a program of activities. It shall be specifically reserved to the

Chapter membership, and its activities shall be subject to review and approval and disapproval of the membership.

Section 2b. The Executive Committee is the legal representative of the Chapter, and as such, shall have, hold, and administer all funds and property of the Chapter.

Section 2c. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on matters that arise between annual meetings and regularly scheduled meeting that are not provided for in the bylaws.

Section 2d. The Executive Committee shall determine the date, location, and time of the annual meeting of the membership of the Chapter.

Section 3. The Membership Committee shall take steps necessary to promote and maintain the membership of the Chapter. It shall pass upon all applications for membership.

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS (Revised 2/99)

Section 1. The President shall direct the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of officers in the Chapter 60 days before the scheduled annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office with the exception of the office of President, which will be filled by the President-Elect. Notification of the slate of candidates will be mailed to the general membership at least 10 days before the annual meeting.

Section 2. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting. Members will have the opportunity to nominate other candidates from the floor. All members in good standing who attend the Annual Meeting will be allowed to vote for the candidate of their choice. In the event of a tie, the President shall vote to break the tie. The officers' terms of office will coincide with officers of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section 1a. There shall be an annual meeting of the Chapter to be held at a specified time recommended by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall notify the membership of the exact date and place at least 30 days before the annual meeting. Special meetings shall be called by the President upon written petition of not less than 25 Chapter members or whenever, in the opinion of the President, there is business which should be brought before the membership for action prior to the regular meeting. At least 15 days advance notice must be given for any special meeting.

Section 1b. Any business which may properly come before the Chapter may be discussed and acted upon at the annual meetings. Only business may be discussed or acted upon at a special meeting which has been announced by a written notice sent by the Secretary to the membership at least 15 days in advance of such special meeting.

Section 1c. The order of business and all parliamentary procedure at any meeting shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. Sectional meetings shall be held to promote the affairs of the Society. The time and place of these meetings will be determined by the Section Vice President. A minimum of one meeting per year shall be recommended and additional meetings are encouraged.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall meet semiannually at time and place designated by the President. Meetings may be called more often at the discretion of the President.

Section 4. Members of the Society and their guests may attend meetings of the Chapter. Only members of the Chapter may vote, serve on committees, or hold offices in the Chapter.

ARTICLE IX - DUES AND FINANCES

Section 1a. Chapter dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee, and approved by a majority of the members present at the annual meeting.

Section 1b. Life members shall be exempt from Chapter dues.

Section 2. Annual dues shall be payable in advance. Members in arrears on April 1, shall be declared delinquent and shall thereupon forfeit all privileges of membership until all dues are paid, except that the Executive Committee, for good cause may approve the reinstatement of delinquent members on payment of current dues and with remission of back dues as the Executive Committee deems proper.

Section 3. At the beginning of each year, the Executive Committee shall prepare an itemized budget for the coming year. The Treasurer may make expenditures within the provisions and limitations of the budget without further authorization. Otherwise, no expenditures exceeding a total of \$100 shall be made without express authorization from the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may amend the budget at any time.

ARTICLE X - PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. The Chapter shall publish a newsletter under the supervision of the President and the immediate direction of the editor. The editor shall be appointed by the President, under whose supervision he/she will work. The newsletter shall be published as often as necessary to keep members informed of news and Chapter activities.

Section 2. The Chapter shall also publish any other materials that are presented to, and approved by, the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI - MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. The Chapter may, at the direction of the Executive Committee, offer medals or other awards in recognition of outstanding work or ability in the field of soil and water conservation.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership voting either by mail or in an annual meeting, provided the proposed amendment or amendments have been submitted to members of the Chapter in writing at least 30 days before the date set by the Executive Committee for voting on the amendments.

Section 2. Amendments become effective upon adoption.

Section 3. Anything contained in the bylaws adopted by the Chapter, deemed by the Society, by council action after due opportunity for hearing the Chapter, to be in conflict with the bylaws of the Society or any provision thereof, shall be void and of no effect after official notification.

ARTICLE XIII - EFFECTIVE DATE OF BYLAWS

Section 1. The bylaws and amendments shall become effective when passed by a majority of the ballots cast and verified by the Executive Committee with the following exception: That the office of President-Elect and the five Vice Presidents shall become effective after terms of current officers expire.

ARTICLE XIV - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. The Chapter is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the furtherance of conservation for the benefit of the public and not for monetary profit or gain of its members.

Section 2. This Chapter may be dissolved by a resolution requesting dissolution, passed by a majority mail vote of the membership, or by a majority vote of members in a Chapter meeting called for that purpose. Notice of such action shall be mailed to all members at least 60 days prior to closing date or mail ballots, or date vote is to be taken at the meeting.

Section 3. If dissolution is favorably acted upon in accordance with Section 2, the last Executive Committee shall pay all just debts of the Chapter out of Chapter funds, and transfer all remaining moneys and other assets to the Society, or to a nonprofit organization with similar objectives. All records, correspondence, and other papers shall be forwarded to the Society.