

## BY-LAWS

### **Maryland Old Line Chapter**

#### **Soil & Water Conservation Society, Inc.**

1. Accomplishment of Objectives. In advancing the objectives of the Chapter pursuant to Article II of the Constitution, the Chapter shall be guided by the declared objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. To this end, the activities of the Chapter shall include advancement of the theory and practice of the science of conservation of soil and water resources through:
  - (a) encouragement of research in soil and water conservation;
  - (b) encouragement of the preparation of original papers in soil and water conservation topics;
  - (c) holding of meetings for the presentation and discussion of original papers, and participation in meetings with other scientific and conservation groups; and
  - (d) encouragement of communication among those interested in the field of soil and water conservation and other conservation groups generally for the mutual exchange of knowledge, facts, experience and thought.
  
2. Definitions. As used in these By-Laws, unless otherwise indicated:
  - (a) “National” shall mean the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Inc., Ankeny, Iowa.
  - (b) “Chapter” shall mean the Maryland Old Line Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.
  - (c) “The Board” shall mean the Executive Board of the Chapter
  - (d) “Membership” shall include regular members and associate members.
  
3. Membership. Persons in good standing in the membership of the National society shall, upon payment of Chapter dues, acquire membership in the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River. However, persons in good standing in the membership of the National society will be admitted to membership in the Chapter regardless of place of residence. The new membership categories are as follows: Board, shall forfeit membership in the Chapter.

- (a) Regular membership: is full membership in the National organization plus chapter dues. This entitles a member to all Chapter and National benefits.
  - (b) Associate Membership: entitles the member to chapter programs only. Associate members will be encouraged to become National members
- 4. Applications for Membership. Applications for membership in the National society which are received by the Chapter shall be promptly forwarded by the Secretary of the proper National office.
- 5. Voting. All of the Chapter membership in good standing shall be entitled to vote on all matters of the Chapter. Voting by proxy may be permitted at the discretion of the Board. A proxy, if authorized by the Board, shall be valid for not longer than two months, shall bear the signature of the person giving it and shall be submitted to the Secretary prior to the meeting at which such proxy is to be used. Any National members may attend meetings of the Chapter.
- 6. Termination of Membership. Regular membership of the Chapter shall be automatically terminated upon termination of National membership, by resignation, by failure to pay Chapter dues which are in arrears, or otherwise by a two-thirds vote of the membership voting at a regularly called meeting of the Chapter. Associate membership shall be terminated by failure to remit membership dues after 30 days of membership expiration date.
- 7. Reinstatement of Membership. A person dropped from regular membership in the Chapter by reason of non-payment of chapter dues shall not be eligible for reinstatement unless he or she is in good standing in the National membership and unless the Chapter dues which were in arrears at the time shall first be paid; provided, that a person so dropped from membership may be reinstated without payment of such back dues by vote of the Board. A membership which has been terminated by vote of the chapter, as provided in paragraph 6 of these By-Laws, may be reinstated by a two-thirds vote of the membership voting at a regularly called meeting of the Chapter. Associate members will be reinstated upon remittance of dues.
- 8. Dues. The annual dues of regular and associate membership in the Chapter shall be set and reviewed at the annual spring meeting of the Chapter. Persons in arrears in the payment of dues on the anniversary of membership shall be deemed delinquent and, unless an extension of time is granted by vote of the Board, shall forfeit membership in the Chapter. For associates, before such forfeiture may occur; notice of such delinquency shall be transmitted in writing by the Treasurer to the delinquent associate no less than 30 days prior to the membership

expiration date. The dues provided for in paragraph 8 are in addition to the dues which may be prescribed by National.

9. Disposition of Funds. All funds received by the Chapter, whether derived through dues or other sources, except those funds required to be remitted to National, shall be deposited into the treasury of the Chapter and may be disbursed as directed by the Board.
10. Annual Meetings. There shall be two annual meetings, spring and fall, and such meetings as the Board or membership may direct. The specific dates and locations shall be determined by the Board.
11. Election. The regular election of the officers and elective members of the Executive Board shall be held at the annual fall meeting. Nominations for such offices shall be made through a Nominating Committee, appointed by the President and from the floor at such meetings. The candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be elected. The election shall be secret ballot or by a show of hands. The ballots shall be counted by tellers designated by the President, and the results of the election shall be announced by the President, who shall promptly notify the successful candidates.
12. Certain Powers and Duties of the Board.
  - (a) Meetings of the Board shall be called by the President or in the absence or disability of the President, by the First Vice-President or upon request to the President by a majority of the members of the Board. A Board member may authorize another member of the Board, in writing, to vote for him or her on any specified matter. Such authorization or any attested copy thereof shall be filed with the Secretary.
  - (b) The board as governing body of the Chapter may, at its discretion, formulate and issue statements expressing the opinion of the Chapter on matters within the purview of Article II of the Constitution of the Chapter and of Paragraph 1 of these By-Laws.
  - (c) The Board may circulate to the membership copies of papers presented at meetings of the Chapter.
13. Rules of Procedure. The Board will follow Roberts Rules of Order when conducting business meetings of the Chapter.
14. Amendments.
  - (a) These By-Laws, or any provision thereof may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership voting, provided that such proposed amendment shall have been submitted to all of the voting membership at least thirty

(30) days prior to the date set by the Board for the counting of ballots. An amendment, unless the same provides otherwise, shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

- (b) Any change(s) required by the Internal Revenue Service in order to establish or maintain status of the National organization or the Chapter as an educational and scientific organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code shall automatically be deemed a fully approved amendment to these By-Laws. The Secretary shall notify each Chapter member of such change(s) and reasons therefore, and provide revised text of the By-Laws.

These By-Laws were adopted by vote of the membership in June, 1955.

Amended by majority vote on April 9, 1992.