SWCS call 2/28/14

On the call - Noel, Andy, Lara, Chris, Rich, Michelle P., Doug Lawrence.

* Lara will confirm with Erika Larsen about her interest in the Secretary position.
* Rich Iovanna is new on the call – new council member, filling in for Michelle Lauer. Economist for FSA.
* Doug Lawrence joining as an observer, interested in being on list of officers.
* Website – list of officers, chapter plan, minutes need to be uploaded. Lara will upload the minutes and will update the officer contact info when new officers are confirmed. Andy will revise the chapter plan, circulate it within the group, and Lara will upload the document when complete.
* Discussion of election and officer candidates
  + Officer candidates –
    - Doug Lawrence
    - Erika Larsen (Secretary)
    - Skip Hyberg
    - Bruce Knight
    - Mark Waldridge
    - Leonard Jordan
    - Lisa Durant
  + Andy will check with list of candidates to see who is interested in running for President Elect. Comments:
    - We need it in writing which positions vs the candidates to fill them.
    - Process: last time Michelle gave ballots out, gave people 7 days, a simple blank form with an announcement and a list of names, and asked chapter members to send votes to Bill Boyer (not a chapter board member, but regional board member). Bill is out of town but it was suggested we contact him about filling this role again.
    - Andy will send out the candidate list for chapter vote in March. Can give them at least a week and one reminder.
    - 3 director positions open.
    - President elect is open. Need to identify who wants to run for President Elect.
  + Liason positions – Terrell Erikson will continue as liason to Washington Academy of Sciences.
  + Skip Hyberg will consider liason to society of American Foresters, but we need to confirm that position.
* Earth Day – No information on EPA events. If anyone has any information, please e-mail the group.
  + Earth Month is April 1-30th at Union Station. Earth Day network Tourist and Landmark association.
* The NCC’s submission to the American Water Resources Association was accepted. Lara, Michelle, and Chris are submitting and co-organizing. The next step is submitting abstracts but the deadline isn’t until May for that. Lara will take the lead on getting information out about the event.
* Spring event – topic is the Connewingo Dam. Lara and Chris volunteered to work with Andy on this. Andy has contacted some organizations and put together panelist list. Sportsmen’s coalition and TRCP interested in partnering with us. Venues – maybe the National Press Club. 15th Street. Noel also invited to join on organizing. Subcommittee meeting next Thursday the 6th at 12:30.
* Social event – we still don’t have an official coordinator. It was decided to pick a bar that also serves food and meet on March 12th at 5pm. Please send suggestions on the bar to the group.
* John Peterson requested the opportunity to give a report on our next call about the Farm Bill and what is means for SWCS. A good opportunity to engage chapter members
* Andy is organizing a letter writing event for the Monarch butterfly. Getting more habitat on ag land. Could be service opportunity for chapter.