



SWCS–NCC Meeting Notes
January 22, 2009
Teleconference

Participants: Ross Braun, Bill Boyer, Tom Fedewa, Tom Hebert, Larry Holmes, Michele Laur, Jan Surface

Email Update to all Members: **Action: Jan** will prepare minutes. **Action: Tom** will prepare a brief synopsis of the highlights of the meeting, key actions and opportunities that the NCC members need to know about. **Action: Jan** will send out the minutes and this brief synopsis or cover memo by email to all current NCC members. This particular synopsis will include a request to members for suggestions as to possible field trips and brown bag forum ideas (response due back to Tom Hebert and/or Jan Surface by February 25th), the brown bag forum ideas that we are currently exploring, a request for volunteers to help with a particular forum and the spring and/or fall tours, and upcoming events.

Norman A. Berg Conservation Legacy Award: The new officers were not ready to make a decision on this award. **Action: Jan** will send out the award criteria and two award nominations to the officers for review. The officers will make a decision at the next monthly meeting.

Forum/Field Trip Discussion: The chapter would like to set a goal of having at least one forum or field trip per quarter, starting with the second quarter this year. **Action: Tom Hebert** will contact E. Lynn Burkett from the local chapter of the Society of American Foresters to see if they would like to do a joint tour this year. The National Capital's Society of American Forester's website is www.ncsaf.org. Jan suggested we might want to have a service portion in the field trip. Storm drain labeling for the Anacostia River or tree planting with the Alliance for Community Trees was suggested. **Action: Larry** will contact Leslie Burks (District Conservationist with NRCS in Washington D.C.) to see if she has any service ideas.

Website Update: It was suggested that a calendar be added to the website to list upcoming meetings and events. **Action: Jan** will work with the webmaster to update the website. The current action plan for 2009 (once approved by officers) should be posted on the website.

Monthly Meeting Schedule: Monthly meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm unless otherwise noted. The following dates were selected for 2009 monthly meetings: February 26, March 19, April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19, and December 17. **Action: Jan** will update the 2009 Annual Plan to reflect these meeting dates and will send out outlook meeting requests to the officers.

Norman A. Berg Leadership & Conservation Policy Forum: We did not have time to review the draft proposal. **Action: Bill** will request time at the National SWCS Board Meeting in April to discuss this topic. Discussion and voting on NCC's financial commitment to sponsor the Leadership Forum was deferred until the March meeting. **Action: Tom Hebert** will work on updating the potential budget to a "per fellow" cost. The NCC team working on this proposal has a detailed, chronological workplan for this forum and it will be shared with the officers in time for the discussion at the March Officers meeting, and if approved can be used in the presentation to the National SWCS.

Washington Academy of Scientists: Ross suggested that the chapter might want to sponsor one member to join the Washington Academy of Scientists as a way for the SWCS to liaison with the

Academy. Ross and others thought this might be a good way to get one of our more science/research-minded chapter members engaged in developing partnership opportunities with member organizations in the Washington Academy of Scientists. The cost for membership is ~\$50/year. **Action: Bill** will research the actual cost and let us know by our next meeting.

2011 Annual SWCS Conference: **Action: Ross** will check with Dwayne Johnson, SWCS Ankeny office, to see what our Chapter's responsibilities are in hosting the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Larry Holmes gave an oral report of the bank balance (\$570.40 in checking and \$14,423.91 in savings) and submitted the following fiscal report:

2007 Balance Forward	\$14,525.98
Income (Actual)	
Membership Dues	\$645.02
Profit NE Conference	\$401.78
Fall Tour	\$515.00
Interest income	\$43.19
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,604.99
Expenses (Actual)	
Award Plaques	\$141.70
Fall Tour	\$826.01
Smithsonian Soils Exhibit contributions	\$168.95
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1136.66
2008 Balance	\$468.33
2008 FINAL BALANCE	\$14,994.31

Next Meeting February 26, 2009, noon to 1:00 pm, Call-in 888-764-9167, Passcode: 4679073

Meeting Agenda for February:

1. Review Draft Membership Recruitment Plan (Ross Braun)
2. Vote on Norman A. Berg Conservation Legacy Award (all officers)
3. Review Annual Report, Outstanding Chapter Award Nomination, and Sustained Performance Award Nomination (Ross Braun)
4. Decide if NCC will sponsor one member to Washington Academy of Scientists (all officers)
5. Possible Forum/Seminar topics (make assignments to follow up on suggestions)
 - a. Congressional Research Service; how they work with Congress
 - b. Information on the new USDA Ecosystem Services and Markets office
 - c. Chicago Climate Exchange Aggregator who works on methane digesters with livestock producers
 - d. Water quality trading --EPA's policy, NRCS's interest/role, what leading states are doing, and what's working and what's not (Suzy Friedman could help organize)
 - e. Other topics suggested by members
6. Other business

Meeting Agenda for March (Tentative):

1. Norman A. Berg Leadership & Conservation Policy Forum (all officers)
 - a. review proposal that will be submitted to National SWCS office
 - b. Vote on NCC commitment to provide \$2,100 for reception and materials and commitment to host.
 - c. Discuss agenda for forum
 - d. Develop timeline for forum tasks
2. Other business