



**SWCS–NCC Meeting Notes**  
**March 5, 2009**  
**Teleconference**

**Participants:** Tom Hebert, Larry Holmes, Andy Manale, Ross Braun, Bill Boyer, Leslie Burkes, Jan Surface

**NCC Special Appreciation Award (one time award):** Tom Hebert suggested that NCC might consider presenting a special award to the congressional majority and minority staffers who worked on the Conservation Title of the 2008 Farm Bill. Ross Braun suggested that NCC could give a one-time Special Appreciation Award. Ross made a motion to spend up to \$500 for plaques. Tom Hebert asked us to hold off on seconding the motion until he checks with Suzy Friedman to see if she wants to pursue this idea.

**Action: Tom** will discuss awards for congressional staffers with Suzy Friedman and then bring topic back up for discussion at a future NCC meeting.

**Norman A. Berg Conservation Legacy Award:** Carole Jett was selected by the NCC officers to be the 2009 recipient of the Norman A. Berg Conservation Legacy Award. The award will be presented to Carole at the next NCC Forum.

**Action: Jan** will work with Bill Boyer to order the plaque.

**Berg Leadership and Conservation Policy Forum:** Tom Hebert and Bill Boyer presented information on the estimated cost for hosting a biennial Forum in Washington DC. The estimated total cost to attendees (funds to be raised by their local SWCS chapter) would be between \$1000 and \$1700. The estimated cost to NCC for hosting a reception and providing materials would be \$2,100. A motion was passed for Bill Boyer to present this proposal to the SWCS Board of Directors in April.

**Action: Bill** will present the NCC's Berg Leadership and Conservation Policy Forum proposal and estimated budget to the SWCS Board of Directors.

**Field Trip Service Ideas:** Leslie Burks, NRCS District Conservationist for Washington DC participated in the meeting to discuss potential service ideas for our fall tour. Ideas discussed included tree planting, working in a community garden, installing rain barrels and rain gardens at school, and marking storm drains.

**Action: Leslie** will contact local organizations to see what types of service events are available during the fall and then will send Jan Surface a list of possible events.

**Next Meeting March 19, 2009, noon to 1:00 pm, Call-in 888-764-9167, Passcode: 4679073**  
**Meeting Agenda**

1. Comments on draft 2009 Plan of Work – comments taken and then seek adoption on this call (or at our April teleconference if needed) (Tom Hebert)
2. Treasurer's Report (Larry Holmes)
3. Decide on Forum/Seminar topics to be pursued, make assignments
  - Congressional Research Service; how they work with Congress
  - Information on the new USDA Ecosystem Services and Markets office
  - Chicago Climate Exchange Aggregator who works on methane digesters with livestock producers
  - Water quality trading --EPA's policy, NRCS's interest/role, what leading states are doing, and what's working and what's not
  - Other?

4. Decide if NCC will sponsor one member to Washington Academy of Scientists (Officers)
5. Review Draft Membership Recruitment Plan (Ross Braun briefing)
6. Quick review of Annual Report, Outstanding Chapter Award Nomination, and Sustained Performance Award Nomination (Ross Braun briefing)
7. Report on conversations with Foresters about Fall field tour (Tom Hebert)
8. Quick presentation of idea for later consideration about an on-line all Chapter conversation about where the Chapter membership wants our chapter to go (Tom Hebert)
9. Other