



## SWCS-NCC Minutes – April 5, 2007

**Participants:** Chip Ramsey, Tom Hebert, Allison Wiedeman, Ross Braun, Larry Holmes, Bill Boyer, and Oliver Miranda from the Maryland Old Line Chapter.

**Minutes** of the March Meeting were approved and will be posted on the website.

### **Joint Activities with Society of American Forester-National Capital Chapter:**

Bill and Melvin Womack met with Denise Ingram and Eric Norland of the Society of American Forester – National Capital Chapter (NCSAF). See the report attached to these minutes. While reviewing the proposed cooperative activities we proposed the idea of hosting a visit to Washington, DC for conservation/environment students and entry level career employees, probably recommended by SWCS chapters (maybe SAF also). Suggestions include:

1. Bill was asked to chair a committee to develop this idea. Beth Sauerhaft and Allison were suggested as members;
2. Develop a proposal in outline with budget (travel costs, sponsored events, etc.);
3. Work with Environmental Law Committee of the National Bar Association;
4. Tom with check with Krista Harden at National Corn Growers to build on similar work they have done.

**Annual Meeting–Silent Auction:** Chips wife has designed and will donate a stain glass window. Chip will check with Ducks Unlimited and purchase a framed print of ducks. Bill has purchase a hand carved/painted duck decoy. Allison will create a necklace and earrings. Tom Hebert suggested that we get a U.S. flag flown from the Capitol, possibly on Earth Day, and donate it to the Florida Chapter for the auction.

**Scholarship:** No report.

**Northeast Regional Conference:** (April 24 & 25) About eleven members of NCC plan to attend and Chip is arranging transportation logistics.

**Financial Report, 2006:** Total assets, in checking and savings, are \$13,792.02. Melvin completed an audit of the financial records for 2006 and reported no negative findings. Larry also reported his research about renewing our status as a incorporated non-profit organization in Washington, DC. To do this the DC government would expect NCC to pay \$600+ to reinstate. This issue was tabled until the next meeting.

**Mentoring:** No Report.

**Spring Tour:** Ross will begin planning a spring tour at the ARS Visitors Center, possible in June. Another idea (possible 2008) is a tour of Rock Creek Park to see the engineering work done to return the creek to conditions when fish migrated in the creek to spawn.

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**Fall Tour:** Melvin Womack will be asked to plan a tour to possibly include the National Arboretum, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, the National Botanic Garden, or the Patuxent River Merkel Wildlife Center. It was suggested that new Chapter members, such as Michele Laur, should be invited to become involved and help work on the tours.

**Speakers Series:** Tom is working with the (*Senate/House?*) Agriculture Committee folks to ask identify and invite a Congressional staffer on Farm Bill. Later in the year he hopes to set up a presentation on Climate Change.

**Treasury:** Larry Holmes presented the financial report, \$2,715.82 in checking and \$11,376.96 in saving, which was approved.

Minutes recorded by Bill Boyer, Chapter Secretary

Next Meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:45 am, Location: Tom will secure a meeting room.

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Proposed Cooperative Activities between  
National Capital Society of American Foresters and  
Soil and Water Conservation Society – National Capital Chapter

Background:

Science Day - held for 27 years, was discontinued because of declining attendance, lack of support, those who participated seemed to have less time to devote to professional development, staying current, etc. Thus Science Day was cancelled. These two societies maintained a strong lead at every Science Day. Officers of the two local Societies wise to rekindle this type of cooperative activities.

Inventory of existing related programs:

- AAAS - holds an annual conference on Science and Technology Policy.
- National Council on Science and the Environment - holds a very large 2-day conference in January that is attended by many, including participants from across the country.
- NC SAF - holds monthly luncheons with speakers; plans to hold one or more Issue Forums
- SWCS-NCC holds monthly officer meetings, semi-annual field trips, and a few special events as opportunities arise.

Proposal for 2007: conduct a joint Issue Forum and a Fall Field Day

Suggestions:

- Goal: Survey employees of EPA, USGS, USFS, and other natural resource organizations to determine what professional societies they belong to. This information would be used to set up new partnership and program opportunities, to better serve our members and the broader audience in this area.
- Host (plan and conduct) an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students from area colleges and universities to come to DC and spend a day interacting with natural resource managers and leaders. The focus would be NR management and job opportunities, not policy as there are lots of other policy related opportunities, internships, etc.

Other Ideas:

- Plan an event around a large critical issue, such as water;
- Do something on the mall;
- Do something in conjunction with Earth Day;
- Create a venue for professional society networking with food;
- Field trips for member and potential members.

Possible funding sources:

- SAF has the Foresters Fund that makes grants to chapters to conduct educational events;
- NCSAF has some undesignated funds;
- Foundation grants, etc.

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