



**SWCS–NCC Meeting Notes**  
**May 28, 2009**  
**Teleconference**

**Participants:** Tom Hebert, Larry Holmes, Ross Braun, Bill Boyer, Tom Fedewa, Marvin Brown, and Jan Surface.

**Spring Tour, May 15, 2009 Highlights:** The tour was successful, although only seven people attended. The Congressional Research Service reported on their mission, workload, what they can and cannot do. The House Ag Committee staff also gave very interesting presentations and they explained the intricate details of how things get done and the role of Committee staff.

The officers reported that it would be good to repeat this tour and recruit more people to attend. This could be done Senate Committee staffers next time. The Berg Leadership and Policy Forum could use a tour and speakers similar to this activity.

**Summer Seminar, Wednesday, July 29:** Sally Collins, USDA Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets, has accepted our invitation to give a presentation on their new Office. Bill Boyer will reserve two of the three rooms at the back of the South Building cafeteria with 5812 reserved as a back up in the event that there is a small group. This will be a brown-bag lunch-hour event. (The NRCS SPA Deputy Area has a 3-day event, July 28-30, but it is too difficult to change the date and make arrangements with Ms. Collins.

We will present the Berg Award at this forum. The award plaque has been purchased.

**Commemorative Gift for Presenters:** Tom Hebert asked for a discussion about establishing a small commemorative gift of appreciation for presenters and others who are involved in National Capital Chapter activities.

**ACTION:** Tom will seek someone, other than an officer, to look into appreciation gift possibilities.

**The Wisconsin Chapter proposed a by-laws change the structure of the SWCS Board of Directors discussion:** Ross gave an overview of the Wisconsin Chapter's resolution which will be voted on during the SWCS House of Delegates' meeting at the annual Conference. He is the Chapter's representative to the House of Delegates' meeting and he also gave an overview of his proposed response to the Wisconsin resolution.

Concern was expressed about reducing the number of Directors and maintaining connections with the membership. Concern was also expressed about the membership giving up the power to elect leadership. Support was expressed for a Regional Representative Council that would represent the Regions and student members and that would provide guidance to the Chapters.

More information about the impacts of both proposals is desired. It was suggested that the delegates ask the Board to study the proposed systems and provide the membership with financial and other detailed information about a possible change to the structure of the Board.

Bill Boyer reported that the Board of Directors is in the process of developing a 7-member advisory-type Board with corporate leadership and fund-raising expertise. This will be announced at the annual conference

**ACTION:** Ross will develop brief explanations of the Wisconsin resolution and Ross' response and send it to Tom Hebert so he can solicit input from all of our Chapter members. Ross asked

that input be provided by July 1 so he can make arrangements for any information about that we may want to distribute.

**SWCS Liaison to Society of American Foresters:** Bruce Wight, the new NRCS National Forester will be asked to be NCC's liaison to the SAF. Bruce is currently a Leadership level member of the Nebraska Chapter.

**ACTION:** Jan will contact Bruce and ask him to switch his SWCS membership to NCC and to act as our liaison with the local chapter of the SAF.

**2009 SWCS Annual Conference silent auction contribution:** The board approved spending up to \$200 for NCC to contribute items to the Michigan Conference silent auction. Commemorative items representing Washington DC, such as items from the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit and the Obama election, inauguration, or administration were discussed.

**ACTION:** Ross will purchase some items and will keep receipts and be reimbursed by the treasurer. Any other chapter members are welcome to donate items to the auction.

**Treasurer's Report:** Larry Holmes provided the following report:

	<b>Checking</b>	<b>Savings</b>	<b>Total</b>
Receipts (tour)	+125.00		
Outlay (Berg award)	- 59.50		
Balance on 5/28/09	\$974.76	\$14,423.91	\$15,398.67

**Website:** NCC needs a new webmaster/website because entering our news has been significantly delayed. We are looking for a volunteer to be webmaster. The board agrees that having a good up-to-date website is important and NCC may need to pay a monthly fee to have a site.

**ACTION:** Ross Braun will looking into the cost and logistics of the National SWCS hosting our site and other officers will look into the costs and logistics of web-based and other hosting possibilities

This topic will be included on the June agenda for more discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM.