



1 **National Capital Chapter**
2 **Soil and Water Conservation Society**

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4 **Executive Board Meeting Minutes**
5 **May 18, 2011**

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7 The Executive Board of the National Capital Chapter (NCC) of the Soil and Water Conservation Society
8 (SWCS) met by teleconference on May 18, 2011. President-Elect Michelle Perez presided and called the
9 meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and recorded the minutes. The following members were present:

10
11 Michelle Perez, President-Elect
12 Larry Holmes, Treasurer
13 Michele Laur, Council Member
14 Felix (Phil) Spinelli, Local Arrangements Tours Subcommittee Chair

15
16 **Previous Business**

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18 **National Capital Chapter Spring Tour (Phil Spinelli)**

19 Spinelli reported that the following six NCC members participated in the Spring Tour to the Wetlands
20 Studies and Solutions, Inc facility in Gainesville, VA: Jeff Zinn, Bill Boyer, Marc Safley, Michelle Perez,
21 Phil Spinelli, and Andy Manale. Spinelli said that it was difficult to find a Saturday date that would
22 accommodate all the interested NCC members. Despite the limited number of members that could join,
23 Spinelli reported that we all had a really good experience touring hearing from VP for Engineering, Frank
24 Graziano and touring their company's demonstration sites: green roof, rain garden, a large cistern
25 system, sidewalk swales bio-filters, porous pavement, permeable concrete and asphalt, etc. WSSI
26 restores streams and participates in wetland mitigation banking and heard many great stories about
27 how the company has raised the stream bed to restore highly incised streams in Reston. They have a
28 multi-disciplinary staff including soil scientists, archaeologists, engineers, etc. They established the first
29 LEEDS-certified building in Virginia. They highly value quality of life for their employees as they let folks
30 bring their dogs to the office who roam freely and they have a large gym on site. Most of the
31 stormwater generated by the site is treated by the many Low Impact Development (LID) technologies
32 which reduces the amount of stormwater leaving the site to such a small volume that it is able to pass
33 through a 1-2 inch pipe. After the tour, the group enjoyed lunch together at the Vienna Inn, a local
34 restaurant. Spinelli will forward the three emails with pictures that Safley took and shared. Perez will
35 follow-up with Keisha Brown and SWCS HQ to find the NCC website and see if she can upload the photos
36 she took to that site.

37
38 **Annual SWCS Conference in DC Updates (Michelle Perez)**

39 Volunteers

40 Perez informed the group that she and Marc Safley sent a request to area SWCS Chapter board
41 members (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia) to ask them to send an email announcement
42 to their members encouraging them to volunteer at the conference. So far, the Maryland Chapter had
43 done so and copied Safley on an email. Perez shared an update from Rebecca Roose, the Local Area
44 Committee's (LAC) Volunteer Coordinator, that many of the volunteer spots had been filled recently.

45
46 NRCS support

47 Michele Laur informed the group that NRCS has not yet determined what portion of employees
48 participation will be covered which may impact the number of people attending the conference.

49 Larry Holmes said that employee organization meetings were cancelled this year.

50

51 Silent Auction

52 Perez shared an update from Ross Braun, LAC's Silent Auction Coordinator, that no items had been
53 offered yet. Braun said he would be emailing all the Chapter Board members encouraging them to email
54 their membership to ask for Silent Auction items. Laur indicated that she might offer beautiful outdoor
55 photographs taken by her friend in Hawaii that come with a nice matting. Spinelli mentioned he could
56 provide a bird house and bat house that he makes himself but was concerned most folks would not
57 want to carry home such large items. Laur indicated that quite a few people don't mind larger items.
58 Perez said may approach Restaurant Nora again for a gift certificate and Nora's cook book.

59

60 **New Business**

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62 NCC Letterhead

63 Perez said that in addition to the bird house thank you present that Spinelli made and gave to WSSI's
64 Frank Grazziano for hosting the spring tour, the NCC would like to send a thank you letter. Safley wanted
65 to write the letter on NCC letterhead but was uncertain if such letter head existed other than the SWCS
66 HQ letterhead and address. Laur and Holmes said they had never seen NCC - specific letter head and did
67 not know what the NCC address was. Perez will ask Bill Boyer.

68

69 Speaker-oriented NCC get-together

70 Perez asked the group if they were interested in having a get-together for NCC members with a speaker
71 and if June would be a good time. The group said June may be too busy given the conference in July and
72 that September may be better. Spinelli indicated that getting a good turn-out is difficult because there
73 are so many events are occurring and people are so busy. The USDA Economists group had a
74 presentation that day. Spinelli said that competition for an audience is so high that the event has to
75 have a really important pull to get a good turn out. Michele Laur mentioned that Doug Helms, USDA
76 historian, could do a tremendous presentation. At the Ag Forum, Helms gave a presentation on Hugh
77 Hammond Bennett with great pictures and graphics. The other USDA historian, Sam Stalcup gives good
78 presentations too on early water reclamation topics. They are both based in DC and part of Ecological
79 Sciences Division staff.

80

81 Treasurer's report

82 Holmes gave a Treasurer's report. As of today, the NCC checking account has \$547.99 including dues
83 received from National in March which was \$242.10. In February, the account disbursed \$59 for the
84 Berg Award. The NCC savings account had \$14,252.44.

85

86 Ideas for use of NCC funds

87 Perez asked if the NCC had offered scholarships in the past as a way to use the funds and with the
88 upcoming influx of funds as host for the annual conference, we should think about how to use the
89 money. Holmes said that they had talked about doing a scholarship so 3 or 4 years ago but didn't know
90 what came of it and that Bill Boyer or Ross Braun might know more. Michele Laur said that the amount
91 of money in our accounts seemed like a lot of funds just sitting around. Holmes said the NCC has funded
92 a few receptions in the past and that we funded part of Safley's trip to the annual conference last year.

93

94 Laur suggested we consider paying for a small demonstration garden such as a rain garden. The group
95 liked that idea and had a good discussion. It was suggested that the public should have easy access to it.
96 There is a small, poorly maintained garden across from the Air and Space museum between the

97 Department of Education and Air and Space. There are bee hives on the roof of Whitten Building and a
98 green roof. Robert Snieckus is involved in the People's Garden. Holmes offered to seek out Robert and
99 Livia Marques who is leading the People Garden to ask them for feedback on these ideas and to find out
100 how much such projects take to start up and maintain over time.

101

102 The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

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104 Adopted: _____

105 Date

106

107 Secretary: _____

108 Keisha L. Brown

109

110 President: _____

111 Marc Safley, Ph.D.