

**Monthly Meeting Call-
in Information**

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**National Capital Chapter
January 18, 2012**



Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Treasurer's Report
3. NCC's 2012 Membership Status
4. NCC's Website Status
5. Open Discussion: Planning 2012
 - a. Ideas for spending our funds
 - b. Ideas for socializing and networking
 - c. Ideas for a Spring Event and a Fall event
 - d. Other ideas

Action Items

- Michelle will compile a one-pager of the other groups and societies that host speaker series or other events of interest to the National Capital Chapter (NCC)
- Lynn will pursue website training from SWCS HQ for Michelle, Becky and others who are interested to learn how to edit and upload pictures to SWCS NCC's website.
- Bruce and Terrell will speak to Jerry Neppel of SWCS HQ about scholarships offered by other chapters
- Andy will send an email to the NCC officers and council members to get them to weigh in on the suggested Spring event of a panel discussion on the impact the food security debate will have on conservation.
- Michelle will send an email to Larry to see if he had a chance to talk with Robert Snieckus about the People's Garden and if there are opportunities for SWCS NCC to pursue.

Meeting Summary

1. Introductions

The Executive Board of the National Capital Chapter (NCC) of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) met by teleconference on January 18, 2012. President Michelle Perez presided and called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. The following members were present:

Dr. Michelle Perez
Lynn Knight
Terrell Erickson
Bruce Wight
Becky Mitschele
Dr. Andy Manale

2. Treasurer's Report – Larry Holmes, Treasurer

Larry was not on the call today and therefore, we will wait to hear from Larry next time. As of August 2011, the NCC had the following funds:

Checking Account: \$ 547.99
Savings Account: \$ 14,252.44
Total: \$ 14,800.43

There are also some dividends in the hundreds of dollars. It has been a while since the NCC did something big with its fund. In the past, funds were used to sponsor travel for Marc when we was a delegate and provide refreshments.

3. NCC's 2012 Membership status – Lynn, Membership Chair

Lynn requested membership information from HQ but has not received any information back. The last known membership status was 103 members, including federal agencies like NRCS and EPA as well as private non-profit groups and private agricultural groups being nicely represented. The membership section of the SWCS page lists 93 members as of today.

4. NCC's website status – Becky and Lynn, Web Contacts

The NCC website address is http://www.swcs.org/en/national_capital_chapter/. It has not been updated since last June. Training is required before new documents can be uploaded to the website. Lynn arranged training for Becky, Lynn and Michelle in February.

5. Open discussion: 2012 Plans - Michelle Perez

a. Ideas for spending our funds

- Funds spent should relate to the mission and be able to reach membership and a lot of the public. Preference should be given to projects that benefit the public and promote conservation.
- Past discussions included doing a project at the National Arboretum and providing funds to maintain that project. Lynn found past emails listing a contact person and will follow up for the next meeting.
- In previous calls, Michele Laur suggested a small garden or wetlands or rain garden that the public has easy access to it. For example, there's a garden across from Air and Space Museum. There are bees on the roof of Whitten Building and a green roof. EPA still has its rain garden on Constitution and 14th.
- Robert Snieckus is involved in the People's Garden. Michelle will send an email to Larry to see if this conversation has occurred with Robert. The NCC could do demonstrations about native plants and/or invasive species along with the People's Garden.
- National scholarship – Headquarters is offering two scholarships: \$1,000 to current employed members and \$500 to student. The deadline is 2/14/2012. The NCC could also offer a scholarship. It could be limited to only family members of Chapter members or it could focus on urban youth, high school students who have limited access to natural resources and conservation fields. If the NCC offers a scholarship, the amount should take into account longevity (i.e. how much can be awarded without depleting the NCC funds). Bruce/ Terrell will talk with Jerry Neppel (HQ) to see if other chapters have scholarship funds, any pros/cons, and lessons learned.

b. Ideas for socializing and networking

- Last few get together were a while ago at a restaurant near McPherson Square and with the LAC committee and were mainly socializing (i.e. no speaker) functions.
- Other professional groups meet about once a month; Michelle is the point person for organizing a one pager with contact information about these groups:
 - Bruce: Society of American Foresters (<http://ncsaf.org/>)
 - Lynn – USDA Economist Group (<http://www.usdaeconomists.org/>) and the water management group by Noel Goellohan
 - Terrell – Washington Academy of Sciences (<http://www.washacadsci.org/capsci12/body.htm>)
 - Becky – EPA groups

c. Ideas for a Spring event and a Fall event

These events are usually field trips or other “bigger” type events. The last event was organized by Phil Spinelli and the group went to the wetland studies institute to tour their wetlands/stream restoration efforts.

For the upcoming Spring Event (sometime in April), the NCC could have a panel discussion about the impacts of the expanding world population demands for increasing food supply and conservation.

d. Other ideas

The group could attend one of the environmental films during the festival in March (March 13 – 25, 2012). Becky will look for possible films that align with the SWCS mission.

The NCC could also have a table at the Earth Day festival that occurs on the National Mall every year.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Next Teleconference scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2011, noon to 1:00pm