

SWCS NCC Monthly Call

9/25/15

Agenda:

- Officer elections
- recap of soil health economics workshop
- membership ideas from Doug and Rich
- scholarship
- world soil day December 4

Attendees:

Lara, Doug, Erika, Terrell, Rich, Chris, Noel, Larry

Elections:

Background info From Lara's email

As a reminder here are the election seats - I also just sent an e-mail to the chapter calling for candidates:

President- Elect through 2017 (I become President automatically in January. Chris Hartley is willing to run for this office.)

- Vice-President through 2017 (Chris Hartley's term ends and he is willing to run for President-Elect. Michelle Perez expressed interest in the role. Erika Larsen also willing to run if needed, in which case we could appoint a new Secretary among officers or members to fill the rest of her term, if someone is willing.)

- 1 Council member seat, term through 2017 (Noel's term as a Council member is up in Dec. and he is willing to roll off due to his growing responsibilities with AWRA - Congrats! It would be great to recruit some new blood from our membership to fill this position.)

We have two Bylaw changes: 1) Officers elected for 2 year terms change and 2) incorporate the addendum of Norm Berg into bylaws.

We'd like to recruit new members for Councilmember seats if possible. Chris nominated Erika for VP.

Membership:

Rich and Doug discussed how to strengthen membership prior to the call. Rich reported on this. Three main ideas:

-Survey: Rich can take lead on this and there could be a doodle poll where we request information about memberships. Example questions could be; What services would you like the society to provide, What don't you find so appealing about the organization (particularly for members who have left), etc.

-Events: SWCS NCC could hold periodic regular events and provide a forum for invited speakers to present relevant topics on a monthly or quarterly basis and/or provide updates on local events we could tag on to.

-Membership tends to be USDA heavy. Members from other agencies/organizations could reach out to other folks within and outside of the federal family and encourage them to become a member.

Lara suggested we send the survey along with the officer ballot.

Soil Health Economics Workshop- Funded by Farm Foundation:

Good information, but Noel reported out that the discussion focused on the fact that “we still do not have enough information on soil health”.

December 4, World Soil Day

NRDC might potentially be interested in hosting a seminar. Chris will ask Carol, SSSA president, to see if there are any events in the district. We should all keep this on our radar.

Scholarship:

We discussed if/how we want to spend money on a scholarship and when do we engage NCC members? Larry suggested the idea of a Mentorship program. We agreed it might be best to include a question on the survey asking if members are interested in a scholarship and/or mentorship program that we can enact this year.

Budget report:

Savings: \$11,007.47

Checking: \$172.06