



Minnesota Chapter SWCS Newsletter

January 2006

Minnesota SWCS Members-

There will be several opportunities with SWCS to improve professionally and network with colleagues from across the state outlined in this newsletter. We had a successful election last fall and Shannon Bengston, Milaca is the President Elect and will begin a two year stint as President in 2007. Give her your support as we continue to grow the MN SWCS Chapter.

March 3, 2006 will be the Annual Conference at Cabala's in Owatonna. Dave Copeland, Rochester, is leading the planning committee and has put together an excellent program on Minnesota's Clean Water Legacy – Legislation, Collaboration, Impacts and Opportunities. The Annual Conference is open to anyone, not just SWCS members, so encourage your natural resource colleagues to attend with you.

At the Annual Meeting we will be voting on a by-laws change. Enclosed in the newsletter is a copy of the by-laws with proposed changes. The proposed changes would result in 4 at large representatives across the state rather than just the two we have now. Read through the proposed language and contact me if you have any questions. In addition, we will be looking for someone for southern Representative as Steve Woltjers has stepped down.

The International Conference will be in Keystone, Colorado in July. I am planning to attend and would encourage all members to consider attending. At the annual meeting we will be selecting delegates for the conference. If you are planning to attend and would like to be considered for the delegate slot please let me know.

I will plan to see you at the various activities announced in this newsletter. Don't forget to renew your membership when the notice comes your way and how about encouraging one of your colleagues to join?

For Land's Sake,

Linda Meschke

MN SWCS President

2006 NATIONAL SWCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The 2006 conference will take place July 22 - 26 at the Keystone Resort and Conference Center in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. The Keystone Resort is located about 90 minutes west of Denver on Interstate 70. SWCS has negotiated a discounted guest room rate at the Keystone Resort and Conference Center starting at \$115 per night. Housing is now open for attendees by

calling 1-800-258-0437. Be sure to tell the reservationists that you are attending the SWCS conference or refer to the group code CBOCSNW. More at www.swcs.org

Minnesota Chapter Awards REMINDER:

Once again the Minnesota Chapter of SWCS will be awarding members, non-members and organizations for service and dedication to conservation and natural resources. If you know of some person or organization that has contributed to the natural resource field, nominate them for an award that will be given at the Annual Meeting in 2006.

An award will be given to a SWCS member who has demonstrated outstanding service (ten or more years of service to any state chapter of the SWCS) and a separate award to a Minnesota Chapter SWCS member for commendable service to our chapter.

Other awards requiring nominations of SWCS members, non-members and organizations include:

- . Honor for accomplishments in the natural resource field
- . Merit for accomplishments or contributions to the natural resource field
- . News/Media for the promotion of natural resource issues
- . Education for contribution to the conservation education of adults and/or youth

Show your pride in a co-worker, organization, or newspaper/radio show!

Contact Janell Miersch to submit a nomination.

Day phone 651-251-0644 or email miers004@umn.edu.

West North Central REGIONAL Workshop

Please mark you calendars and get the word out to your officers and council members ~ the West North Central Regional Workshop will be held March 21st and March 22nd in Platteville, Wisconsin at the University of Wisconsin Pioneer Farm Learning Center.

The guest speaker will be Alan Anderson and the curriculum will center on these three topics: A Renewed Value of Membership, The Ability to Relate *that* Value to Others, and Recruiting New Members in a Diverse Multigenerational Workforce.

On July 1, 2000 Alan Anderson became the Director for the Center for Community Economic Development. Al has twenty years experience in community development with small communities. Presently conducting training in leadership development, partnership formation, and citizen participation for the Basin Educator staff and the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program.

This dynamic day-and-a-half workshop will rejuvenate your current chapter members and help recruit new members. Each state chapter is eligible for **5 FREE registrations** which *includes* lodging. The Workforce Diversity training will meet USDA Civil Rights training requirements and USDA employees should be able to request authorization to attend on Government Time.

Details of this event will be forthcoming.

BY – LAWS CHANGES PROPOSED

Please review the by-law changes being proposed on the next pages. These will be voted on at the March 3, 2006 Annual Meeting at Cabela's. I hope to see you there!

**Shallow Lakes Forum III:
Shallow Lakes in the Watershed**

April 5- 6, 2006

Holiday Inn and Willmar Conference Center

Willmar, Minnesota

What is the Shallow Lakes Forum?

The Shallow Lakes Forum is a collaboration of public and private interest groups concerned about the current status and management of shallow waters in Minnesota. The Forum was forged in 2003 and have held subsequent events (The Shallow Lakes Forums) in North Mankato (2004) and Alexandria (2005). As a result of the Forum, a shallow lakes brochure has also been produced and awareness about shallow basin issues has been elevated. The Forum participants are working within their own ranks and collectively to promote management practices that avoid damaging the sensitive functions of shallow lakes and deepwater wetlands - while remaining reasonable about land use needs and desires. If you are concerned about shallow lakes management, then the Forum's events are for you!

What is the Mission of the Shallow Lakes Forum?

The *Shallow Lakes Forum* of Minnesota recognizes shallow lakes as fragile ecological resources posing unique management challenges. The *Shallow Lakes Forum* brings together diverse interests in collaborative settings to inform, educate, and provoke positive discourse. The *Shallow Lakes Forum* encourages protection and management actions that recognize and balance the needs and interests of shallow lakes stakeholders, who include public and private interests, conservation and recreational interests, and human and wildlife interests.

Additional Information:

**Shannon Fisher, Director
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center South
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 389-5492
shannon.fisher@mnsu.edu**

This year we will assist with the Shallow Lakes Forum by sponsoring a Keynote Speaker. This will replace the 2006 MN SWCS Summer Tour.

**MN SWCS
Election Results:**

President:
65 votes Shannon for President
Treasurer:
65 votes Sid Cornelius for
Treasurer
Northern Rep:
38 votes Greg
27 votes Dave Archer

MINNESOTA'S CLEAN WATER LEGACY

LEGISLATION, COLLABORATION, IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2006 Minnesota SWCS Annual Conference and MN SWCS Annual Meeting

Friday, March 3rd, 2006

Cabela's, Owatonna, Minnesota

9:00 to 4:00

\$20.00 Registration Fee

Join your colleagues for networking, professional development and to learn more about important policy directions and new efforts aimed at addressing water quality impairments and issues in Minnesota. You do not have to be a member of SWCS to attend.

AGENDA

8:30 AM	Registration - Coffee and Rolls
9:00 AM	Introduction - Linda Meschke, Chapter President
9:10 AM	Chapter Business Meeting
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	Opening Remarks on Clean Water Legacy
11:00 AM	Court Case: League of Minnesota Cities
11:30 AM	The Science of TMDLs
Noon	Lunch and Awards Presentations
1:00 PM	State Approach: Clean Water Legacy Funding and Legislative Process
2:15 PM	Break
2:30 PM	Federal Approach: How Can It Fit?
3:00 PM	Summary: Predicting the Impacts on Minnesota

RSVP by Friday, February 24th to: davelcopeland@msn.com so we can provide Cabela's with a final lunch count. Registration will be taken at the door. Sponsored by the MN Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). www.minnesotaswcs.org www.swcs.org