

Minnesota

Soil and Water Conservation Society



Chapter Newsletter February 23, 2009

In this issue:

SWCS annual mtg	p. 1
President's note	p. 1
MECA Conference	p. 2
Summer Tour	p. 2
Election results	p. 3
Executive Board minutes	p. 4
Calendar	p. 6

Minnesota Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society
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www.minnesotaswcs.org

Our mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation.

2009 Officers

President:
Shannon Carpenter
President Elect:
Russell Kleinschmidt
Treasurer:
Sid Cornelius
Secretary:
Mike Appel (outgoing)
Mary Jane Reetz (incoming)
Northern Surface Waters:
Greg Larson
Karst and Driftless Area:
Dave Copeland
Minnesota/Missouri Watershed:
Cheryl Heard
Red River of the North:
Jeff Hellermann

Newsletter Editor

Ann Lewandowski
alewand@umn.edu

SWCS Annual Meeting in Dearborn Michigan: "Town Hall" meeting is for all SWCS members

This year's delegate session will be part of a much larger State of the Society-Town Hall meeting that is open to all SWCS conference attendees. We encourage everyone to participate.

The 2009 House of Delegates meeting is Sunday, July 12th 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Dearborn, Michigan. Like last year, both the delegate session and State of the Society are open to all SWCS conference attendees. The State of the Society meeting will provide conference attendees the opportunity to share their views with the SWCS Board of Directors on the following topic:

Energy, water, and global climate change will drive research and environmental programs over the next century. This will largely determine what we hand off to our sons and daughters. We are heading into a time period that is comparable in significance to the Great Dust Bowl. What role do you see the Society playing relating to these issues or what role would you like to see the Society play relating to these issues?

As in past years, formal written resolutions will only be taken up during the House of Delegates session. If resolutions are presented, only official chapter delegates will be allowed to vote. If no formal resolutions are presented, the session will go directly to the State of Society Town Hall meeting. If you wish to put forward a formal resolution, please submit it to the chapter by contacting Ann Lewandowski (lewandowski.ann@gmail.com) on or before April 10th.

SWCS Annual Meeting

Dearborn, Michigan
July 11 to July 15, 2009
For more information: <http://www.swcs.org/>.

A Note from the President: Don't Miss the Chapter Training Conference

Hello Fellow Minnesota SWCS Chapter Members!

Another year has gone by, which means the Annual Chapter Business meeting and Training Conference is coming up soon. Details about the Training Conference are attached to this newsletter and at www.minnesotaswcs.org. The Chapter Business meeting will address the usual business items and then will finish the plan of action for the Minnesota SWCS Chapter. This process was started at the second 2008 Chapter business meeting held in conjunction with the Minnesota Terrestrial Invasive Species Conference last October. We had a great discussion and brought out many ideas about how to spend Chapter funds in the coming years. Thank you to all who were able to attend that Chapter business meeting and provide input! Now we need to go through those ideas and fine tune how chapter members want to see our funds utilized and what direction they wish to see the chapter go! This is another opportunity for you as a member to have a chance to provide input and guide the chapter in a new direction.

The Chapter Business meeting will be held in the afternoon of April 3rd at Cabela's in Rogers, MN. This is the same place where we held the 2008 Annual Training Conference and Annual Meeting. There is a cost to attend the Annual Training Conference and lunch. Please mark your calendars for April 3rd and I look forward to seeing you there!

Shannon Carpenter, Chapter President

Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA) Conference to be held March 5th-6th

Here are the top 10 reasons to attend the 2009 MECA Conference:

10. Learn about Minnesota's first true Low Impact Development site from planning to construction.
9. The I-35W bridge Dynamic Environmental Protection Process
8. Dwayne Stenlund's dynamic presentation on the top BMPs he's seen all around North America
7. See the latest products at the largest trade show of its kind in the Midwest
6. It's a lot closer and cheaper than attending the IECA conference
5. Find out how bioretention really works in cold climates
4. Find out if LID makes sense from an economic perspective
3. Hear the perspectives of contractors, engineers, water resource professionals and more
2. You can participate in a choice of 3 great pre-conference workshops on March 4th

MECA Conference March 5-6, 2009

For full brochure and to register, visit www.mnerosion.org or call the MECA office at 763.478.3267.

And the number 1 reason to attend the MECA conference:

Networking with your peers!

Summer Tour to Address Wetland Drainage

by Cheryl Heard

The Minnesota SWCS Chapter plans to hold this year's annual summer tour in conjunction with The Wildlife Society. The tentative date will be a Friday in August at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls, MN. Topics will possibly include wetland drainage and its effects on wildlife, prairie grasses, and/or biomass. Plan to be outside. A meal will be provided.

Don't Miss Out on News from SWCS Headquarters

You may not be receiving important information from SWCS headquarters because your junk mail/spam folder is catching mail that comes from memberservices@swcs.org. **Please add memberservices@swcs.org to your email address book or trusted contact list.** Headquarters sends several important things to members through our data base, but they do not receive a bounce back if an email ends up in the spam folder. This problem seems to be more prevalent for members who are employed at the USDA agencies.

Wanted: Delegate to Represent Minnesota at the SWCS Annual Meeting

If you plan to attend the SWCS Annual Meeting in Dearborn, consider representing the Minnesota Chapter at the House of Delegates meeting Sunday, July 12th 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Only officially designated delegates can vote on resolutions brought forward by the delegates.

By April 28th Minnesota must submit to Headquarters names of delegates and proposed resolutions for consideration at the House of Delegates session.

If you are willing to serve as a Delegate from Minnesota or you have a resolution to propose to the House of Delegates, contact Ann Lewandowski (lewandowski.ann@gmail.com) by April 10th.

Congratulations and Thank You to Our New Chapter Officers

Thank you to all members who submitted ballots in last fall's Chapter elections. The votes are counted and the winners are:

President: **Russell Kleinschmidt**

Secretary: **Mary Jane Reetz**

Karst and Driftless Area representative:
Dave Copeland

Red River of the North representative:
Jeff Hellermann

Many thanks to all four of you for your commitment to our organization. Here are biographies of our new officers.

Russell Kleinschmidt is the District Conservationist in Wadena, MN for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Since 2004, he has also worked for NRCS in Crookston, Duluth, and Marshall. In his current role, Russell promotes natural resource conservation through Farm Bill programs; works with producers on agricultural, forest, wildlife, and grazing lands; and collaborates with many partners on conservation projects. These duties combine nicely with his personal background growing up on a small family dairy farm near Long Prairie, and his degree in natural resources and wildlife management. Russell's family includes his wife, Jessica and 5-month old son, Hunter. When not working, Russell enjoys helping out on the family farm, gardening, hunting, shooting sports, skiing, hiking, biking, and many other outdoor activities. He and his wife hope to buy a small farm to begin rotationally grazing beef cattle, growing a small market garden, and to expand their farming and conservation interests. Russell makes natural resource and energy conservation a part of his daily lifestyle, and has an interest in many emerging issues such as renewable energy and bio-fuels, local foods movement, and invasive species management. As President, Russell plans to continue to promote SWCS and conservation, but also hopes to expand current projects and focus on emerging issues relating to natural resource and energy conservation.

Jeff Hellermann was raised on a dairy farm in Stearns County (near Melrose). He graduated from high school in Melrose and earned a BS degree from the University of Minnesota Crookston. His 18 years of work experience have been with the Stearns SWCD and Becker SWCD as district technician, Waite Park and Crookston field offices as civil engineering technician, Willmar field office as soil conservationist, Olivia field office as District Conservationist, and since 2004 as the District Conservationist for Stevens County. Jeff currently resides in rural Pope County with his wife Stacy and daughter Emma. He enjoys hunting and fishing.

Mary Jane Reetz has been a member as long as she has worked for the NRCS. She has been more active in the SWCS the past 10 years than before and is happy to devote more time to the job of serving as an officer.

Mary Jane believes that the SWCS is a vital organization, focusing on both the soil AND the plant communities. It provides a professional as well as a social link to each other. After attending Leadership Training at one of the International Conventions and learning how active some other chapters are, Mary Jane decided she would like the Minnesota Chapter to be that active, such as by doing more in the way of educational seminars and tours. She notes that membership growth would allow us to do more.



Russell Kleinschmidt, President-Elect, will begin his term as President in 2010.

Minutes from January Executive Meeting

The Minnesota SWCS executive meeting teleconference was held January 29, 2009.

Members Present: Mike Appel, Secretary; Mary Jane Reetz, Secretary- elect; Shannon Carpenter, President; Russell Kleinschmidt, Pres.- elect; Jeff Hellermann, Red River Representative.

The teleconference of the SWCS Executive Committee was called to order by Pres. Shannon. Agenda was reviewed with no additions. Accepted as provided.

Secretary's Report: Mike provided the report from the meeting conducted at the Invasive Species Conference in Duluth on October 27, 2008. Secretary's Report was approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Sid was unable to provide a report at this time.

Old Business

Shannon reported that the Invasive Species Conference was a success. There is still some issues regarding budget and final numbers. Over 440 attended the conference. Shannon met with the planning board on January 28th and it was decided that SWCS will continue as fiscal agent. The next conference will be planned for 2010.

Summer Tour: Cheryl was unable to make teleconference but supplied some information via e-mail. Thinking of having summer tour in Fergus Falls at the USFWS Learning Center. A number of possible dates were provided but after discussion it was thought that a date later in July or early August may work better with native grasses and flowers. Will contact Cheryl about dates.

New Business

Annual Training and Business meeting: A couple of dates were proposed for the Annual Training and Business meeting- April 3 and 17th. Shannon thought we would see about Cabella's in Rodgers again as it was a good location last year. She will contact regarding dates. Subject of training was discussed. The new farm bill with its various titles would be good. Shannon will contact Tim and Paul at NRCS office for help. State Conservation programs were also discussed. State Legacy Funds and implementation were also mentioned. All committee members will contact people regarding BWSR, MASWCD, state

legislators, bio-fuel industry, wind energy etc. Will report back in two weeks when next teleconference is scheduled.

Business meeting will follow training. Items to cover are awards, student scholarships, student representation on board, stipends to attend SWCS Annual Convention in Michigan.

Will need to get items put together for next newsletter.

Scholarships: Advertising of scholarships will need to be done with a possible award at the summer tour. A motion was made by Jeff to provide all student registration for the training and business meeting. This would include Dan Svedarsky and Terry Cooper. Seconded by Russ; motion carried.

Web Site Fee: A motion was made to pay Dennis Fuchs \$500 for web site upkeep. An additional \$500 will come from the Minnesota Invasive Species Conference Fund. Jeff made motion and Mary Jane seconded; motion carried.

Discussion regarding 2010 web site will be covered at next teleconference.

Election: Russell, Mary Jane, Jeff, and Dave all were elected and will be sworn in at the annual meeting.

The next teleconference will be in 2-3 weeks to flesh out the Annual Training and Summer Tour. Motion to adjourn by Russell and Jeff.

Minutes from February Executive Meeting

The Minnesota SWCS executive meeting teleconference was held February 9, 2009.

Members Present: Mike Appel, Secretary; Mary Jane Reetz, Secretary- elect; Shannon Carpenter, President; Russell Kleinschmidt, Pres.- elect; Sid Cornelius, Treasurer; Cheryl Heard, Minn. River Basin Rep.; Dave Copeland, Karst Area Rep.

The teleconference of the SWCS Executive Committee was called to order by Pres. Shannon. Agenda was reviewed with addition of Newsletter reimbursement. Dave C made motion to accept change in agenda, seconded by Sid motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Mike provided the Executive committee report from January 29th. Sec. Report was approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Sid reported that we have \$3,707 in the general checking account and \$29,882 in the Headwaters of Conservation account. A separate account is held for the Invasive Species Conference of which the Minnesota SWCS provided over \$7,000 in seed money. A motion by Mike, seconded by Dave to accept the Treasurer's report as given. Motion carried.

Old Business

Annual Training Conference: Shannon reported that work on the Training Conference is progressing. A date has been secured for Friday April 3rd at Cabella's in Rodgers from 8-5PM. She sent an e-mail with room rental rates and food options. Russ had contacted Bob Schafer of Staples Voc. Tech. He is available. Bob is working with a next-gen grant for various bio-fuels.

Russ is also talking to the BWSR concerning the Clean Water Legacy Amendment. He will let committee know if they will provide a speaker and who that might be.

Shannon will contact NRCS for speakers. She will also contact Bill Becker who is Chair of the Lessard Council staff regarding a possible speaker.

Jeff Hellermann had contacted Michael Reese from U of MN Morris who is doing research on wind and ammonia renewable energy systems. Further contact will be made.

Mary Jane mentioned a Cecil Massie who is working on converting wood to energy.

All of the energy speakers would possibly work as a panel discussion.

Student Scholarships: Shannon mentioned that we will have a student scholarship available at the business meeting.

New Business

Annual Conference Title: Discussion was held on what to name our annual conference. Dave suggested "New Horizons for Conservation and Energy". A consensus was achieved.

Annual Conference Details: The Annual conference registration needs to be in the next newsletter. Discussion for charges of conference training was decided that \$25 be charged for members, \$30 for non-members, free for students and their supervisors, and \$35 for late registration. A March 20th deadline. Mike will send the minutes via e-mail and he will put together a possible agenda based on last year's

meeting.

Annual Business Meeting: The Annual Business meeting will be held immediately after the training session and will address the following: Finish the chapter goals as discussed at the Invasive Species Conference; adding a student rep. to the board; Summer tour discussion.

Another teleconference will be held in order to make some specific recommendations regarding chapter goals and actions to be used for chapter funds. This will be done before the business meeting.

Summer Tour: Cheryl will work with Wildlife Society to see if an August date will work. Need a date so we can get notice in the next newsletter. Subject of summer meeting will be soils and biomass, along with wildlife needs of the WL society.

A bill for the new website was paid by Dennis Fuchs. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Dave to pay Dennis \$118 for the new website provider.

Ann Lewandowski requested the chapter to pay for the newsletter for 2008. The business plan has \$500 budgeted for the newsletter. \$300 for 4 set-ups and labor and \$200 for 4 mailings postage and copying. Ann will need to submit a bill for the newsletter. Cheryl made motion to pay for the newsletter unless submitted bills are larger than budgeted, second by Mary Jane. Motion carried.

There being no more business, Shannon adjourned the teleconference.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Appel, Secretary.

Annual Meeting and Training Conference to Address Energy and Biomass Issues

The Minnesota Chapter SWCS Annual Training Conference and Business Meeting will be on April 3, 2009 in Rogers, Minnesota. This is a chance to network with other conservationists from around the state and to discuss the latest information about energy and biomass. For more information, see the agenda and registration form attached to this newsletter or at www.minnesotaswcs.org.

Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Society Calendar of Events

March 5-6, 2009	Minnesota Erosion Control Association Conference
April 3, 2009	Minnesota Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting and Training Conference
July 11-15, 2009	National SWCS Annual Meeting, Dearborn MI

MN SWCS Chapter President
15167 95th Street
Foreston, MN 56330



New Horizon's for Conservation and Energy

Agenda

Minnesota Chapter of SWCS Annual Training Conference

Cabela's; Rogers, MN

Friday, April 3, 2009, Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

- 8:30 – 9:30 AM Registration (Coffee & Roll)
- 9:30 AM **Welcome** – *Shannon Carpenter, SWCS President*
- 9:45 AM Overview of training and information
- 10:00 AM **Federal Conservation Programs – 2008 Farm Bill up-date**
*From Tim Koehler, USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service
Assistant State Conservationist, St. Paul, MN*
- 10:45 AM **State Conservation Programs – Clean Water Legacy Grant up-date**
*From MN Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR) Representative
(Invited)*
- 11:15 AM **New State Conservation Legislation**
By Bill Becker, (Invited)
- 11:45 AM Lunch – Sandwich Bar
MN SWCS Chapter Awards Presentation
- 12:30 PM **Energy and Biomass**
Bob Schafer, Staples. “Next-Generation Grant on Bio-Fuels” (Invited)
*Michael Reese, Director-Renewable Energy, U of MN West Central Research and
Outreach Center. “Community-Scale Renewable Energy Systems:
Research and Demonstrations”*
Cecil Massie. “Wood to Energy” (Invited)
- 2:15 PM Training Conference Wrap- up
- 2:30 PM MN SWCS Chapter Business meeting
- 3:30 PM Adjourn



New Horizon's for Conservation and Energy

Registration

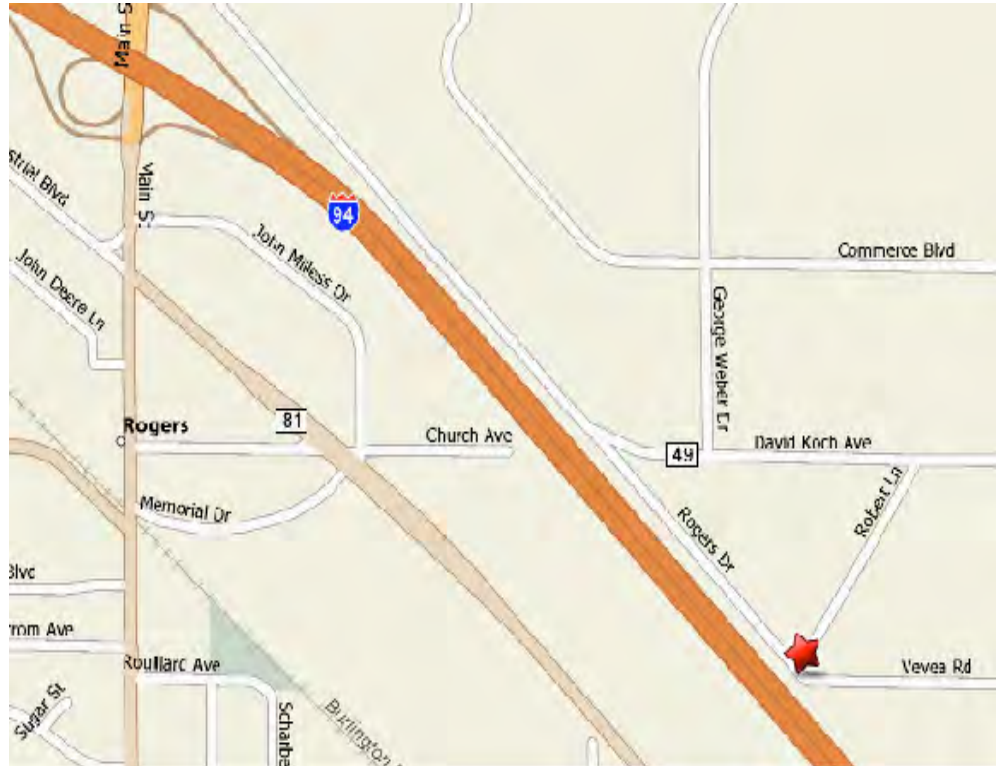
Minnesota Chapter of SWCS Annual Training Conference
Cabela's in Rogers, MN
Friday, April 3, 2009, Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Registration Information:

- Early registration deadline: Friday March 20, 2009
- Late registration by mail or at the event will be accepted!

Annual Training and Conference Site Information:

- Registration is from 8:30 – 9:30 am
- Cabela's
20200 Rogers Drive
Rogers, MN 55374
Phone: 763-493-8600



Name: _____

Profession: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Send registration information and payment to:

Sidney Cornelius
MN SWCS Chapter
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101

Early registration due by Fri. March 20th:

- \$25.00 – Member
- \$30.00 – Non-member

Registration received after Mar 20th or at the event:

- \$35.00 – Member or Non-member

Payment enclosed:

- Cash
- Check