

NSCSS Board of Directors
Teleconference Minutes
1-13-05 -- 9:30 a.m.

In attendance: Pierre Bordenave, Director at Large (05); Tom Flack, Director at Large (06); Kari Sever, South Central Regional Director (06); Rick Joslyn, Director at Large (07); Phil Scoles, Northwest Regional Director (06); Larry Baldwin, Director at Large (07); Bob Kendall, Director at Large (06); Laurel Mueller, Northeast Regional Director (06); Roy Shlemon, Southwest Regional Director (05); Phil Small, Secretary (06); and Mary Reed, Executive Secretary.

Absent: Sid Davis, Director at Large (05); Scott Franz, Southeast Regional Director (05); Dave Ralston, North Central Regional Director (05).

- I. Meeting was called to order by Pierre Bordenave at 9:34 a.m. Note: Chair Sid Davis was unable to attend for family medical reasons.
- II. Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Executive Secretary Mary Reed, and were accepted as read. MSC (Shlemon/Flack)

III. **Executive Committee Reports.**

Annual Meeting Report. Phil Scoles reported that arrangements were all finalized for the 2005 Annual Meeting in Hawaii. People from NRCS will be helping lead the tour through Volcano National Park. Geologists will be going along on various other days. A total of 40 people are signed up to attend the field tours. 28 people are registered for Kauai portion of the meeting. Phil will be following up with the various registrants. A reception is planned, and also a banquet. It will be an exciting and memorable trip. Bob Kendall inquired about organized opportunities for spouses. Discussion.

Presidents Report. Tom Flack reported that he would be addressing several issues under the new business portion of the agenda. He also expressed his willingness to assist with any issues at the meeting in Hawaii that might be caused by the absence of the Executive Secretary. Discussion.

Past-presidents Report. Bob Kendall's recent primary responsibility had been the compilation of the slate of candidates; he reported that the ballot has been distributed.

Treasurer's Report. Pierre Bordenave reported that a final report for 2005 and proposed budget for 2005 would be presented at the annual meeting.

Preliminary 2004 Report

Expenditures: \$22,293 (may have slight adjustment to accruals)

Income: \$46995.50

He noted that the much of the Income reflected on the current document (\$18,807) was due to the Annual Meeting income, and many expenses for this would be paid in the next several days.

Pierre recommended that the pro-rating of dues discussion should be continued at the next meeting. He suggested that we not pro-rate dues on a quarterly basis, and suggested that we take a 50% discount at mid-year only. Discussion. This is part of the Bylaws, and a motion will have to be made on this, then taken to the annual meeting, reviewed by the Bylaws committee. A motion was made for a proposed change to the prorating of annual dues (Bylaws Article V.B.3.) to a semi-annual basis, and that Pierre would present this proposal to at the annual meeting. MS (Shlemon/Scoles) Discussion. Not carried. Further discussion on this topic is planned at the Annual Business Meeting.

Secretary's Report. As the moderator for the Yahoo group discussion, Secretary Phil Small reported that a number of people who have joined that discussion forum have been from an international audience. Pierre asked Phil to present his website update report at the Annual meeting.

- IV. *Chapter Reports.* Pacific Northwest – this chapter disbanded several years ago. Bob Kendall reported that he expected that the Georgia chapter would likely disband shortly. No other Chapter reports were offered.

Old Business

- V. *SSSA-CPSS Certification Update.* SSSA will continue to use the name ARCPACS as a formality as it is incorporated under a number state requirements. Bob Kendall reported that not much else had changed in terms of the administration of the organization.
- VI. *SSSA Report.* Tom Flack reported that SSSA is coming up with a strategic plan for the next 5 years. They are trying to offer more services. They now have some standardized formats/language for states that want to pursue state licensing. They will help out states who want to pursue this.
- VII. *Smithsonian Display.* Is there any way NSCSS could participate other than being a direct sponsor (which costs \$25,000)? Laurel Mueller reported that they are still looking to NSCSS for the development of a display entitled "Careers in Soils." 2006 is still the goal. Pierre suggested that NSCSS make this a priority for 2005.

- VIII. *E+O Insurance.* The discussion was continued regarding consideration if E+O Insurance coverage should be made available for RPSS members. This discussion will be continued informally at the annual meeting.
- IX. *501(c)3 Discussion.* Pierre Bordenave reported that he had discussed this with an attorney, and as Roy Shlemon had reported at an earlier meeting: if NSCSS becomes a 501(c)3 non-profit entity, then we will not be able to lobby. NSCSS can form a separate entity that is a 501(c)3 with the ability to accept tax exempt contributions while keeping NSCSS separate entity with the ability to lobby if needed. Phil Scoles reported that there are businesses that serve as a non-profit umbrella organization through which funds can be channeled (for a small fee) that we could contract with to administer the NSCSS scholarship funds.
- X. *Election Update.* Pierre reported that the election results will be validated and announced at the Annual Business Meeting in Hawaii.

New Business.

- XI. Pierre Bordenave commended Tom Flack for his efforts on the “Proposed Actions and Comments” (see attached) and recommended that these items be implemented by the end of 2005.
- XII. It was motioned that this teleconference (1-13-05) satisfy the first Board of Directors meeting at the Annual Meeting as required by the Bylaws MSC (Mueller/Sever)

Open Forum.

- XIII. *2005 Scholarships.* Laurel Mueller asked what kinds of scholarship opportunities could be offered for the Hawaii Annual Meeting. Discussion. Food functions, and Hawaii tour bus could be offered.
- XIV. *Board of Examiners.* Phil Scoles was appointed to serve for 3 years to the Board of Examiners. MSC (Flack/Kendall)
- XV. Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. MSC (Mueller/Scoles)