

NSCSS Board Of Directors
Teleconference Minutes
August 3, 2000 12:00 p.m. Eastern

- I. The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. (Eastern)
 - A. Roll Call.
 - 1. Present: Donn Smith, Barry Dutton, Larry Huber, Scott Livingstone, Bob Kendall, Jim Hadlock.
 - 2. Absent: Sid Davis, Richard Joslyn, Ron McNeil, Arville Touchet, Clayton Heffter, Tom Flack.
 - 2. Additionally, Cliff Landers and Philip Small (members of the Executive Committee), David Lietzke (Board of Examiners), and Mary Reed (Executive Secretary) participated.
 - B. The previous meeting's minutes were approved as written. All in favor, none opposed.

- II. Board of Examiner's Report.
 - A. D. Lietzke reported that there had been very little activity this year on the Board of Examiners. No applications were in process at present.
 - B. D. Lietzke recommended that an agenda item pertaining to the NSCSS Registry and be included at the Minneapolis meeting. Extensive discussion. *C. Landers will add item to agenda. D. Lietzke, C. Landers and P. Brandt will conference in advance of the Minnesota meeting to determine the recommendations to be brought before the NSCSS membership.*

- III. President's Report.
 - A. P. Brandt reported that the current Treasurer's Report indicates that NSCSS is now in "the black."
 - B. Membership Report.
 - 1. M. Reed reported that retention for 2000 was at 85%. Discussion.
 - a. M. Reed will give names to Regional Directors who will follow-up.
 - 2. M. Reed reported that NSCSS has 22 new members for 2000 (to date).
 - C. Trench Collapse. D. Smith reported that the Trench Collapse report had recently been presented to H. Smith of NRCS. He reported that the NRCS was interested in the publication, but at present NSCSS is uncertain whether it would be distributed at no charge, or for a fee.
 - D. MOU NSCSS/NRCS Update. C. Landers reported on the items which had been included in the new MOU discussion regarding mapping criteria, training opportunities,

non-competition components. He reported that the MOU has not yet been signed. Further discussion.

- E. High Intensity Soil Suvery. D. Smith reported that M. McClain had been working recently on developing standards with Steve Huntley from New England.
- F. 2000-2001 Proposed Executive Committee Goals. C. Landers reported that he had the following goals for NSCSS during 2000-2001:
 - 1. Review membership categories, perhaps adjusting to allow for more members (e.g. university members, etc.)
 - 2. Recommended that as NSCSS changes that the Board and Executive Committee sit down and look at specific work loads/projects of the organization, and how to accomplish work. He reported he is planning on suggesting again that NSCSS hire an executive director.
 - 3. He reported that he will go through standing committees and evaluate, and then recommend additional committees. He discussed the possibility of having a "watch-dog" committee whose responsibility would be to keep tabs on legislation throughout the states.
 - 4. He reported that he wants to get more new people involved in the leadership of NSCSS.
- G. Treasurer's Report. D. Smith asked if there were any comments or discussion on the report submitted the Treasurer. P. Bordenave's intent to place \$5,000 in each of three CD accounts at 60, 90, 120 days was reviewed. The Board approved of the Treasurer's report and recommendations. (See Attached.)
 - 1. P. Small recommended that the Executive Committee create a policy regarding unauthorized expenditures. (A \$200 limit was discussed.)
- H H. Secretary's Report.
 - 1. Web site.
 - a. P. Small reported an increased activity in visits. He reported that the web site had about 130-150 per day in 1999. This year's visits were at 160-187 per day through July.
 - 2. Correspondence.
 - a. P. Small reported that he had e-mailed a copy of the proposed changes to the NSCSS Bylaws via e-mail on June 8, 2000.
 - 3. P. Small reported that he had e-mailed a proposal to change the web site to a server which would give NSCSS the ability to take VISA/MC transactions. This proposal was sent to the Executive Committee and did not receive any negative

response from them. He reported that the cost to NSCSS would be off-set by the percentage of the dues and fees the vendor would receive: 25% of member dues processed through bank card, 15% of renewing member dues processed through bank card and 10% of seminars processed through bank card. Discussion regarding potential NSCSS document sales via the Internet. The cost to NSCSS would be an initial \$1200 to set up the site, and \$100 per month maintenance in addition to the above-mentioned percentages.

- a. C. Landers motioned to approve the proposal which was distributed to the Executive Committee on June 8, 2000, S. Livingstone seconded; all in favor, none opposed.

4. E-Group Report.

- a. P. Small reported that NSCSS had 58 members who were on the E-group list. He reported that there had been an activity level of 34 messages in May, 5 June, and 4 in July. (Activity is down.) He expected activity to pick up prior to the annual meeting.

(Note: L. Huber signed off)

5. Newsletter. Issue is at printers and will be going in mail next week. Discussion. D. Smith reminded the Board that each member needed to send in an article for each issue of the newsletter.

IV. Old Business

- A. Bylaws Amendment. P. Small reviewed the activity regarding the Bylaw Amendment tabled at the last Board meeting. It was decided that since there was not a simple majority of the Board present, the amendment would be further tabled until the next meeting at Minneapolis. P. Small reminded the Board that the Bylaws committee currently consisted of M. McClain, D. Smith, P. Brandt, and reminded those present that the President needs to appoint 2 new members so that there will be a total of five members on the ByLaws committee.
- B. Chapter Reports. B. Kendall reported that there was a newly-formed Soil Science Society of Georgia which has consulting division, about half the members are NSCSS, and half are GPSS. B. Kendall reported he is VP of Consulting Division. He reported they are trying to get "watchdog activity" organized, so that they don't get "blindsided" again. They are trying to get Georgia's Environmental Health Department to approve soil scientists' role in wastewater treatment. He reported that he believed that they would continue with the Georgia Chapter of NSCSS, and

reported that the NSCSS was very helpful in Georgia soil scientists' recent efforts to combat legislative rider which negatively affected soil scientists.

(Note: B. Kendall signs off.)

V. New Business.

A. 2000 Annual Meeting.

1. C. Landers reported that P. Bordenave is about to select a meeting place, which will probably be Embassy Suites, because NSCSS can have rooms and meeting at same place. The difficulty will be the fact that Embassy Suites is a little more expensive. C. Landers will be sending out SSSA packets along with the NSCSS registration packet and a cover letter. The agenda is pretty well organized, but needs a few speakers.

C. Membership Drive.

1. D. Smith asked the Board of Directors if they were interested in participating in a membership drive. S. Livingstone, B. Dutton and J. Hadlock indicated they were willing to participate. S. Livingstone indicated his willingness to contact the other regional directors, and coordinate their efforts. B Dutton will take up slack for whoever else can't participate elsewhere.

VI. Open Forum.

- A. P. Small suggested that the Board plan phone drive to boost attendance at the annual meeting. He recommended that everyone within driving distance of meeting be contacted. Discussion.

VII. The teleconference was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. (Eastern)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Reed,
NSCSS Executive Secretary