

NSCSS -- Salt Lake City  
Annual Business Meeting  
November 2, 1999 -- 1:30 p.m.

- I. Meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by President Barry Dutton. He noted that NSCSS has:
  - A. Made tremendous leaps forward in recognition with other societies.
  - B. More new members than ever before.
  - C. Received more requests for assistance than ever before from other societies and other agencies.
  - D. Faced recent budget challenges, but the society's recognition and strength is better than ever before.
  
- II. Minutes were reviewed by Phil Small. (M/S/C - B. Kendall/J. Bauder)
  
- III. Special Guest. D. Smith introduced Dr. Gary Peterson, and thanked him for his efforts to make NSCSS' participation at the SLC meeting work better. G. Peterson invited us to continue working with SSSA. Discussion.
  - A. T. Cook asked question regarding pitfalls of potentially setting up a new division of Consulting Soil Scientists within the SSSA. Peterson responded that there were several organizations which would like to set u new divisions, and ASA is wrestling with how to structure these new divisions/organizations. He recommended talking to the S-5 division if NSCSS would like to have a special symposia at Minneapolis for Consultants.
  - B. G. Peterson announced that Don Sparks would serve as new SSSA President, and NSCSS was encouraged to work with him.
  - C. G. Peterson invited e-mail correspondence (GWP2@psu.edu)
  
- IV. Treasurer's Report. D. Owens reported that the 1999 adopted budget was \$25,700, Expenditures through 10/15/99 were \$24,777. Budget remainder was \$922.22. The checkbook balance as of 10/15/99 was 4278.08, with \$2,132.50 designated as scholarship funds. Acceptance of treasurer's report. (M/S/C - M. Blevins/ P. Bordenave)
  - A. Discussion. D. Owens stated that with his proposed budget for 2000 that he was anticipating revenues of \$21,800, and hoping for 60 new members. He anticipated that NSCSS would have a proposed budget of \$19,800 for 2000.
  - B. B. Dutton thanked Don Owens for his many years of service to NSCSS as treasurer.

- V. Review 1999 Goals.
- A. Create new chapters: created Virginia chapter.
  - B. Initiate 200 new members, accepted 50.
  - C. Retain 100% of members, retained 90%.
  - D. Save one child's life, -- a tremendous effort was made by Earth Collapse safety committee.
  - E. Develop and distribute a model ordinance for Nutrient Management, still in process.
  - F. Develop Land Development ordinance, still in process.
  - G. Take political stands on legislation in earth science. B. Dutton noted that a candidate was running for governor in Montana who was a soil scientist.
  - H. Provide testimony in local and state covenant, several members actively provide testimony.
  - I. Get students involved. J. Hadlock made a strong effort to get students involved.
  - J. Distribute a great newsletter. C. Jackson and others worked to make this happen.
  - K. Expanding the NSCSS mailing list to include twelve state soil scientist associations, accomplished.
  - L. Promote opportunities for members in soil survey. B. Dutton noted that the "floodgates have been opened."
  - M. Work with the Corps of Engineers to develop hydric soil review process, still in process.
  - N. Registry examinations, a few had been administered. B. Dutton mentioned that ARCPACS had extended offer to NSCSS to have us utilize their registration process.
- VI. Committee Reports.
- A. Business & Marketing. P. Bordenave reported that he has focused on having business seminar to build upon from year to year. His main focus is "business" and that NSCSS is an organization of soil scientists who focus on business. Further discussion on ASA symposia possibilities.
  - B. Earth Collapse Committee: J. Bauder called for photographs of appropriate materials. He mentioned that a report had been published. He reported that the committee was going to try to work with OSHA in developing criteria for recognizing dangerous soils.
  - C. Hydric Soils. J. Hadlock reported that he had been in contact with SWS's Janet Keough regarding a hydric soil manual published by SWS, and that they want us to assist with the costs of a new release of the manual. NSCSS would get recognition within the publication in return for assistance with the printing costs.

- D. Model Soil Ordinance. C. Jackson reported on behalf of D. Hatch who was working on getting material from VAPPS and hoped to receive permission to publish this material on NSCSS web site.
  - E. Precision Agriculture. R. McNeil reported that the committee wished to come up with a brief “how to” publication that would be useful and serve as a fact sheet for folks. They want to provide a position paper to SSSA on their Precision Agriculture work.
  - F. Private Sector Soil Survey. C. Landers reports that they will look at MOU with NCSS -- and review it for recommendations with changes for improvement and implementation. They want to make it a living document, and want to see it implemented to its fullest extent. D. Smith mentions that we need to address the means of “procurement.” Discussion.
  - G. Soils & Archeology. L. Mueller reported that the committee would be inactive this year unless there were members who were interested in playing an active role.
  - H. Web Page committee. P. Small reported that the web site was receiving an average of 158 visits per day. He regularly monitored tracking data which showed typical key search words, and which pages are most popular, etc.
  - I. Newsletter Committee: Four issue of newsletter were published last year, and they now receive advertising. Feedback is appreciated.
  - J. Nominating Committee: Reported that a letter of resignation had been received from the Treasurer, and that P. Bordenave would serve as interim treasurer. P. Brandt was President-elect. M. McClain wanted it recorded in the minutes that we are in violation with the Bylaws because we are not seating a new slate of candidates in time for the meeting. B. Dutton explained the scheduling and election difficulties encountered with a Fall meeting, and apologized.
- VII. Old Business.
- A. McNeil commended NSCSS for beginning V. Doukachev Award, and that the award had been noticed throughout the soil science community.
- VIII. New Business.
- A. Ballots will be mailed out shortly and new officers will be elected and installed soon.
  - B. Goals for 1999-2000 were reviewed.
  - C. D. Lietzke reported that he understands that there is going to be a carbon sequestration sampling needed that would provide much opportunity to obtain soil samples. D. Lietzke indicated he would be willing to attend appropriate meetings to represent NSCSS.

Discussion.

- D. Meeting location for 2000 Meeting. B. Dutton discussed NSCSS's historical procedure for selecting a location. He reported that his feedback at the time was that NSCSS should try another meeting with SSSA, and have before or after the SSSA activities so that members can take advantage of the SSSA offerings. He recommended that we meet in Minneapolis. Discussion. M. McClain recommended weekend before SSSA activities. T. Cook commented about SSSA's pre-meeting tours conflict. Discussion on name badges.
- E. Executive Director Position.
1. M. McClain stated that he didn't think NSCSS needed an Executive Director, didn't think NSCSS could afford an Executive Director. He stated he would like to have an audit on the performance of the Executive Director, and would like to move that NSCSS abolish the position of an Executive Director. T. Cook seconded. Discussion.
    - a. B. Dutton stated that while he thought NSCSS needed an Executive Director, NSCSS really couldn't afford to support the position.
    - b. D. Smith provided some history on the creation of the position, and the current cost status of the position.
    - c. P. Smith commented that many members had not been included in the decision to employ an Executive Director, and they had indicated their concern about NSCSS hiring an Executive Director before consulting the entire membership.
    - d. C. Smith commented that he applied for the position when he saw it advertised in "Soil Profiles." He related how he had become an Affiliate Member while attending the Savannah meeting, working as a professional regulator in Virginia. He reported he was hired for a small amount of money, and then, when he saw that NSCSS was in financial difficulties, he suggested creative ways to come up with his income. He reported that the agreement at the time of the meeting was: 50% of new member income, and 30% of advertisements. He commented that these funds were revenue neutral, and that he would like to continue upon this basis.
  2. B. Dutton reviewed that a motion, with a second was on the floor. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was opposed by the majority in attendance.
  3. B. Dutton reported that the Executive Director position would be discussed further at the next Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

IX. Open Forum.

- A. D. Leitzke indicated he would like to address NSCSS's future relationship with ASA. He suggested that if ASA were to develop three different sectors that were equal (i.e. private, academic, and public) we might not “get swallowed up” within ASA’s hugeness.
- B. Ian Kreig introduced himself, he brought greetings from the American Society of Agricultural Consultants (ASAC). This society began building bridges with other societies several years ago and currently have 350-400 members. Farm managers had a large membership, but they were financially pinched, and so they now share an executive staff and office. They now have joint conventions every year, and continue to work well together. Registration is cooperative (i.e. farm managers no longer certify consultants, but forward on consultants to ASAC, etc.) They have a liaison with the NICC, who is considering a joint convention with ASAC. They would also like to have a joint convention with ARCPACS. He appreciated the opportunity to tell us about his Society and to learn a little about our society.

X. Closing Remarks.

- A. B. Dutton encouraged each NSCSS member to devote a little more time to promote NSCSS’s agenda. He reported he looked forward to a bigger recognition at next year’s meeting, and felt that NSCSS has, despite several challenges, great potential for the future.
- B. Motion to adjourn. (M/S/C) Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Reed

NSCSS Executive Secretary