

NSCSS Board of Director's Minutes

Saturday, November 4, 2000

Minneapolis, Minnesota

- I. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Donn Smith.
 - a. Present: Donn Smith, Ron McNeil, Barry Dutton, Richard Joslyn, Bob Kendall, and James Hadlock.
Absent: Sid Davis, Larry Huber, Scott Livingstone, Arville Touchet, Clayton Heffter.

- II. Because a simple majority was not in attendance, the meeting's agenda was abandoned, and D. Smith directed the focus of those present towards the potential of realigning of NSCSS's direction, efforts and goals. The following are the topics discussed:
 - ◆ Meeting Plans. The consensus was that NSCSS meet by itself for the next meeting, rather than in conjunction with another society.

 - ◆ D. Smith's "Aligned Organizational Plans"
 - 1) Plan a good meeting, location: Southwest
 - 2) Effective membership committee/member drive/open up criteria for membership so we can get more members
 - 3) Expand newsletters/enhanced newsletter committee
 - 4) Expand legislative affairs committee
 - 5) Appoint individual(s) to facilitate communication via the Internet/Web Site Development
 - 6) Align Bylaws so they reflect what is happening with NSCSS

 - ◆ Discussion Resulting from above topics:

 - ◆ Internet/Web Site. Credit card acceptance and web site maintenance would cost \$2500 (start-up), plus \$250 per month, plus a percentage of all credit card transactions. P. Small is not able to maintain the web site on an ongoing basis. He estimates that we may be able to keep the internet updated /current for about \$2000-\$3000/year. He proposed that we plan on updating it quarterly. The internet committee needs to have 3 people serving.

 - ◆ Member Definition/Member Drive. A change in the Bylaws was proposed which would serve to open up membership to more individuals. The process to change the Bylaws was reviewed by P. Small. C. Landers proposed that NSCSS member definition be modified to include non-consultants. It was suggested that individuals could become members if they paid their dues, but that the Officers and Board be restricted to consulting soil scientists. It was noted that the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee needed to be fully staffed. The current members of this committee are: Donn Smith, Mark McClain and Paul Brandt, there should be five on the committee. D. Smith requested that he be taken off of this committee. He asked J. Hadlock and B. Dutton to serve on this committee. The membership committee needs to have 5 people serving.

 - ◆ Legislative Affairs. Knowing what is "happening" across the nation is of importance to NSCSS members, but would require an organized approach, and input and effort by many.
 - 1) Keep members informed of where opportunities exist on state and local levels (member services.)
 - 2) Need to know what's happening in order to "protect our turf." We need to have a vehicle in place where we know what's coming up via legislative channels, and be poised to take action and deal with issues as they arise.
 - 3) Need to promote our profession, and put consulting soil science into state statutes. Occasionally opportunities to do this have come and gone before we ever learn about it.

- 4) If we were able to get RPSS recognized in more states, then that would be another good reason for individuals to join NSCSS.
 - 5) A suggested plan for the Legislative Affairs committee: Chairman, plus six regional representatives who would create a network of "state observers." The goals would be 1) rapid response by NSCSS members to generate correspondence on issues of concern, and 2) establish lines of influence and communication to influential legislators, etc.
- ◆ Newsletter. This also will require energy from the members.
 - ◆ Great Meeting. This will require money in the budget, and energy from the members. The meeting needs to be profitable, and have topics that are of broad interest. P. Small reflected that the primary reason he attends meetings is the opportunity to network. Further discussion included educational benefits, social opportunities, and ways to possibly make more money for the individual businesses. P. Small reported that the best way to increase attendance was for folks to receive a personal invitation from a NSCSS member they knew. The important elements in getting people to a meeting: time of year, location, program. A meeting committee of about 5 members needs to be established, focusing on location, speakers, displays and vendors, and meeting budget.
 - ◆ Discussion Conclusions. C. Landers will try to find committee chairs, and fill committee slots within the next 24 hours.
 - ◆ Other Business.
 - 1) B. Dutton asked for suggestions for nominations for NSCSS leadership positions.
 - 2) J. Hadlock encouraged everyone to participate in regional meetings on Monday morning (11/6/00).
 - 3) The Board will probably approve \$2,400 to keep the web site updated.
 - 4) Treasurer's Update. P. Bordenave reported that he had kept NSCSS on a very tight budget this year, and that there was currently a small surplus. He reported that the Secretary would look into our corporate status for tax purposes this year.
 - 5) M. Reed reported that there had been an 83% retention rate for membership, and that there were 31 new members for 2000.
 - 6) B. Kendall reported that they had 10 members in the Georgia Chapter.