

NSCSS Annual Business Meeting  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
November 5, 2000

- I. Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by NSCSS President, Paul Brandt.
- II. There was a brief presentation on the dangers of trench collapse, presented by an excavations contractor from Vacaville, California.
- III. The minutes from the previous annual Business meeting were approved as read. (M/S/C Paulk/Landers)
- IV. Secretary's Report by Phil Small.
  - A. Web Site. The web site has been receiving an average of 160 visits per day. He reported that the Executive Committee had been exploring the option of sub-contracting out the website maintenance to a website company.
  - B. E-Groups. This listserve had been somewhat inactive over the past year, and improved methods of reaching more NSCSS members was being explored.
  - C. Insurance. The NSCSS has an insurance policy for the society.
  - D. Bylaws. P. Small reported that there were some changes being considered in the Bylaws, and that these changes would be brought before the Board of Directors for their vote in the next few months. Discussion.
- V. Treasurer's Report by Pierre Bordenave.
  - A. Budget. During the past year an extremely tight budget had been adopted, and a small surplus had been created. NSCSS net income to date (after expenses) was \$11,700. He estimated that by the end of the year some of that money would have been spent, with a remainder of \$7,000 - \$8,000 remaining in the bank. He expected that the total annual expenses through 2000 would total \$12,000 - \$15,000.
  - B. Bank. In the past NSCSS has banked with Regions Bank of Alabama, but they had cancelled all free services in 2000, and started levying some significant charges despite the fact that NSCSS has been a long term customer. A new NSCSS account will probably be established with a different nation-wide institution which provides the organization with more convenience of banking, and fewer fees.
  - C. The Treasurer's report was approved. (M/S/C – Jackson, McNeil)
- VI. Committee Reports.
  - A. Precision Agriculture/Nutrient Management reported that many of their members would be attending a number of meetings in the near future, but had nothing to report at the present.
  - B. No other committee reports were presented.
- VII. Old Business.
  - A. P. Brandt reported that he felt that 2000 would be a "caretaker year" and that now NSCSS had money in the bank, and activity could resume to accomplish the goals of NSCSS.
- VIII. New Business.
  - A. The gavel was passed from Paul Brandt to Cliff Landers as the new President of NSCSS.
  - B. President Cliff Landers highlighted some of his goals for NSCSS in the upcoming year:
    1. Increase Membership. Evaluate membership categories, consider Bylaw changes which will allow membership (with some voting rights) from individuals who

practice in other fields of soil science. Consider allowing only consulting soil scientists to serve on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Discussion. P. Scoles recommended that we check the Code of Ethics regarding conflict of interests issues.

2. Increase membership by 250 new members. Proposed establishing a membership committee consisting of a chair and four active members.
3. Effectively promote and protect our membership's interests and goals. Proposed discovering where opportunities existed on state and local levels, and communicating those opportunities to the members. Creating legislative affairs committee, consisting of a chair and six regional legislative committee members. Create and plan a network to communicate opportunities and legislative challenges for consulting soil scientists.
4. Membership Communications. A. Encouraged members to participate in e-group e-mail list service. B. Improve newsletter – make it more meaningful to members via an active newsletter committee consisting of a chairman and four newsletter committee members. Spending up to \$2,400 to improve and better maintain our web site.
5. Bylaws. Get back “on track” in adhering to our Bylaws, or to revise as needed so they correlate with the Society's operational needs. Because we've met with the ASA the last couple of years, we have gotten off-track with adherence to our voting and procedures according to our Bylaw.
6. Meeting Committee. Develop a meeting committee whose members would provide continuity in planning the annual meetings. Discussion. P. Scoles suggested that NSCSS “tag along” with other state society meetings and field tours, and then continue on for another day or two with our own meeting schedule. P. Bordenave suggested that anyone who is attending a meeting take along a stack of NSCSS brochures and our liability insurance application as great resources to increase NSCSS membership. T. Flack suggested that we set up a booth just to “have a presence” at some other meetings that are held annually.
7. Assignments. C. Landers requested volunteers to serve on the various committees he had proposed.
  - a. Meeting Committee: Co-chairs P. Bordenave & C. Jackson, plus 4 or more others (R. McNeil, P. Scoles, the President-elect + people from state in which meeting will be held.)
  - b. Internet Committee: P. Small, Chair, Wayne Thompson
  - c. Legislative Affairs: B. Dutton, Chair + 1 member from each region, B. Kendall will serve as southeast regional representative.
  - d. Membership Committee: T. Flack, Chair, Rick Josly, Jim Hadlock, Aaron DeJoia.
  - e. Trench Collapse Committee: Donn Smith, Chair, Tom MacFie

f. Bylaws Committee: Needs three more people.

IX. Open Forum.

- A. T. MacFie asked about the status of the RPSS program. He recommended that RPSS be considered as a prerequisite for insurance with the SN Potter Liability Insurance program.
- B. B. Dutton announced that he is searching for new Board of Directors members, and looking for creative ideas.
- C. D. Smith announced the silent auction items available to benefit the NSCSS Scholarship Fund.
- D. It was announced that Hubert Byrd had passed away, and that NSCSS consider some way to honor him. R. McNeil suggested that we have a memorium in his honor.
- E. It was moved that a line be added to the annual dues notice on a yearly basis to solicit funds for the Hubert Byrd student scholarship memorial award, and that the annual meeting committee be directed to hold a silent auction every year in benefit of the Hubert Byrd student scholarship. (M/S/C Dutton/McNeil)
- F. B. Dutton announced that a soil scientist might be elected governor of Montana the next day.
- G. The Executive Secretary was instructed to add an additional item onto the annual dues notice, a “web page link fee” to link the NSCSS web site to the subscribing individual’s personal web sites.
- H. P. Bordenave commended Donald and Barbara Owens for their history of fiscally conservative management of the society, and also for creating the Founder’s Fund, attributing to their efforts the fact that their contribution almost exactly matched the amount that NSCSS was int the black as of the date of the meeting.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m. (M/S/C Scoles/Bordenave)