

WCIECA Annual General Membership

Location: *Portland, OR at EC'15*

Date: *February 16, 2015*

Time: *5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.*



Meeting Draft Minutes

Minutes Prepared: *02/24/15*

Approval: *03/17/15*

1. Sign-In/Get Your Free Drink Ticket/Welcome/Introductions

The Vice-president Jeanne Duarte led the general meeting. Forty-eight people attended including six non-members. The following board members were in attendance (and introduced themselves); Jeanne Duarte, Chris Marr, Peter McRae, Jane Ledford, Jeff Endicott, Greg Naffz and Tyler Palmer. The attended continued with self-introductions.

2. Scholarship Announcement

Jeff Endicott (Education Chair and Mentor) gave a short brief overview of the previous scholarship winner Jeff Ortiz. The \$1000 scholarship for 2015/2016 was announced, applications are due by July 1, and all information is on the chapter's website.

3. A Nevada Ambassador is required to inform the board on what is needed for that state. During the mixer, Marvin Davis volunteered for this position.

4. Overview of 2014

Jeanne presented a brief summary of chapter activities over the past year including highlights of the new goals and the financial report (currently \$47,500 in assets compared to \$58,659 last year). Our income has gone down over the last year primarily due to a decrease in members (404 members currently, 636 in July 2008, 506 in January 2010, 440 members in January 2011) and lack of money making seminars. The members want us to have profitable events that offer a discount to members.

5. What Next/Upcoming Activities/Suggestions/Help Requested/Volunteers?

Jeanne relayed 2 activities are needed for 2015. Based on the survey taken after the drought symposium, the following were reported as the top rated topics.

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| - Non-irrigated Native Plant Establishment | - Drought in Soil and Its' Effects |
| - Post-fire Restoration | - Q & A with Regulatory Agencies |
| - Restoring Natural Hydrological Processes | - Drought Management and LID |
| - BMP Basics (How to Install, What to Use, When) | - Water Conservation & Regulations: Adjustment to Meet Drought Changes |
| - NRCS Practices for Water Conservation and Project Case Study | - Soil Amendments |
| - Bio-retention | - Groundwater Recharge |
| - CA Landscaping Design Changes | - Hydro-seeding |
| - Post-construction Techniques/Case Studies | |

The next locations for the Environmental Connections Conference were announced to be in San Antonio, TX in 2016 and 2017 will be in Atlanta. The Chapter was encouraged to put forth a tender for the 2018 conference as they tend to increase the host chapter's membership. Southern California – Long Beach was cited a popular former location. A country border location was suggested for a regional conference, to encourage international attendance.

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The members provided input on possible training topics:

- Post-Fire BMPs
- Coastal Areas – Sea Level Rise and the Impact
- Drought Workshop
- Agriculture
- Soil Amendments
- Climate Change
- Dust Control
- Re-vegetation Without Water
- Recycled Water Use
- Homeowner Education – Irrigation and Lawn Replacement

The discussion continued with a recommendation to bundle topics. For example a seminar on climate change could include many topics; while another seminar could encompass low impact design. These two overarching themes could capture most suggested topics.

Possible event dates to consider are June, September, Mid November or the first 2 weeks in December.

Locations for upcoming workshops were given as Northern California, Central California and Southern California and Arizona.

6. Closing Remarks

Jeanne Duarte closed the meeting with a huge thank you to the sponsors of the mixer. Three door prizes (a USB thumb drive with the Drought Symposium's presentations and two chapter hats) were given out. The conversations continued as the other chapters joined us and we merged into the mixer.