

Southeast Chapter IECA Conference Call Meeting

March 7, 2017

Present: Beth McLaughlin (Past President), Rich McLaughlin (Secretary), Ted Sherrod (NC), Jay Sprague (SC), Shelby Jett (KY), Chris Todd (TN), Kim Kline (administrator)

Beth reported that Melanie had a last minute meeting come up so Beth would lead the call.

Treasurer Report: Beth said Anna indicated that checks are still coming in and she will have a debit card in place soon. Kim said the EC17 reception bill is in and was around \$3,100. Over 80 people were in attendance, probably the most in memory. Also, about \$4,000 was donated by the SC members from their field day receipts. JP paid for the board member shirts from these funds, Beth reported.

Jay indicated that he has the banner for NC and was wondering about the best procedure to get it shipped to Ted. After some discussion about the timing of the debit card, he said he would just charge the shipping to his card and send a receipt to Anna for to reimburse him.

Kim reminded us that she had sent out a number of forms from Region 1 HQ which were intended to be helpful to chapters. Not required to use but could be useful. Beth said this is just HQ being helpful and that the organization spreadsheet form might be particularly useful for the chapter. In addition, there is a document outlining the responsibilities of those involved in the MS4 conference.

Beth relayed that HQ is looking into a blanket insurance plan to include chapters. This would include coverage for the board and potential issues (lawsuits) that arise at events. Rich asked about our current coverage and Beth suggested we check w/ Anna to see if she has been paying an insurance bill.

Beth relayed that the IECA Board would like to have further engagement with student beyond hosting them at EC. One idea is to get more involved on the campuses, although it was recognized via the students that there are plenty of other organizations already there. Beth suggested we would be best served joining forces with existing organizations. One first step is to have the University Partners provide a list of student organizations on their campus.

Beth reminded the board that the chapter won the Innovation in Education Award and we should be proud! The Rick Grannard (sp?) Award, the top one awarded, went to the new Canadian chapter as they already have 150 members and 4 cornerstone members (tough competition).

Melanie had discussions with IECA Executives at the EC17 conference, Rich speculated it might have been about the Plan for Excellence being more oriented toward helping the chapters in some way.

Jay mentioned that the Cal Sawyer at Clemson submitted 3 student names to IECA as part of the sponsored membership program.

Kim went over the Newsletter content she suggests, with 3/yr about in April/July/November.

- 1-2 technical articles

- Recap of EC17
- Articles on a student, a member, and a board member
- State updates around 25 words or so
- Advertising possibilities
- Annual sponsorships. Beth pointed out this would require a commitment to produce 3 newsletters per year.

Kim also reviewed her plan to update our web site, with a template already started using WIX. She thought it would take about 20 h to get it up and running and not much more time after that. The hosting fee is about \$300/yr. Apparently the current web site on Google is out of space, and she suggested keeping that and put a link to it on the new web site, but populate the new one only with new stuff. A hosting domain SEIECA.com is apparently available.

Jay asked what we would get out of the web page. Beth suggested that it would highlight all our activities and would help bridge changes in the chapter leadership. Rich thought it would be a good focus point for members to access newsletters, minutes, meetings, etc. Beth also wanted to have the potential to do meeting registrations through this web site, if we decided not to use HQ for that. Jay asked that Kim put together a proposal for us to consider, and Beth suggest it include options for additional functionality.

Beth said the MS4 conference in Charleston will have registration open next week after IECA staff recover from EC17.

The workshop planning for NC DEQ and the chapter has not begun and there is some urgency to at least setting a date. Beth indicated that she will be meeting with some of those staff members and will press for a date so we can reserve space at the McKimmon Center, which tends to get booked early.

Beth mentioned that IECA HQ might be reconsidering the profit sharing agreement to retain more of the profits from meetings they manage for chapters. She pointed out that the agreement between EPA Region 4 and IECA ends after this year for the MS4 conference, and we should consider having the agreement shift to the chapter instead. The actual running of the conference could be contracted out to Kim or others if we want to go that route.

At this point an hour had gone by so Beth suggested holding off on state updates and to do that by email to all of the board members. Shelby did mention that their field event in Louisville was a big success and we had our banner and an exhibit table.

Meeting adjourned.

Addendum: The following notes were taken during the chapter meeting at EC17.

Melanie introduced herself and the board members. She also reminded folks about the MS4 Conference May 16-18. And that elections are coming for MS, GA, KY, and AL plus all officers, and if anyone is interested in serving let her know. She then asked for other updates on other meetings.

Earl Norton gave an historical perspective that 23 yrs ago there were 8 members of the chapter, in contrast to the large crowd we had. The AL Soil and Water Conservation Society meeting is June 7-9 in Birmingham. IECA has supported this since 1995. Clearwater AL will be Nov 1-2 in Mobile.

JP Johns mentioned that the SC annual workshop will provide over \$4,000 for student scholarships this year. It will be the first week of October this year.

Barry Fagan mentioned that there will be RUSLE2 training on March 22 and 29 (didn't get the locations).

Melanie mentioned that NCSU Field Day on May 4 at the Sediment and Erosion Control Research and Demonstration Facility, Raleigh.

She also said there will be a March newsletter and we are looking for articles.