

Oregon Chapter Reboot

Greetings fellow Oregon SWCS members, With this newsletter we will update you on the status of your Oregon Chapter and ask for your patience and understanding. The Oregon Chapter has survived a sudden and dramatic change in leadership. Due to an unfortunate convergence of retirements, job changes, and work pressures, the Board of Directors lost all of its members, save two, within a very short period of time.

The two left, Teresa Matteson and Russ Hatz have persevered to keep the Oregon Chapter on its feet. In order to recruit enough people to help in this task we suspended the Oregon Chapter By-laws regarding the election of members to the Board of Directors and appointed three additional Chapter members who were ready, willing and able to help us rebuild.

Thanks Steve Fedje, Denise Troxell, Dana Higgins, Luca DeStefanis and Joe Williams for their past service and dedication to SWCS.

Board of Directors

Russ Hatz (President)
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Teresa Matteson (Secretary/Treasurer)
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Brenda Sanchez
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Garrett Duyck
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Tom Makowski
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Chapter Finances

Financially, the Chapter is doing well with over \$3,000 in the bank. We use these reserves to help fund training sessions. Recently, the Board voted to sponsor one Board member to attend the SWCS 2014 National Conference, July 27-30, 2014 in Lombard, Illinois by paying the conference registration fees. If you join the Board soon you too can apply for conference registration support.

What SWCS is Doing for You

Your question may be: What does the organization produce and why should I support it?

An advocacy for our work. SWCS is all about soil and water conservation, obviously. There are many organizations that you could support that work on natural resource issues. To belong to them all would require time and financial commitments few of us could afford. SWCS is made up of folks who advocate the need for the work we do. Whether you are local, state or federal agency with soil and water conservation work, or private individual or firm that assists clients in meeting jurisdictional requirements, it pays to have people lobbying on your behalf for policy or advancing the science of soil and water conservation.

Personal and professional growth. If you are just starting out on a conservation career it helps to have a vehicle that you can use to gradually improve leadership, scientific and group member skills. Chapter positions give everyone an opportunity to gain leadership skills. **The Journal** has articles that relate specifically to our work and show we can make a difference. The work shown in some article could inspire you to do your own project and get it published.

Your Oregon Chapter

Projects planned for 2014 include:

- Agroforestry Workshop in cooperation with Oregon State University.
- Sponsorship of Streambank Restoration/Geomorphology training session in cooperation with NRCS West National Technical Support Center.
- Financial support of 4-H State Fair awards for accomplishments in Natural Resource Conservation.

We ask for your patience as we try to make the Oregon SWCS Chapter relevant to your professional development. Please feel free to contact any Board member if you are interested in helping or if you have suggestions for future training or activities.

The date of our next Board meeting will be in late March or early April. You are welcome to attend (in person or via teleconference). Let us know if you want to be added to the mailing list.