

**Soil and Water Conservation Society  
BC Chapter**

**Annual General Meeting  
October 27, 2004  
SFU Harbour Centre, Vancouver**

**Present:**

Peter Friz – President  
Ione Smith – President-Elect  
Olga Schwartzkopf - Councillor  
George Derksen – Councillor  
Yona Sipos Randor – Councillor  
Julia Brydon – Newsletter Editor

**Absent:**

Dave Clements – Secretary/Treasurer/Membership

The AGM was called to order at 6:00 pm.

**1) Adoption of 2004 AGM Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed by Peter. Art Bomke moved to adopt the minutes, seconded by Olga. Agenda adopted.

**2) Adoption of 2003 AGM Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed by Peter. Laurens van Vliet moved to adopt the minutes, seconded by Ione. Minutes adopted.

**3) President's Report - Peter**

- 2003 fall field tour organized in conjunction with Langley Environmental Partner's Society (LEPS)
- Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Workshop in June 2004, hosted with British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA), Pacific Region Society of Soil Science (PRSSS), Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA)
- SWCS-BC received the 2003 Outstanding Chapter Award for the Canadian Region, presented at the 2004 SWCS Annual Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- SWCS-BC is planning a 2004 fall field tour to the landfill site at Burns Bog on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. The history of the landfill will be discussed and participants will go on a tour of the methane production facility.

**4) Treasurer's Report – Peter (for Dave)**

The 2004 Financial Statement was reviewed by Peter, which had been provided by Dave. The primary expenditures for the 2003-2004 period were the gift basket for Mark Forsythe (moderator of the ALR Workshop) and the room rental for the 2004 AGM.

**5) Membership Report – Peter (for Dave)**

SWCS-BC currently has 27 members, which has declined from approximately 35-40 last year. While other organizations have been experiencing a similar decline, Peter suggested that more advertising is needed and closer collaboration with organizations such as PRSSS and BCIA will be beneficial for all members. Laurens suggested contacting past members that have not renewed their membership and trying to regain their support. Ione noted that we need a membership chair.

**6) ALR Workshop Report – Ione**

The workshop was held on June 12 at Trinity Western University in Langley. Mark Forsythe from CBC radio was the moderator and over 100 people attended. Presentations were made by an official from the Agricultural Land Commission, a local farmer, nutritionist and agrologist. Discussions were held with a panel of local experts. The workshop has extended into the formation of an ad-hoc group, composed of government employees and community members, who have been meeting to organize public education and encourage community members to mobilize when an exclusion application is brought forward. A Greenbelt website will be created regarding the ALR issue, which will be endorsed by SWCS-BC in the form of a website link. Overall, the issue of ALR exclusions is gaining exposure and will be brought into the political forum through the ad-hoc group and further activities of SWCS-BC.

**7) BC Environmental Network Activity Report – Olga**

- Olga attended meetings with the oil and gas industry in Calgary as well as the Alberta government.
- She attended meetings with Health Canada in Ottawa for the 5 year review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, where the new health protection act, categorization of substances and Canada wide standards for particulate matter ozone were also discussed. A report is due in 2005.
- Links to the organizations that Olga is involved with on behalf of SWCS-BC will be noted on the website.

***Action Item: Olga to send Ione a list of the activities she was involved in during 2003 so that it can be posted on the website***

## 8) Election of Officers

The following slate of officers was proposed for the 2005 SWCS-BC executive:

President:	Ione Smith
Past-President:	Peter Friz
President-Elect:	Julia Brydon
Secretary:	Adam Levine
Treasurer:	Dave Clements
Membership Chair:	Peter Friz (Acting)
Councillor:	George Derksen
Councillor (BCEN):	Olga Schwartzkopf
Councillor:	Yona Sipos Randor
Newsletter Editor:	Julia Brydon
Student Rep:	Ting Pan

The slate of officers was accepted unanimously by the current executive.

## 9) New Business

### a) Future ALR issues

- The position statement (as provided in the Fall 2004 newsletter) was reviewed by Ione. Motion to adopt by Ione, seconded by Peter. All in favour and position statement adopted.  
*Action Item: Ione to post the ALR Position Statement on the website*
- An article of 1500 words was requested by the Watershed Sentinel regarding ALR workshop.  
*Action Item: Ione to write article for Watershed Sentinel*
- Future meeting of ad-hoc committee on ALR issues to be attended by Ione and anyone else who is interested.  
*Action Item: Ione to report to SWCS-BC members on progress of ad-hoc ALR committee*

### b) Fall Field Tour

- Set for November 20<sup>th</sup>. Start time of 1:00 pm was unanimously agreed upon.
- Transportation needs to be arranged (possibly a 15 passenger van).  
*Action Item: Ione and Dave to organize transportation*

- Possibility of having a compost tour.  
*Action Item: Yona to contact compost operator re: tour*
  - Interest was expressed about the economics of co-generation.  
*Action Item: Yona to request economic summary of co-generation*
  - Final time, features and cost needs to be advertised to potential participants.  
*Action Item: Ione to prepare final poster when details are organized*
- Action Item: All to advertise fall field tour*

#### c) Potential Fund Raiser

Possible beer garden to be held at UBC in conjunction with the RMES Student Society with proceeds going to SWCS-BC.

*Action Item: Ione and Julia to follow up with RMES-SS executive and organize student fundraiser in the new year*

#### d) UBC Farm

- Art Bomke noted that many different organizations are involved with the UBC farm, such as PRSSS and BCIA. This is true for other issues, and he noted the importance of collaborating on events and initiatives in order to avoid duplication and bring in as many participants as possible. He also stressed the need to engage young people from the diverse programs now associated with soil science. He suggested using the UBC farm as a forum for getting different organizations to work together, with activities such as soil displays. Les Lavkulich is mentoring a student to make a soil pit display, which could be incorporated into our projects. PRSSS and SWCS have already made contribution to the soil pits.

*Action Item: Art Bomke and Ione to address UBC Farm collaboration at executive meetings and Spring workshops*

#### e) Collaboration with PRSSS

- Laurens van Vliet suggested that a joint executive is needed in order to streamline efforts and reduce competition for potential new members.

- Art suggested a joint meeting with PRSSS and SWCS-BC executive members be held in order to discuss details of collaborations.
- Peter suggested that students could be engaged by applying for funds to go to conferences and workshops held by the organizations.

*Action Item: Art Bomke to notify Ione of possible dates for joint meeting to be held before Christmas*

*Action Item: All to notify Ione if interested on being a part of joint executive committee*

#### **f) Display Booth**

The SWCS-BC display booth needs to be moved from Peter's garage.

*Action Item: Ione to ask Martin Himler of UBC Soil Science for possible storage space*

#### **g) Possible Chapter Scholarship**

Ione suggested instituting a chapter scholarship on a project basis to involve students and advertise SWCS-BC. This may involve collaboration with PRSSS.

*Action Item: Ione to investigate fundraising possibilities for scholarship and report back to executive*

#### **h) Miscellaneous**

- Olga was contacted about the groundwater loss in Langley and possible public education about the new groundwater act.

*Action Item: Olga to forward the request to hydrogeology contacts*

*Action Item: Ione to add information to website*

- Laurens asked for nominations for the SWCS student director.

*Action Item: Ione to ask other students who have previously been involved with SWCS if they are interested*

- Website is being charged to Ione's home account. It was unanimously agreed that the add-on feature to her account for the web space should be paid by SWCS-BC.

*Action Item: Ione to find exact cost of add-on feature and report to executive for reimbursement*

**i) Thank You Peter!**

Laurens motioned to thank Peter for 5 years of service to SWCS-BC.  
Motion carried by all.

**j) Next Meeting**

The next executive meeting will be held in early December once a date has been agreed upon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.