

SWCS-BC Annual General Meeting
7:00pm, December 6th, 2007
Alumni Hall, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Guest Speaker - Peter Doig, Origin Organic Farms

Peter gave a very informative talk on the conversion of conventional greenhouses to organic. Visit www.origino.ca for further information

1.0 Adoption of 2007 AGM Agenda

The 2007 AGM Agenda was adopted.

2.0 Adoption Minutes from 2006 AGM

The minutes from the 2006 AGM were adopted.

3.0 Roundtable Introductions and Updates from Executive Members

- description and listing of activities undertaken by each member this past year as an active SWCS-BC member and/or to report any events that may be of interest to other members.
- a special report from the SWCS Watershed Workshop, held in Winnipeg in November, by Ione Smith

Ione Smith:

- The SWCS-BC display has been lent to the '100 mile diet' group
ACTION: members let Ione know if you'd like to use it
- Website has a new address www.swcs-bc.org
ACTION: contact Ione for ideas or items to be added
- ALR work continues throughout province. A new initiative of SmartGrowth BC is to establish a greenbelt for the Squamish-Whistler corridor
ACTION: Ione will circulate the website to obtain feedback on SWCS-BC's interest in supporting this initiative.
- SWCS Watershed Workshop in Winnipeg was geared towards ENGOs from across Canada to develop an updated version of the 1997 report on the state of Canadian watersheds. A draft report is being circulated for comment

ACTION: Ione will circulate the draft to SWCS-BC members for their input.

David Clements:

- Continuing work with the Salmon river Enhancement Society and Langley Environmental Partners Society
- Master planning is underway at TWU, incorporating many green principles

Olga Schwartzkopf:

- Continues to represent SWCS-BC on the Canadian Environment Network, and committees regarding atmospheric and fisheries issues
- Represented SWCS-BC at water governance workshop at UBC

ACTION: Olga to send members the links to reports produced through committee work

- Notified group that the Canadian Water Resources Association is planning a workshop on national water policy in June

ACTION: Olga to update group on CWRA workshop and possible SWCS-BC involvement

Julia Brydon:

- SWCS-BC was awarded the Outstanding Chapter of the Year award for 2006
- SWCS-BC participated and co-organized a spring soils workshop with the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science in 2006
- A charter for soil conservation in BC was explored in 2006-2007 with the help of Tim Thielmann, a law student at UVic. A review of current legislation and identification of opportunities resulted in the decision for SWCS-BC to embark on the development of educational material related to soil legislation and conservation in BC for 2008.

ACTION: Julia to send out draft material to members regarding soil conservation legislation and initiate development of educational material, possibly with a student.

4.0 Treasurer's Report - Dave Clements

Dave gave an overview of the year's expenses, and there was discussion of using some of the funds to offer a small honorarium to a student this year to help with the soil conservation material development.

5.0 Membership Report - Julia Brydon

There are currently 21 members and there was a net loss of 6 members over 2006-2007.

6.0 SWCS-BC Bylaws Update - Ione Smith

Joe Arbour, Canadian Regional Director, is currently reviewing the by-laws.

7.0 Options for a Guide to Soil Conservation Legislation in BC - discussion

The main issues include:

- addressing the increase in exclusions from the ALR
- lack of enforced regulation for erosion control
- municipal by-laws not powerful enough on their own, but valuable for improvement in practices and advocacy
- a need exists for the critical review of existing guidelines and legislation
- efforts could focus on awareness and education rather than the development of new legislation

SWCS-BC will continue to pursue the initiative in 2008, focusing on the development of educational and critical review material regarding soil related legislation in BC and its impacts for soil conservation issues. It was agreed that the idea of offering a small honorarium to a student to help with this project would be pursued.

8.0 Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for 2007-2008:

SWCS-BC Officers		
Position	2006-2007	2007-2008
President	Julia Brydon	Julia Brydon
President-Elect	Open	Open
Past-President	Ione Smith	Ione Smith
Treasurer	Dave Clements	Dave Clements
Secretary	Open	Open
Membership Chair	Open	Open
Councillor	Olga Schwartzkopf	Olga Schwartzkopf
Councillor	George Derksen	George Derksen
Councillor	Ting Pan	Open
Newsletter Editor	Ione Smith	Ione Smith
Student Representative	Stephanie Grand	Stephanie Grand

9.0 Outlook to 2008 - Julia Brydon

The following items were discussed for 2008:

- Pursue the soil conservation related initiative (as discussed in 7.0 above)
- Collaborate with PRSSS on a spring soils workshop, with new member Rachel Strivelli as the liaison
- Coordinate field tour to Barnston Island to discuss issues related to ALR and soil conservation
- Possibly hold a science/technology transfer session with a focus on local water issues and solutions

11.0 Meeting adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm