

NOPHNRCSE National Council Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2009
Official Minutes

- I. **Astrid Martinez** called the meeting to order at **6:04 pm CST**. **Astrid Martinez** was officiating the meeting due to Luis Hernandez's absence.
- II. **Roll call** was taken and a quorum was established.

NOTE: National Council-7 members required for quorum.

Officers Present:

Executive Vice President, Astrid Martinez
Secretary, Eileen M. Vale
Treasurer, Jorge Camacho

Regional Representatives Present:

West, Roney Gutierrez
Southeast, Jazelle Jusino
South Central, Cresencio Perez (tardy)
Midwest, Heather Medina
East, Tim Garrahan
Northern Plains, Ted Lucero

Guests Reporting:

Gilbert Guerrero
Arturo Carvajal
Amanda Hasemeier
Irma Hernandez
Carmen Ortiz

Absent:

Officers Absent: President, Luis Hernandez (**excused**)

Regional Reps: Caribbean Area, Jorge Ruiz (**excused**)

- III. **Approval or Changes made to the Agenda:** Astrid Martinez asked the National Council to see if any modifications needed to be to the agenda. Under On going business B. Webinars will be tabled until next month. Items I. Spanish Translation Ad-Hoc Committee will be tabled to next month, J. Proposal to change Awards Criteria and Approval of

the final draft of the Career Enhancement Grant Program will be moved to the top of the agenda. Career Developmental Survey Update /Results will be tabled to next month. Eileen M. Vale made a motion to make these changes stated above. Ted Lucero seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

- IV. Approve Minutes:** Astrid Martinez asked the National Council to review the draft minutes from March 17, 2009 teleconference. Amanda Hasemeier pointed out that few corrections needed to be made. Under on going business, D. Update on 2009 Conference, Amanda pointed that the conference fee needs to be changed from \$425.00 to \$400.00. Furthermore, Amanda asked if the sentence stating “Luis suggested that Amanda go over the numbers with Dana” be removed. Ted Lucero made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jazelle Jusino seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

V. Treasurer’s Report:

Previous Month’s Balance: January 2009	Account Type	CURRENT BALANCES
NRCS FCU		
\$32,414.72	Regular Checking Account	\$32,325.83
\$15,235.89	Money Market Account	\$15,258.54
WELLS FARGO		
\$57,155.18	CD Regular Account *	\$57,155.18
\$62,053.25	Scholarship and Endowment *	\$62,053.25
\$166,859.04		\$166,792.80

Jorge Camacho presented the treasury report listed above. Jorge had a concern in regards to notifying the council before writing any checks for expenses. If the expense for example, is from a budget that was approved by the NC, such as for registration expenses for this year’s national conference, then Jorge can write a check. Any expenses not associated with any pre-approved budget must get approval from the NC. Therefore, Jorge asked the NC if he can write a check to Fed Ex in the amount of \$20.50 for shipping a check for the deposit on the new website to Webmojo. Tim Garrahan made a motion to approve Jorge Camacho to write a check in the amount of \$20.50 to

Fed Ex. Ted Lucero seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried. Eileen M. Vale made a motion to accept the treasury report as amended. Heather Medina seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried.

VI On-Going Business:

A. Spanish Translation Ad-Hoc: Will be tabled until next month.

B. Proposal to change the Awards Criteria: Arturo Carvajal proposed the following sentence be deleted from the by-laws regarding the awards criteria "Awards of Excellence should not be given to members currently serving on the National Committee or be a current chair of a standing committee". This sentence is applying to the Award of Excellence for Natural Resources Conservation and for the Award of Excellence in Hispanic Community Outreach. The Awards Committee feels that since the membership numbers are reduced and NC and Committee chairs sacrifice a lot of their time for NOPHNRCSE it would be only fair that they too should be involved in being nominated for these awards. Roney Gutierrez made a motion to eliminate the following restriction from the awards criteria in the by-laws "Awards of Excellence should not be given to members currently serving on the National Committee or be a current chair of a standing committee". Heather Medina seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

C. Approve the final draft of the Career Enhancement Grant

Program: Arturo Carvajal presented the draft letter of the CEGP to the NC. Eileen M. Vale made a motion to approve the CEGP letter. Heather Medina seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried.

D. Student Scholarship Update: Gilbert Guerrero stated that he had a total of 29 applications received on time with the exception of 5 that were late. As a result, these 5 were rejected. The scholarship committee reviewed all the applications. Gilbert said he contacted and coordinated efforts with Carlson Wagonlit Travel agency to handle students travel. He completed the Mentoring Letter and Luis approved it. Mario Hbreik sent the approved letter to Eileen Vale for distribution. Gilbert stated that he still needs to verify that we will still be having a STC Breakfast this year's national conference. Gilbert will be sending a letter to STC to notify them about the STC's Breakfast in Philadelphia this year. Gilbert said that he and his student committee will be having a teleconference to go over the details of the Application Process, Scoring, STC Breakfast, Resume/Application Booklets and Travel and Scholarships. The following students are being presented to the NOPHNRCSE NC for the 2009 Scholarships: Robert Garcia (Martha Guerra-Arteagua), Elyssa Duran (Coronado-Remides), Joseph Rodriguez (Ray T. Margo), Alejandra Martinez, Kristina Wolf

Hernandez, Terri Lynn Johnston, and Aaron D. Smythe. Student Scholarships for Travel Only: Raul Ray Hinojosa, Marvin Lopez, and Keliyah McInaney. Alternates (just in case some cannot attend the meeting) are: Juan Javier Llanos Benitez, Jeffery Ordonez Jr. Sabino Bocanegra, and Huan P. Mercado. Astrid Martinez asked Gilbert if we have a budget in place. Gilbert replied that he was told by Mario Morales that the money is there and has always been there. Gilbert stated that he and his committee are currently brainstorming new ways to generate funds to help the student scholarships. Gilbert asked the NC in behalf of the student scholarship committee, if he can have a budget of \$12000. Eileen M. Vale made a motion to approve a budget in the amount of \$12,000 to the Student Scholarship Committee. Ted Lucero seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried.

E. New Website Update: Carmen Ortiz stated that she has been communicating constantly with Webmojo. They have been working on logo designs. Carmen stated \$520.00 is due for the first deliverable or milestone. Carmen stated that she will need to set a time to meet with the NC to show them the new website. Carmen would like the NC to see the look and feel of the new website. Carmen stated that it is costing us an estimated \$300 for them to develop a new logo design. She feels that this would be a good opportunity to get our monies worth.

F. Webinars Update: Will be table until next month’s teleconference.

G. Mario Morales Resignation Letter to the NC: Astrid Martinez presented Mario Morales resignation letter to the NC. She stated that we the NC have to decide to either fill the Vice-President vacancy by appointing an acting VP or simply wait until elections.

H. Update on 2009 Conference: Amanda Hasemeier stated in the planning committee’s last teleconference, they simplified the budget and income expenses. Amanda presented the budget on a spreadsheet to the NC. The Chief has been invited and the conference is on the calendar of Deputy Chiefs. Registration fees goes as follows:

REGISTRATION FEES	EARLY (COB JULY 6, 2009)	LATE (AFTER JULY 6, 2009)	RETIRED LIFE MEMBER
	MEMBER/ NON-MEMBER	MEMBER/ NON-MEMBER	
HEPM	\$25	-	-
3 DAYS CONFERENCE & ENERGY WORKSHOP	\$400 / \$425	\$430 / \$455	EXEMPT
2 DAYS CONFERENCE	\$300 / \$325	\$330 / \$355	EXEMPT
1 DAY CONFERENCE	\$175 / \$200	\$205 / \$230	EXEMPT
3 & 4 DAYS NEDC	\$350 / \$350	\$375 / \$375	-
STUDENT 3 DAYS CONF	\$150 / \$175	\$175 / \$200	-

The Radisson-Warwick has a website dedicated to our conference now up and running. Members can now make hotel reservations thru the website and has other pertinent information about the conference and Philadelphia Travel information. Registration will be available as soon as there is conference approval. The next conference meeting is April 22, 2009. Amanda Hasemeier, Planning Chair for the 2009 National Conference has requested the NC for a budget in the amount of \$65, 000 for this year's conference. Eileen M. Vale made a motion to approve the budget amount of \$65,000 requested by Irma Hasemeier. Ted Lucero seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried. Irma Hernandez made a proposal to the NC; she would like a committee to be formed to help formulate ideas to do outreach to Hispanic Communities through NEDS. She would like one of these members to be from the NC.

- I. **Robert Rules:** Astrid Martinez stated that she would like to re-emphasize the importance of the Robert Rules. The NC needs to be aware of any actions or decisions being made at all times. Emails need to go to Eileen Vale, to the NC, and then to membership if needed.
- J. **Update on the Joint 2010 Training Conference:** The 2010 Annual Training Conference will be taking place in Kansas City, Kansas in a concurrent session with NOPHNRCSE, NOPBNRCSE, APIO and all SEPM's. AI organization will not participate in this conference due previous with AI reservations in the Dakotas. Astrid stated that Luis has requested that he would like to have 1 or 2 NOPHNRCSE members within the vicinity of Kansas City. He would like to see the NC give recommendations for this task. Since, the 2010 will be held in Kansas City, the South Central will be able to send their proposals to host the 2011 conference in Philadelphia. The West region will be able to send their proposal in Kansas City for the 2012 conference.
- K. **NOPHNRCSE Nominations:** Astrid Martinez requested the NC go over the nomination form. Astrid instructed Eileen to notify Mike the forms are ready to be distributed to membership.
- L. **Career Developmental Survey:** Will be tabled until next month's teleconference.
- M. **Membership Drive:** Ted Lucero stated the Membership drive has been extended to May 15th. There will be a winner from each region. There were a number of members requesting the active membership lists in their area to see if they were still in compliance with NOPHRNRCSE. However, there was a concern with distributing this information to membership since it had member's personal addresses and phone numbers. Votes will be tallied on May 15th.

N. Regional Representatives:

- West- *Roney Gutierrez* Forwarded NOPHNCSE correspondence and job vacancies to members. Conducted outreach to encourage participation in 'A Day in the Life' competition and participation in the 2009 NOPHNCSE training conference.
- Caribbean Area- Jorge Ruiz was absent.
- Northern Plains- *Ted Lucero* I have forwarded all correspondence and job vacancies to members. Tim Garrahan and I finalized the specifics and sent it out. The DRIVE is on, Membership that is. There was a lot of discussion regarding the membership information (addresses and phone #'s). Recruited and hired a Hispanic male SCEP student. I was assigned to Mentor him throughout his internship by the Area Conservationist.
- Midwest- *Heather Medina* Continued email of job postings, membership recruitment, etc, communication to region. I have asked (email) for the mw members to assist with the recruitment of new members. I have also asked them to contact Rocemi to update their member's information.
- South Central - *Cresencio Perez* Forwarded NOPHNCSE correspondence and job vacancies to member Conducted outreach with Texas State University Agriculture Department encouraging Hispanic students to apply for employment under the Student Educational Employment Program or present employment opportunities with the local Hays County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- South East- *Jazelle Jusino* Send general correspondence, vacancy announcements, membership drive and providing information for the Farmer of the Year Award.
- East- *Tim Garrahan* General correspondence, emailing vacancy announcements, and job opportunities. Worked with Ted Lucero on the membership drive. Finalized the specifics of the membership drive and sent out the announcement to the East members. Participated in the monthly Planning Conference teleconference.

VII Other Business:

VIII Adjournment

Ted Lucero made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heather Medina seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm CST.

Luis Hernandez, President

Eileen M. Vale, Secretary