

SWS Bulletin
North Central Chapter Report
December, 2006

Numerous amendments to the chapter's bylaws were proposed at the Cairns business meeting. Proposed amendments include shortening the term of officers, clarifying membership categories, and implementing numerous formatting changes. These amendments are clearly outlined in a document named "Bylaws proposed changes and votes - 061106.pdf" that can be found on the chapter's web page (<http://www.sws.org/regional/northcentral/>). In this document, the amendments were grouped into six separate sections that will be voted on individually at the next major chapter business meeting to be held during the SWS Annual Meeting in Sacramento, CA. The web site also contains a file named "Bylaws proposed final - 061106.pdf" that is a complete version of the bylaws including the proposed changes. Please review the proposed amendments and send comments or questions to me (kkowalski@usgs.gov).

The NCC Board of Directors supported the recommendation of the Program Committee to accept the Madison, Wisconsin pre-proposal to host the 2009 SWS Annual Meeting. A full proposal and meeting plan are being developed for a January presentation to the SWS Board. The proposed SWS meeting will be held jointly with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Wetland Science Forum in Madison, so it promises to be a great meeting. Please contact Joe Schubauer-Berigan (Schubauer-Berigan.Joseph@epamail.epa.gov) if you have ideas for the meeting or would like to get involved.

The North Central Chapter once again will be involved with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Wetland Science Forum, a 2-day conference convening wetland researchers, consultants, agency staff, students, conservationists and other wetland enthusiasts from around Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region. This 2-day conference is scheduled for February 1-2, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel & Convention Center, La Crosse, WI and focuses on the theme "Riverine Wetlands: Connections, Corridors and Catchments." The North Central Chapter will be providing registration and travel support for students presenting papers and setting up the NCC display in the exhibitor's space.

The Chapter is seeking nominations for both the President-elect and At-large Board positions. The President-elect position currently has a 3-year term, but the chapter will be voting on a proposal to change the President-elect, President, and Past President positions to 2-year terms during the June 2007 business meeting. Regardless of term length, the President-elect position will begin June 2007. The At-large Board position is a 2-year term that will begin June 2007 and end in June 2009. Beth Nixon, the chapter Nominations Committee Chair, will be accepting names via email (ehnixonusa@netscape.net) from now until March 26, 2007. All members in good standing are invited to submit nominations for this election planned for April through May 2007. You may nominate others and yourself. The candidates for election will be advertised on the web site and via email on April 2, 2007, and the voting process will be described at that time. Electronic voting will run until May 25, 2007. Position duties are described in the Chapter bylaws at <http://www.sws.org/regional/northcentral/Bylaws.htm>.

Dr. Rodney Chimner is helping students at a Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan build a Northern Michigan Student Association with NCC. This group of students will be organized formally with the University and actively participate in Chapter and Society activities. We look forward to seeing this group develop.

I encourage you to join the growing number of members who are contributing to the chapter and benefiting from all it has to offer. We are always looking for new ideas and welcome anyone looking for a way to become more involved. I especially urge students and those who have never been active in the chapter to find a place and jump into the action.

-Kurt Kowalski, North Central Chapter President