



# Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program

## PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST E-LETTER

Volume 4, Issue 1, 2011

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### President's Corner

SWSPCP has been very busy lately. The Board and Committees are working hard to maintain our high certification standards, grow the organization, increase membership, and promote PWS certification and the many ways it benefits the public and employers to have certified individuals in the field. We also want to make certification more valuable for *you* through increased networking opportunities, more frequent member communications, and other member benefits. The success of the organization depends on the efforts of our volunteers, and we are always looking for dedicated individuals that would like to get involved. If you are interested, I encourage you to join the board or a committee to help SWSPCP continue to grow.

*Scott W. Jecker CWB, PWS*

### New Certification Standards for Future PWS Applicants

As a certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) or Wetland Professional in Training (WPIT), you may recall completing a survey to develop SWSPCP's Body of Knowledge (BOK). The Body of Knowledge defines the specific skills, knowledge, and abilities a professional wetland scientist must possess. The results of this survey are posted on the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP) web site: <http://www.wetlandcert.org/bok.html>. The Body of Knowledge survey will be revised every five years.

Development of the BOK for wetland scientists was necessary for maintaining national accreditation of the SWSPCP through the Council of Engineering and Science Specialty Boards (CESB). CESB accreditation ensures that SWSPCP maintains its high standards and ability to independently and objectively assess each applicant's qualifications to be certified via a transparent and verifiable process.

In accordance with CESB standards, effective January 1, 2012, not only must an applicant demonstrate their technical and academic competency at the time of certification, they must also document fulfillment of the SWSPCP Body of Knowledge via essay. All applicants will be asked to select one to

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The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program, serving the public's need to identify qualified individuals to assess and manage the Nation's resources. This program is intended to meet the needs of professional ecologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, educators, agency professionals, consultants, and others who practice wetland science. [www.Wetlandcert.org](http://www.Wetlandcert.org)

**New Certification Standards for Future PWS Applicants** *continued from page 1*

three areas of expertise based upon the Body of Knowledge. Applicants prepare a statement of their expertise from their documented education and work experience. The expertise statement (250 to 500 words) should be a full description the applicant’s expertise and description of his or her role within the broad range of wetland science as defined by the SWSPCP Body of Knowledge. The expertise statement will allow for an objective review by the Certification Panel of an applicants fulfillment of the SWSPCP Body of Knowledge with respect to their personal expertise.

We look forward to implementing these new standards and raising the bar on what it means to be a certified Professional Wetland Scientist.

**Volunteers Needed!**

The SWSPCP is looking for individuals that can help the organization grow and prosper. Volunteer opportunities range from reviewing applications to coordinating outreach events.

Please contact the SWSPCP Executive Office if you are interested. Email us at [info@wetlandcert.org](mailto:info@wetlandcert.org) or call 877-226-9902.

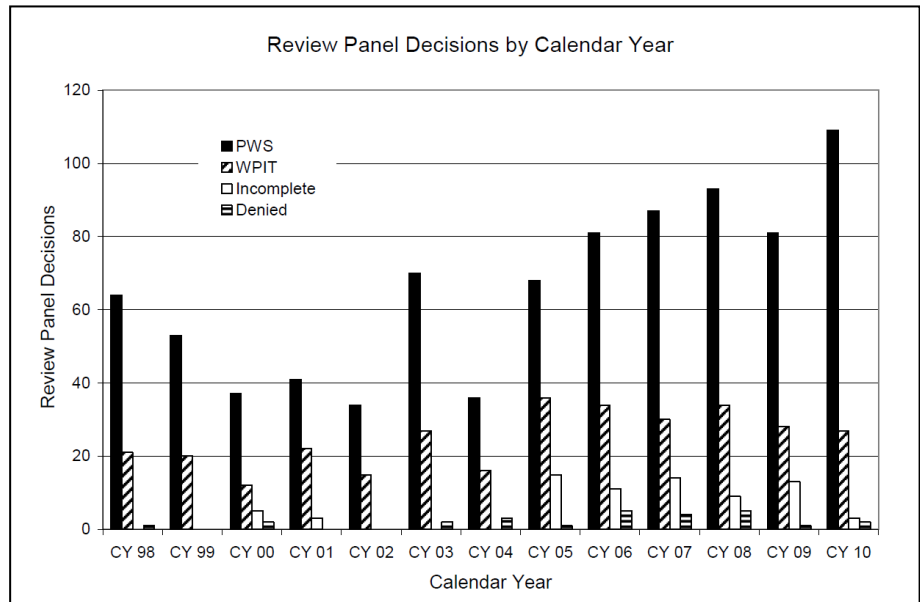
**Update on Certification Activities**

SWSPCP has seen an increase in certifications over the past year. We are pleased to welcome all newly certified Professional Wetland Scientists (PWS) and Wetland Professionals in Training (WPIT).

For the 2010 calendar year, 87 new applications were received in the business office. Within the year, 108 applicants were certified as Professional Wetland Scientists. The figure below shows a historical record of the decisions made by the Certification Review Panel since 1998.

In addition to new applicants, 124 PWSs renewed their certifications during 2010. Their recertification is a clear indication of the value certification holds.

The calendar year ended with 1417 currently certified wetland scientists, and 6 Emeritus members.



## Call for Nominations

The following positions of the SWS Professional Certification Program (PCP) Executive Board are open for election in June 2011:

### President-elect, 2011-2012

We invite member input on identifying qualified and motivated nominees. The credentials of each nominee will be verified by the Nominating Committee. Every nominee must be a member in good standing, both in the profession and in the SWS PCP. Nominees must be willing to serve the full term if elected.

To submit a candidate for consideration, prepare a nomination email message specifying your reasons for the nomination, including the following information about the nominee:

- (a) history in the field
- (b) present professional position
- (c) brief 2-3 paragraph Candidate Statement presenting interest in supporting and promoting the mission of SWS PCP
- (d) willingness to stand for election
- (e) commitment to serve and fulfill the duties of the position sought (see below).

**Submit your nomination via email, no later than April 8, 2011, to [info@wetlandcert.org](mailto:info@wetlandcert.org).**

Duties of the President-elect.

*Duties of the President-elect are to assist the President and to perform the duties of the President when that officer is absent or unable to act.*

Duties of the President

*The President shall be responsible for the business of the Certification Program, establish special committees required for the business of the Certification Program, and exercise such other responsibilities as necessary to operate the Certification Program.*

Duties of the Past President

*(a) The immediate Past President performs the duties of President if both the President and Vice-President are unable to act. The immediate Past President shall serve as Parliamentarian at meetings.*

*(b) The immediate Past President shall serve, with the SWS/PCP Representative, as the Certification Programs' liaison to the Society of Wetland Scientists, Inc., Board of Directors. He or she will attend, upon invitation, all Board and Executive Board meetings of SWS.*

*(c) The immediate Past President shall serve as a member of the Nomination Committee and the Ethics Committee.*

## SWSPCP Insurance Survey

SWS PCP is evaluating whether our members are interested in having insurance information provided by SWSPCP. In the past we had provided a link to an insurance broker. We hope you can take a short survey (10 quick questions and you only have to answer 3!) to help us provide more information and resources to our membership.

Please click on the following link to take the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZJC8TK7>. All responses are appreciated by Thursday, April 7, 2011.

Thank you!  
Ingeborg E. Hegemann  
Insurance Committee Chair

## Get Linked-In to SWSPCP

Now there is another way to connect with fellow wetland scientists. SWSPCP is joining the LinkedIn social networking site. To join the group, go to LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com,) click on “Groups” and type “Society of Wetland Scientists – Professional Certification Program”. Once you join the group, you will be able to join discussions, share information and network with your fellow PWSs.

## SWSPCP Annual Board Meeting

The SWSPCP Annual Board Meeting is regularly held in conjunction with the SWS Annual Meeting. Since the 2011 SWS Annual Meeting being held in Prague, the SWSPCP board will instead meet on June 11, 2011 in Portland, Oregon.

## Items with the PWS logo available for purchase

SWSPCP has a number of items available for purchase with the PWS logo. Check out the website for a complete list of available items and to order on-line. Shop online at: <http://www.wetlandcert.org/store.html>

Our most popular item is the AnvilRecycled T-Shirt in gray with the PWS logo in green. The greatest feature of this shirt is that it contains 69% pre-consumer recycled cotton. It is pre-shrunk, features a new AnvilRecycled label, has shoulder-to-shoulder tape and a seamless collarette with a double-needle stitched neck, sleeves and bottom hem. This shirt is available for only \$17.50.

## Testimonials Capture the Value of Certification

A regular feature of the SWSPCP website is to highlight testimonials to recognize the value our members derive from their certification. We want to hear from you! Let us know how your certification has added value to your professional careers and those of your colleagues, staff, students, and friends. Your testimonial could be posted on the SWSPCP website: [www.wetlandcert.org](http://www.wetlandcert.org).

## Contact Information

### President

Scott W. Jecker, CWB,  
PWS

### President Elect

Janet Morlan, PWS

### Secretary General

James E. Perry, Ph.D.,  
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Yvonne M. Vallette, PWS

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#### President

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