Business Meeting Minutes for the Spring 2016 Meeting

April 14-16, 2016

York Harbor Inn in York Harbor, Maine

1. Secretary Report (given by Autumn Oczkowski)

* There was no Fall 2015 NEERS Meeting as CERF was held in Portland, Oregon.
* Overall the Portland, OR CERF meeting was considered to be very good, with 80% of survey respondents rating it very good or excellent.
* 55% of CERF 2015 meeting attendees noted that they were members of affiliate societies.
* 14% of survey respondents (18 out of 130) were NEERS members.

2. Treasurer (given by Courtney Schmidt)

* NEERS Checking is at $13,850 (including money transferred from PayPal and Savings).
* NEERS CD is $20,112.
* Student Endowment CD is $32,180 (plus $5 from everyone’s 2016 dues and endowment dontations).
* Savings Account holds $18, 342.
* Courtney Schmidt again thanked our 2015 Spring Meeting Sponsors: University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, The Coastal Society, Onset, YSI Instruments, Picarro, Inc., CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, MIT Sea Grant, Normandeau, Grave Donnelly, RI Sea Grant.
* The Spring 2015 meeting made a net profit of $2,981.44.
* Catherine (Katie) Coupland won the CERF Travel Award Lottery.
* The Spring 2015 Meeting had 151 registrants.
* There is (was) a Long Island Sound book up for auction at the meeting, with all proceeds going to NEERS.

3. CERF Board Update (given by Sara Grady)

* Sara Grady has been serving on the affiliate society committee. This committee is working to improve relationships between the affiliates and CERF. One of the major things that the committee has been thinking about is the idea of mentorship. The concept is that people would be paired at the beginning of their career with a meeting mentor for both CERF and affiliate meetings. Sara will be going to the CERF business meeting in New Orleans in a few weeks.
  + Dave Burdick mentioned that this was an interesting idea because agency & government people don’t have access to students. Some student in the audience agreed that this was a good idea as well.

4. Webmaster’s Report (given by Jamie Vaudrey)

* Co-webmaster, Brett Branco, is looking for website suggestions. One can provide suggestions to Jamie Vaudrey or Brett OR join the communications committee.
* Brett has taken over much of the meeting management and database management.
* Jamie is going to be looking at the website again.
* Does anyone want to be on the communications committee (Jamie Vaudrey, Sara Grady, Brett Branco, John Brawley)? If you’re interested let Jamie or Sara know.
* Question: our website is static in the sense that it is programmed in very easy to understand html, which makes it easy to transfer to someone else. But, it does not look ‘not current’ and it doesn’t work well on mobile devices. We could go to WordPress, but it has a monthly fee. Jamie Vaudrey says that our website is really only used 2x per year and serves as more of a repository. She doesn’t think that WordPress is needed. Jamie suggested that we don’t need to spend the money on this and asked the audience for their feedback (which follows):
  + Rahat Sharif said that she agreed that it’s not necessary for the website to be compatible with iPhones.
  + someone suggested drupel as a website alternative, but it doesn’t work with our current server.
  + One student felt that WordPress isn’t easy.
  + Bev Johnson mentioned posting pictures with newer platform. Jamie said that the public would not be able to modify the website.
  + Twitter and a dedicated NEERS Facebook page were suggested as the best way to present these pictures or similar information to the NEERS community.
  + We do have FTP server capability now.
  + We would have to pay someone to migrate us to WordPress, which would be a 10k investment.
  + A motion passed to stay with current platform (Alan Young made motion and Autumn Oczkowski seconded).
  + Jamie Vaudrey and Courtney Schmidt will look into the functionality of Wild Apricot.

5. Newsletter Editor’s Report (given by Sara Grady)

* Sara Grady has been trying to give each newsletter a theme to encourage people to contribute. For the NEXT Newsletter (Submissions due 4/29), she is looking for your big fish story. Send Sara your stories and photos.
* It was mentioned that there was a photo booth to the right of the presentation screen.
* If you ever want to write something for the newsletter, or want to put anything in it, let Sara Grady know. In particular, note that items could be included in the calendar of events.

6. Historian’s Report (given by Alan Young)

* Alan Young reported the passing of Jay Moore.

7. Student Representative Report (given by Liz Brannon)

* Will be joining the communications committee. She is also on the communications committee for CERF and will let us know about the next webinar.

8. Communications Committee +Technology Report

* We’ve covered everything.

9. On the development of an Awards Committee, which has been rather informal, and Jamie Vaudrey would like to suggest that we make it a little more formal.

* We would like to get some folks on board, ideally 5-6 individuals on the committee who can provide a legacy of institutional knowledge of how we run student awards. With a committee of this size it seems likely that we would have 3 at any given meeting. These people could also help oversee student judging.
  + This committee would give the meeting planners and board more regularity of who we can count on for leadership and experience in this area.
  + It would also be good to recruit committee members for other awards. This has traditionally been run by the past president. Currently, we are rather sporadic with how we give out honorary membership and NEERS achievement awards and it would be good to have a group of individuals that oversee these honors. Please let Jamie Vaudrey know if you are interested in being on that committee.

10. Nominations Committee (typically run by Past President John Brawley)

* The President Elect will be up for vote as will Secretary and Treasurer.
* The President is a 6 year position: 2 y as President Elect, 2 y as President, and 2 y as Past President. The Presidents split up the work so that there is less of an impact. Also, students can run for the Presidency. The President Elect attends CERF board meetings, which are 100% paid.
* Deadline information will be emailed out by Jamie Vaudrey.
* Appointments are made for the member at large and student representative positions.

11. Local Program Committee (for organizing meetings)

* About 3 people are typically involved.
* For this meeting they were Sue Adamovich, Chris Feurt, Pam Morgan, and Bev Johnson.

12. Meeting Support Committee, we need more people to host. Below are listed some of the additional supporting roles to help the local committee:

* Past-President – task master, making sure things are done when the need to be done.
* President Elect – serves as the supportive coordinator and the point of contact for Local Committee.
* Treasurer – assists with logistical support and money questions.
* Secretary – communicates with the membership.
* Webmaster – populates the web page and creates the abstract submission and meeting registration forms.
* Program Chairs – is responsible for abstract management and program development.
* The Executive Board is going to add some fundraising mentors and is currently looking for them.
* The Executive Board would also like to establish some presenter support mentors.

13. Autumn Oczkowski gave a brief introduction to the CERF 2017 meeting, which will be held in Providence, RI.

* Autumn said that she would send an email with a list of roles where help is needed.
* Veronica Berounsky and Walter Berry, who are co-chairs of the CERF 2017 Attendee Experience Committee, gave a brief introduction to call for help.
  + Sue Adamovicz and Liz Brannon agreed to help out with field trips.

14. Veronica Berounsky and Walter Berry then gave a brief introduction to this upcoming NEERS Fall 2016 meeting on Block Island.

* They said that there would be a game and formal banquet at the meeting. As is tradition.
* Someone asked if there was a way to establish a roommate match. It was discussed that the webmasters might be able to add a room share tool on Wild Apricot.

14. Cindy Delpapa pointed out that our 50th anniversary meeting will be in the Spring of 2020. There was some discussion of when NEERS was officially formed and when the first meeting was held. It was determined that the 50th anniversary of NEERS being formed will be in Fall of 2019. Nonetheless, everyone agreed that we needed to start to plan.