

NEW ENGLAND ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY

Minutes of the Fall Meeting
9 October 1976

Marine Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

The 1976 fall meeting of NEEPS was called to order at 1110. President Mike Mazurkiewicz expressed the appreciation of the organization to all who had been involved in planning and running the meeting. Special thanks went to Marie Abbott and Eva Montiero. He then thanked Mattie Chanley, Chris Biela and Ed Rhodes for chairing the paper presentations.

After some debate it was decided to read the minutes of the last meeting. They were accepted but there is some doubt as to whether it was before or after they were read. The treasurer's report was then given and accepted by a tolerant membership.

Mazurkiewicz announced that the ERF governing board had discussed the possibility of informing our political leaders of the importance of production of food, suggesting that mariculture research be encouraged and funded specifically to develop techniques for producing inexpensive protein. Bivalve mollusks were suggested but Mazurkiewicz reported that the ERF governing board preferred to consider invertebrate filter feeders in general and took no action.

President Mazurkiewicz announced that NEEPS was not covered by ERF incorporation and suggested we should consider incorporation. John Tietjen suggested we investigate different states to find the least expensive. Bernie McAlice moved that the incoming executive committee investigate the desirability of incorporation and take appropriate action. Mattie Chanley seconded and motion passed.

The President reported that there had been some feeling that NEEPS was becoming too large. It might be advisable to split into two organizations to prevent loss of informality and to further exploit the membership potential of the geographic extremes. Ernie Ruber observed that informality at the meetings had not changed significantly. Barbara Welsh suggested that our nucleus of active members had not increased regardless of total members. Paul Chanley said that the number of dues paying members had increased in the last two years and that attendance at this meeting was higher than it had been at the last Woods Hole meeting. Barbara Welsh suggested that as long as it was no necessary to turn down papers regularly it was premature to consider splitting. Ruber said Woods Hole meetings were always heavily attended and that it might be best to let the matter drop, for now.

The President reviewed the development of ERF and said a number of members questioned whether ERF was fulfilling its purpose. One half our dues payment goes directly or indirectly to ERF and it might be worth determining if the affiliation is worth the cost. McAlice stated that ERF apparently wasn't doing much but holding large formal meetings that duplicated the efforts of other organizations and were usually too far away for most NEEPS members to attend. John Tietjen reported that there was unofficial feeling in other affiliates that ERF was not serving its purpose. He suggested that an ERF meeting every two years might be too frequent for a major meeting on advances in estuarine research. He also suggested a greater proportion of contributed to invited papers.

He added that the incoming executive committee should forward our misgivings to ERF. Welsh said ERF served a function in that it permitted affiliates to have informal meetings while providing them a formal political outlet. She suggested don't leave ERF but give them our opinions. Dave Dean said that originally ERF was to be the spokesman for the scientific community to provide politicians with scientific expertise. This has not been accomplished. He suggested that the executive committee query ERF governing board on just what they are doing and what they are trying to accomplish. It was suggested that ERF, through the news letter, print a calendar of events of interest to all members. Ruber stated that ERF was needed. We should not withdraw from it but should suggest policy changes. Chanley moved that the incoming executive committee send a questionnaire, designed to determine the membership opinion of what ERF should be doing, with the next meeting notice. Our ERF representatives would then be instructed to convey the results of the survey to the governing board. The motion was seconded and passed.

President Mazurkiewicz reported that some people felt that NEEPS meetings were held too frequently. Barbara Welsh responded that when there were 2 meetings a year members had twice as much chance to attend one. Ruber preferred two meetings but thought ERF might meet less often. Ruth Turner agreed that two meetings a year were desirable. Chanley suggested that because of past experience it would be best not to hold meetings the same season as ERF because of ERF resentment. Chris Biela pointed out that NEEPS does not normally have a separate meeting the season ERF meets and that since this was past policy no action was needed.

Mazurkiewicz reported that ERF was considering taking over Chesapeake Science. as its official publication. He gave the results of the ERF poll dealing with such a possibility. McAlice asked if such a publication would be available only to ERF members and if not would ERF members get a break on subscription. Welsh asked how it would be financed. Who comes up with the cash if there are not enough subscribers? Mazurkiewicz asked the members present (about 100):

How many subscribe to Chesapeake Science? 2

How many favor ERF take-over of Ches. Sci.? Favor 27 Oppose 9 Abstain about 60

How many would definitely subscribe to the new journal. Yes 33 No 11 Others 50-60

Ruber asked if ERF's role as the political arm of its affiliates would be compromised by its role as publisher of a learned journal, or vice versa. Chanley stated he did not want to see any action that might interfere with the potential political importance of ERF.

Mazurkiewicz announced that Barbara Welsh and Robert Padulski had been nominated for president and that Larry Spencer and Bernie McAlice for Secretary-Treasurer. He asked for additional nominations. There were none and ballots were passed and collected.

Mazurkiewicz asked if there were any invitations for the next NEEPS meeting. Berry Lyons, on behalf of the University of New Hampshire, or at least a majority of its multitudinous departments, and on behalf of of a lot of other entities in the great state of New Hampshire extended a kind invitation with a rousing speech that would have won a nomination for any political candidate. Barbara Welsh announced that UConn would defer to New Hampshire but keep their invitation open for a future date. Dave Franz moved we accept the New Hampshire invitation and Ernie Ruber seconded so we did.

Chris Biela moved that NEEPS officially request NOAA to produce more copies of the Fisheries Bulletin, especially the keys, and to reprint those that are out of print, by letter to appropriate officials. In addition NEEPS representatives to ERF are instructed to attempt to get ERF to take similar official action. Ruth Turner seconded and motion passed..

Mike Mazurkiewicz announced that the new NEERS president was Barbara Welsh and the new Secretary-Treasurer was Bernie McAlice. He then turned the meeting over to the new president. She stated that she doubted she could match her predecessors beer consumption but would otherwise try to serve faithfully. She expressed the gratitude of the organization to the outgoing officers and adjourned the meeting at 1235.

Submitted by



Paul Chanley