

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 1992
WELLS, MAINE

1. President Townsend called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.
2. A round of thanks was offered to the local organizing committee, particularly Michele Dionne of the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve and Doris Adams of the Laudholm Trust for their considerable efforts in putting on the meeting.
3. The Secretary's report was accepted as read.
4. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.
5. Elections were held. The candidates for President-Elect were Mike Dadswell and David Franz, and the candidates for Secretary-Treasurer were Brad Barr and Robert Buchsbaum. While votes were being counted, the business meeting continued.

6. President Townsend gave a report on the recent ERF Governing Board meeting. As President Townsend had been appointed head of the ERF Membership Committee (or is he the entire committee?), he wanted to express his thoughts on why ERF has < 1000 members, while the affiliate societies have > 2500 members. Clearly there are many individuals with good reasons not to belong to ERF even when they belong to one of the affiliates. There is no need to belong to ERF unless one wants to get Estuaries and attend a meeting every two years. The benefits of belonging to one of the affiliates include networking with other coastal and estuarine scientists in one's region. One possible group of individuals who may be self-excluding is that of coastal oceanographers, many of whom are in NEERS. He called for a vote to include "Coastal" in the name of the society, so that it would now be the Coastal and Estuarine Research Society, or CERF. The vote passed with 52 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention. He suggested that ERF may want to consider having annual meetings in order to communicate and exchange new ideas better. He will be writing an editorial to appear in the ERF Newsletter regarding the addition of "Coastal" to ERF.

He speculated on what to do about Estuaries, whether to change the focus and format to include more papers on coastal research, to expand to a broader readership, to increase in size? What of possible competition with Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science, published by our sister society the Estuarine and Coastal Science Association (ECSA) in England. Should we modify the two journals to be companion journals, each with a particular emphasis?

Sandy Macfarlane interjected that she found the situation humorous, as she recalled that it was ERF that sought a break from the affiliates. Apparently Bob Orth, former ERF President,

indicates that ERF is the smallest national-level scientific society.

7. Julie Rankin proposed a round of thanks to Marshall Pregnall for his four years as NEERS Secretary-Treasurer.

8. Election results: David Franz was elected President-Elect, and Robert Buchsbaum was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

9. The transition of power to President Veronica Berounsky commenced with a round of thanks to out-going President David Townsend.

10. President Berounsky continued the discussion of ERF issues, indicating that ERF has decided to continue having its meetings every two years, but to have joint meetings in alternate years, as they did in 1992 with ECSA. The anticipated schedule for the next four years includes an ERF meeting at Hilton Head, SC in 1993, a joint meeting on the Great Lakes in 1994, an ERF meeting in Corpus Christi, TX in 1995, and another joint meeting with ECSA in 1996.

She asked for input regarding whether the affiliates, particularly NEERS, should have only one meeting per year, as is already the case for some of the affiliates, e.g., PERS. The membership expressed its sentiments in favor of continuing to have two meetings in those years without an ERF meeting.

She urged all those in attendance to submit abstracts and present papers at NEERS meetings, particularly since we seem to want to have meetings.

She remarked that the number of students who attend NEERS meetings and present papers seems to be greater in the spring than the fall, particularly for undergraduates. It was asked if we should sponsor the Rankin Prize for the best undergraduate paper only in the spring, and decided that we should keep our options open.

David Franz asked about the difficulty of getting sponsoring organizations for NEERS meetings. President Berounsky said, yes, it is difficult, and would be nice to be able to plan two years in advance for NEERS meetings. She would like to have the spring 1993 meeting in Connecticut, to consider the possibility of a joint meeting with AERS in spring 1994 in the Hudson River region, and to have the fall 1994 meetings, which will include elections of officers, on Cape Cod.

Anne Giblin asked if it was easier or more difficult for people to attend a special Thursday symposium. David Townsend suggested having a special Thursday session at every spring meeting. Mike Mazurkiewicz said that school schedules make it difficult to attend Thursday sessions. Peter Larsen asked if it is easier for students to attend in the spring on Friday and Saturday versus a special session on Thursday. Ted Loder commented that special symposia attract a different audience to NEERS meetings, including possible new NEERS members, and have

recently had excellent attendance. He added that it's not relevant if they stay in NEERS or not, but that information is exchanged and new contacts are made. Brad Barr asked if it might be better to extend the meeting on Saturday. Others emphasized the challenge of a Saturday night drive home. Sandy Macfarlane said that the local organizing committees need the flexibility to plan ahead. David Franz asked about the possibility of holding the special symposia on Fridays, then having the normal NEERS meetings on Saturday mornings. It was suggested that such a schedule might not offer everyone a chance to speak who wanted to.

President Berounsky said that she would like NEERS to become better known in New England as a group whose members were a resource of knowledgeable individuals. She urged the membership to consider who out there working at what institutions might be potential NEERS members. Alan Young asked about the possibility of having a small brochure on NEERS. It was recalled that back in Bernie McAlice's days as President, he sent out an informational letter about NEERS to new members. While it is possible that no actual such letters have survived the rigors of considerable time to serve as a model, the idea is a good one. Voices from the membership proposed ideas such as a NEERS logo or t-shirt; much upset and commotion followed.

11. President Berounsky reported that ERF has a new Executive Director to replace Jerry Williams, Joye Bartholomew. She has indicated that it might be possible to have the ERF dues letters also request dues for the affiliates. This wouldn't replace each affiliates mechanism for paying dues, but would comprise another way to pay affiliate dues. Peter Larsen asked why don't the ERF President and Executive Director attend affiliate meetings, to learn better first-hand what each affiliate is like.

12. President Berounsky announced that instead of a fall 1993 NEERS meeting, the ERF meeting will be held on Hilton Head Island in November. NEERS will once again be sponsoring a student travel award. She urged students to submit abstracts to present papers at the spring NEERS meeting as well as for the travel award. There should be an April deadline. She asked for feedback about how the travel award should be chosen; should it be by lottery, the Ketchum Prize winner, etc. Linda Deegan favored a lottery, as it encourages students to attend as many meetings as possible. Ted Loder said that he, for once, agreed with Linda Deegan, that student membership is a fluid group. Dave Burdick favored a lottery, adding that advisors should help find funds for students to attend meetings. Cindy Delpapa added that it might well be possible for the Ketchum Prize winner not to want to attend the ERF meeting. Fred Short asked if it might be possible to judge the submitted abstracts. Mike Liebman suggested that rather than choosing the Ketchum winner, how about having a lottery among the top four or five student papers. Jody Berman suggested a lottery among the students who present papers

at the spring meeting. Bernie McAlice also agreed with Linda Deegan; he didn't like the precanned, finalized-in-April talks. Ken Foreman asked for clarification. Wendy Smith-Leo asked what would happen if ERF rejected the abstract of the travel award winner. It was deemed unlikely to occur.

13. ERF officer nominations will be coming up for President-Elect, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large. If you have people in mind, see President Berounsky.

14. An ERF subcommittee is forming on foreign important matters, such as an ERF/ECSA joint board meeting. Possible topics include sharing information regarding society constitutions and by-laws, sharing of newsletters, etc. She encouraged taking advantage of the low price of associate membership in ECSA for only \$15. She said that many scientists in other countries are now more able to exchange information; for example, many research journals are now going to foreign libraries, particularly in eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific rim. NEERS appears to be well represented in ECSA.

15. Finally, Bob Radulski noted that he observed many violations of Article X of the NEERS Constitution. In particular, he indicated that Jim List was wearing a jacket and tie, and President Berounsky was wearing heels. He noted that Julie Rankin was more properly attired for the meeting.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

P.S. At the banquet, the Buck Ketchum Prize for the best graduate student paper was awarded to Mary Sue Potts of the University of New Hampshire for her paper "Effects of hematopoietic neoplasia on the soft-shell clam kidney."

SECRETARY'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 6, 1992

WELLS, MAINE

1. Read minutes from May 1992 meeting.

2. Membership report:

Approximately 390 members in data base, \approx 145 unpaid dues for 2 or more years, \approx 245 active
About 16 new members (9 Regular, 7 Student) in past year, about 20 dropped or moved away.

3. Meeting report:

70 registered thus far: 26 preregistered, 44 walkins, 0 cancellations.

42 Regular NEERS members, 10 Student members, 18 nonmembers

Ketchum papers: 5

Rankin papers: 0

Total income for this meeting is about \$2275, including \$99 contributed to the Student Fund.