

Minutes of NEERS Business Meetings

November 3, 2000, Block Island, RI

Scott Warren, **President**, called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The **Secretary's Report** was given by David Burdick for Pam Morgan. It included the minutes of the May meeting in Portland, ME. Pam Arnofsky presented the most recent numbers on membership and attendance by state.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Pam Arnofsky. It was noted that 150 people registered for the meeting, but all but three pre-registered, violating Pregnall's Rule. Pregnall's Rule states that the actual registration for any meeting can be predicted by multiplying the number of pre-registered by 1.5. Clearly, Pregnall's Rule was, for the past decade, one of the only rules in estuarine science we could count upon year in and out. Arnofsky suggested the isolated nature of the meeting site along with the advent of on-line registration were likely causes. The membership proposed an Arnofsky correction factor of 0.68 be applied following Pregnall's Rule. This example was not attempted during the meeting, but is included for clarity:

$$(\# \text{ pre-registered} * 1.5) * 0.68 = \text{total \# registered}, 147 * 1.5 * 0.68 = 150$$

Pam reported that the meeting costs this fall were quite low due to significant contributions from 2 exhibitors (hydrolab and YSI) RI EPA, RI Sea Grant, and several other groups, including the Spring House that provided the meeting room without charge. Net profit on this meeting amounted to \$500.

Both reports were accepted without alteration, by voice vote of the membership. Bruce Tripp suggested thank you notes be sent to all contributors and Pam agreed to do so.

Veronica Berounsky attended the **ERF Governing Board Meeting** last week in Florida (for Scott Warren) to plan for next fall's national conference. She reported ERF had 1,385 members, the Journal was online and searchable and that a new Educators Award will be initiated at the fall 2001 meeting. Ann Giblin urged all NEERSians to attend the fall 2001 meeting and keep up to date on their ERF memberships.

Ron Rozsa reported that the NEERS web page is up and functional. He requested photos from the membership. Larry Spencer echoed that request, and called for the membership to submit articles for the newsletter, which will be electronic from as well as paper.

Old Business:

Student awards, as modified at the last meeting, are being implemented.

The Spring NEERS meeting will be on the North Shore of MA, hosted by Alan Young and Robert Buchsbaum.

New Business:

Julie Rankin proposed that all of the students travel awards be designated the Niering Awards to

honor the memory of William Niering, who passed away just over a year ago. Motion was seconded and passed.

A note is to be sent to Sandy McFarlane, to let her know we miss her and wish she were here.

Elections:

President Scott Warren read the candidate statement of Robert Buchsbaum, who could not attend. Marshall presented his statement and with no other nominations, a ballot vote was taken of those present at the meeting. The slate of Treasurer: David Burdick, and Secretary: Pam Morgan was adopted by voice vote.

President Scott Warren announced that Marshall had won the vote for president elect. Scott then passed the presidential baton to Linda Deegan, who will lead NEERS as president for two years. Linda graciously accepted her new responsibility and led the membership in thanking Scott for his dedication and leadership over the past two years. Linda welcomed Marshall and the rest of the officers and called to close the meeting successfully.

Recorded by David Burdick, as NEERs secretary Pam Morgan was absent

Note: the following students were awarded this year's prizes:

Ketchum prize: Jaime Vaudrey, Univ. Conn. At Avery Point (Vaudrey, J.M.P. and J.N. Kremer. Ecosystem metabolism in three shallow sub-estuaries in relation to nutrient loading)

Rankin prize: Eve-Lyn Hinckley, Middlebury College (Hinckley, E.S. and C. Neill. The path of total dissolved nitrogen in an intact coastal forest, Edgartown, MA.)

Dean prize: Ruth Carmichael, Boston University-MBL. (Carmichael, R.H. and E.T. Weiss The effect of terrigenous nitrogen loading on growth rates of quahogs (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) and softshell clams (*Mya arenaria*) through changes in water column and habitat characteristics.)

Awardees received \$100 plus a student membership to ERF and a set of the new double CD "Estuaries and Chesapeake Science, 1960-1999"

Student travel Fund winners:

Kathryn Ford (URI-GSO)

Vera Pospelova (McGill Univ.)

Julie Horowitz (Hampshire College)

Joanne Blintz (URI-GSO)

Addendum (4/24/01):

According to Linda Deegan, Scott Warren has spoken to the Neiring family and they are very pleased with the idea of NEERS establishing Bill Neiring Award for Travel.