

New England Estuarine Research Society
Business Meeting
27 October, 2006
Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT

NEERS President Pam Neubert called the business meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

The Secretary's Report from the spring meeting was read by C. Delpapa. MSV

The Treasurer's Report was provide by S. Hale. This meeting brought in \$1050 worth of donations plus the additional donation of the shuttle vans provided by the Coast Guard Academy/ Alumni Association. Woods Hole SEA Grant has again provided two full student scholarships. Only one NEERS student travel award was given out for this meeting because there was not enough students asking for travel assistance. In general the donations to the student endowment have been strong.

It appears this meeting will remain in the black though this is only a preliminary estimation. The NEERS assets are generally as follows: \$25,000 student endowment in a CD, checking account has \$20,418, (cost for this meeting have not been deducted from this amount). The Executive Committee did discuss how best to manage NEERS funds to maximize interest. It may be best to use a series of staggered CDs to ensure there is always enough money available to cover meeting costs. Bernie McAlice suggested NEERS needs to endow an 'attitude adjustment hour' fund to be used at each meeting. Treasurer's report MSV

Elections: Running for President Elect are Pam Morgan and Charlie Roman. Secretary is Sara Grady and Tay Evans. Pam Neubert and Robert Buchsbaum offered candidate statements for each of the two president elect candidates since neither was able to attend this meeting. Tay and Sara also provided statements to the membership. Ed Dettman introduce himself, he is running for treasurer and is unopposed. Ballots were handed out to all members and collected to be counted.

Old Business: Ron Rozsa and Susan Adamowicz provided an update on the spring meeting covering sudden salt marsh die back. Of note is the LA die back work and that the LA model does not work in NE. Ron noted there has been a fair amount of press coverage on this topic of late. Susan is working to get funding for a spring '07 meeting.

Marshall Pregnall is looking for help with the ERF 07 NEERS poster. Contributions of artistic talent, images, etc. are all welcome. See Marshall if you can be of assistance.

Bob Christian, ERF President, was introduced. Bob spoke briefly to the

membership. First he noted NEERS is a first rate operation. He encouraged NEERS participation in Providence 07- it is a great opportunity to highlight NEERS. Right now ERF is doing strategic planning. One of the big changes is in publishing/journals. The majority of citations now come from work available through web-based materials. This means ERF has to up date its profile and consider how to move forward. Bob asked members to be involved, to keep abreast of issues in the newsletter and weigh in.

ERF '07: Jim Lattimer, one of the local organizers, updated the membership on the Providence meeting which is only one year away. The theme is *Science for Society*. There are about sixty sessions proposed plus six workshops and six field trips. Help is needed. There is a steering committee (with student reps from each affiliate and it is hoped the NEERS student rep will take the lead) and a program advisory council (PAC). Veronica Berounsky is chair of the social committee which has already secured the band *The Outliers* to play. Right now there is a search for an academic (or other) entity to sponsor the meeting.

NEERS Spring '07: Peter Larsen has stepped up to host (one last meeting) in exciting Boothbay Harbor. The dates are May 3-5, 2007.

Coastal Estuarine Science News (CESN) Robert Buchsbaum, (who serves on the editorial board of CESN) provided a bit of information about this relatively new ERF endeavor. The publication is meant to assist coastal managers. So far most of the hits to the CESN web site are by non ERF members. Robert encouraged people to look at an issue.

Other news: The ExComm has decided to review the NEERS Constitution with the aim of changing the constitution to allow the student rep to be a voting member of the ExComm. One small housekeeping change may be to change the language allowing lapsed members to be sent dunning letters to dunning notifications. The membership might want to consider a discussion on whether the student rep should continue to be appointed or change it to an elected position.

Early Career Award: NEERS does have such an award but it has been a bit overlooked. Pam Neubert would like to revitalize this category and is looking for people to serve on a committee. Pam Kramer suggested people who were NEERSians as students, but no longer in NE, be considered for the award.

More help needed: Ron is looking for a tech savvy individual or entity to help with programming. John Brawley offered to see if Battelle might be able to offer some assistance. If anyone has any other possibilities, please contact Ron.

New Business from the floor: It was suggested that with the large student endowment and other NEERS money, NEERS should consider investigating the best way to manage the funds and what to do with the money. It was suggested

students not be charged a registration fee. Pam noted more than half of NEERS money is dedicated to the student endowment, students pay only five dollars for dues, get a much reduced meeting rate and presenters get a free banquet. Grace felt the fee should remain as it is way to teach responsibility. Walter encouraged re-examining the policy as it is a more complex issue than might appear. It was suggested help be offered to not just those students presenting but to any student as they gain from attending. Robert mentioned that EF has an investment committee and he intends to initiate one for NEERS.

Election Results: (drum roll please) Secretary is Tay Evans, Treasurer is Ed Dettman, President elect is Pam Morgan. The presidency was turned over to Robert by Pam. A round of applause was given to Pam for her tireless work as president.

Addendum:

Student Award winners: Ketchum- Wally Fullweiler, Dean- Celine Santiago Bass, Warren- Kaitlyn Campbell Shaw (no Rankin awarded)

Stickleback Winner- Jim Kramer with honorable mention to ERF President Bob Christian who definitely "gets it".