

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Fall 2014 (Groton)

11:58pm

- Secretary minutes approved (Hilary Neckles, Steve Hale)
- Treasurer's report
 - Mid-year financial statement from Cindy (not this meeting)
 - If include student awards (\$733) we lost money – endowment doesn't make enough money
 - Salem very well attended, but had to pay for empty spots on the boat
 - Paid for Coastal Analytics (Wild Apricot) and hosting fees, all at once
 - CERF Governing Board travel
 - \$700 from raffle
 - Cerf giving us less for invited speakers - used to be \$1400, but is now \$1000
 - Meeting is coming in very much in the black despite lower fees, school is great, great donations
 - Keeping funds in short term CDs to catch potential rise in interest rates
 - Transfer of checkbook
 - Jamie is a co-signer
 - Cindy -> Jamie -> next Treasurer to catch money from this meeting, Cindy will also keep some deposit slips for late sponsor donations
 - New bank TD is much easier to deal with (transferring signing ability)
- Secretary report (Salem meeting evaluations)
 - Add a question about Wild Apricot?
 - Send report to meeting organizers a month after meeting
- Newsletter update (recipe column)
- Webmaster
 - Listserv is larger than our pay level for Wild Apricot
 - Two different listserves – publicize that you can post to NEERS
 - NEERS.org is our *website*, WildApricot is our *database*
 - Business meeting minutes on the website?
 - Looking for someone to help with website
 - Looking for review of website (communications committee additions?)
- Elections
 - Bios are on the table
 - Ballots have been made
 - Sue and Elizabeth will help pass out ballots and count
- Awards Committee
 - Proposal for changing things – got a lot of feedback
 - Need a non-student research award
- Judging
 - Working ok – committee for each prize
 - Harder with moving students to Saturday but still ok

- Welcome to Liz Brannon to the Executive Committee
- Meeting Organization (Program Chair)
 - “Here’s what I do” list
 - Tay Evans and Kathy Wigand are new chairs, only for program
 - Hilary facilitating the flow of the meeting in addition to developing the program
 - General meeting organization
 - Program development
 - President Elect will do *meeting organization*, Members at Large will help (approved)
 - Need to know before we leave Groton who will take the responsibility
- Spring Meeting
 - Planning starts NOW
 - Request from AFS and Coastal Society, joint meeting in S. New England
 - Huge benefit to society, detriment to program chair/meeting organizer
 - Thursday joint symposium and then NEERS continue on
 - Potential conflict – SWS meeting in Providence May 31-June 2 (check dates)
 - Wells in Spring 2016, prepare for ~150 people (find space)
- 3x3 award
 - Needs to be clarified (getting confusing) – website needs to be clearer
 - Award chair is past president, 3x3 awards chair as well? Yes
- First run of Wild Apricot
 - Worked great
 - Online access to abstracts would be great to restore (will be done next time)
- Executive Committee Handbook
 - Job for the past-president to finish
 - Had it been in place, we wouldn’t have temporarily lost IRS status
- Long Island Sound Research Conference (a few years away)
 - Sue MacNamara has stepped down and has tried to convince NY and CT Sea Grant to pick it up
 - NEERS doesn’t want to be in charge of the LIS conference and has had past issues
 - Open to joint meetings, good at program organizing but not as much the local organizing and it’s a huge burden
 - LISS STAC would want a say in the program development
 - Joint meeting “a strong maybe”, let them run some of their own before doing one together
- CERF Updates
 - Troubling trends at CERF
 - Suggestion from Exec. Committee to reduce number of affiliate society meeting presidents on the board
 - Too expensive? \$100,000/yr from CERF? Need to see breakdown (and they only pay ½)
 - Board too large (17)? Comparable to other non-profit national organizations
 - Committee to investigate this, had conference calls, general consensus was that this is a horrible idea

- Issue is that time is being wasted – meet and greet type of stuff, not taking advantage of having presidents at CERF
- “Taxation without Representation”
- If you want membership to improve, need to keep affiliate society presidents
- o CERF offering to take over affiliate business (talk for years)
 - CAERS will be test demonstration for this (meet maybe 1x/yr, spread out membership, very small)
 - Compare to NEERS, compare to AERS who have a very skilled webmaster
 - Key to being a non-profit is having own website
 - CERF hasn’t been doing a very good job of letting us know about membership in affiliate society
 - New management group supposedly offering better services (less expensive, better CERF meeting management)
- o Membership is continuing to decline
 - Legal opinion that informed federal employees that they can’t use appropriated funds for society membership or journal subscriptions – having an impact?
 - Lots of state employees that can’t travel (declines for CERF and NEERS)
 - Remote access to meetings to keep members
- Dues
 - o Most people renew for spring meeting, good idea with Paypal (due to Paypal cuts)
 - o Send a reminder to everyone in mid-December – pay through website, if it serves you best you should do your dues in December
 - o Bring cash dues to NEERS?

Adjourn 1:19pm

Business Meeting Minutes Fall 2014 (Groton)

- Voting!
 - Sara Grady – President-Elect
 - Autumn Oczkowski – Secretary
 - Courtney Schmidt - Treasurer
- Secretary's Report (and Newsletter)
 - Review of Salem business meeting minutes
 - Meeting evaluation on SurveyMonkey
 - 1st time all electronic
 - 41 responses
 - Salem – Compliments
 - Location (Salem & hotel)
 - IGNITE Session
 - 15 minute talks
 - Topical sessions w/ mix of students and professionals
 - Salt marsh symposium
 - Salem – Complaints/Suggestions
 - Cramped poster room
 - Seating arrangement not ideal
 - More interactive discussions
 - 124 attendees in Groton
- Treasurer's Report
 - Salem very well attended, but had to pay for empty spots on the boat
 - \$700 from raffle
 - Meeting is coming in very much in the black despite lower fees, school is great, great donations
 - Keeping funds in short term CDs to catch potential rise in interest rates
- Webmaster's Report
 - Two different listserves – neers@neers.org and neers_members@neers.org
 - Meeting info on neers.org, registration and dues on wildapricot site
 - Need web management help
- Student Rep – Elizabeth Brannon! Welcome!
- Next Meeting
 - starting work on it now, possibly a joint meeting with AFS and Coastal Society
 - Spring 2016 – Wells?
 - Fall 2016 – Block Island?
- CERF Update
 - CERF will possibly take over affiliate society management –remains to be seen
 - Membership declining
- Housekeeping (dues, survey)
 - Pay your dues – in December if that's better, otherwise at spring meeting

- o Please fill out SurveyMonkey survey (link to be sent)