

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
5 MAY 1991
YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

1. President Townsend called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.
2. The Secretary's report was accepted as read.
3. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.
4. President Townsend reminded the membership that instead of a fall 1991 NEERS meeting, there will be an ERF meeting in San Francisco, November 10-14. In 1992, there will be a joint meeting of ERF with the Estuarine and Coastal Science Association in Plymouth, England.
5. President Townsend discussed the Executive Board's suggestion for providing an award for a student to travel to ERF meetings. (a) Students who have submitted abstracts for the fall 1991 ERF meeting will be asked, by a forthcoming mailing, to apply for a \$300 travel award. The award will be made by lottery.
(b) Prior to future ERF meetings, we plan to ask students to apply for the NEERS travel award lottery before the ERF abstract submission deadline, in hopes of assisting a student to attend the ERF meeting who might otherwise not consider submitting an abstract. The membership declared their general approval of this plan.
6. President Townsend indicated that the Executive Board had recommended that the Spring 1992 meeting be held in New Hampshire. He made a request for a hero to volunteer to head the local organizing committee.
7. President Townsend reported on the ERF governing board meeting, and clarified the background discussion that led to the comments printed in the ERF Newsletter. His report to the ERF governing board indicated two areas of intended activity: (1) to increase the active membership and attendance at meetings, in particular by reversing the recent decline in activity by members whose interests are directed towards coastal ocean and water column topics; his perception that NEERS has become less well rounded than we were a decade ago in this respect; and (2) the possibility of changing the name of NEERS from the New England Estuarine Research Society to the North East Estuarine Research Society (NEERS). Such a change would be less geographically restrictive and would parallel the regional identification of the sibling societies.

Discussion revolved around how we might encourage coastal oceanographers and water column types to join and become active in NEERS, and why such individuals might not perceive NEERS as an appropriate group to identify with given their range of interests. It was

suggested that we have a special Thursday symposium or session on Friday or Saturday at the Spring 1992 meeting that would address a topic of interest to such individuals, and perhaps to make it a partially invited session with some noteworthy individual to headline the session to attract other such individuals.

8. President Townsend read an announcement concerning the recent death of Bill Odum, and indicated that a memorial fund in his name has been established by the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Virginia.

9. Brad Barr suggested that some individuals may have difficulty obtaining approval for travel funds to attend NEERS meetings from those holding purse strings, yet who do not appreciate the fine humor in typical NEERS mailings providing information on meetings. He suggested that a separate page be included in future mailings that condensed all the necessary and appropriate information for submission to those who may be skeptical of jocularity.

10. Julie Rankin asked if there might be some appropriate way in which the Rankin Prize money could be awarded at meetings where no or too few undergraduate papers were presented, and the question was worded into a motion to award it to a deserving graduate student paper. The motion was seconded, and after considerable discussion the motion was turned down in a friendly vote.

11. President Townsend adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

P.S. President Townsend announced during the afternoon that David Dean, former NEERS President had recently died.

PPS At the banquet, the Buck Ketchum Prize for the best graduate student paper was awarded to Kim Mawhinney of Acadia University for her presentation on Semipalmated sandpiper foraging entitled "Mudflats are not all created equal."

PPPS At the banquet, President Townsend announced that Jay Moore, the initial President Pro-tem and presently NEERS Historian, has been made an Honorary member by the Executive Committee on the occasion of his retirement and in honor of his many years of service to NEERS. Bob Radulski spoke relatively briefly about Jay and his years with NEERS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
5 MAY 1991
YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

1. Read minutes from October 1990 meeting.

2. Membership report:

Approximately 390 members in data base, \approx 94 unpaid dues for 2 or more years, \approx 300 active
About 15 new members in past year, about 65 dropped or moved away.

3. Meeting report:

60 registered thus far: 52 preregistered, 10 walkins, 2 cancellations.
42 Regular NEERS members, 10 Student members, 8 nonmembers
Ketchum papers 8
Rankin papers 0

Total income for this meeting is about \$11,230.50, including \$84.50 contributed to the Student Fund.