

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 8, 1992
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

1. President Townsend called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.
2. The Secretary's report was accepted as read.
3. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.
4. A motion was proposed and seconded to amend the NEERS Constitution to include language regarding the organization of NEERS in order to comply with IRS requirements for status as a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. The language was read, and copies of the revised Constitution were passed out for the membership to review. The motion passed.
5. Possible future meeting sites for NEERS meetings were discussed, and included possible joint hosting by the Wells NERR, New Hampshire Fish & Game, and UNH. The merits of meetings at centrally located but not particularly interesting (from an estuarine perspective) versus more remote but interesting venues were discussed. The discussion included the reminder that the fall 1992 meeting will have officer elections, and that a centrally located site might be preferable.
6. President Townsend requested volunteers for a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates for the NEERS officer elections; it was suggested that the Executive Committee should function as the nominating committee.
7. President Townsend reported on the ERF board meeting of February 6, 1992.

On June 1, 1992, Jerome Williams will step down as ERF Newsletter editor and correspondent. A search for a successor is underway.

There will be a joint meeting between ERF and the Estuarine and Coastal Science Association (ECSA) in Plymouth, England September 13-18, 1992.

The new ERF officers are: Chris D'Elia, President; Fred Nichols, President-Elect; Sybil Seitzinger, Secretary; and Bob Howarth and Nancy Rabelais as Members-at-Large.

The ERF governing board requested comments on its recently communicated Code of Ethics for ERF members; the Code was summarized and was met with general approval.

ERF 1993 will be held at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

ERF 1995 will very likely be held in New England, given the expressed desire by ERF to return to this area of the country. Discussion about possible meeting places followed, with Portland, Maine and Boston, Massachusetts mentioned as the most likely sites. Mike Dadswell suggested that ERF consider the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, owing to his previously pleasant experiences with that hotel hosting meetings. President Townsend announced that he has been appointed as the Chair of a subcommittee on ERF membership. ERF currently has about 700 members.

President Townsend indicated that ERF President Chris D'Elia had talked with him about the apparent difficulty that ERF has in attracting members who are primarily involved in coastal rather than estuarine research, even though ERF, as is also the case for NEERS, specifically describes itself as being a society for both groups of individuals. NEERS also is considering this situation. The need for both regional and national estuarine societies was reinforced. It appears that ERF President D'Elia is hoping that the regional membership will suggest a name change for ERF to emphasize the range of habitats to which it pertains. While the shift of acronym from ERF to ERCF seemed phonetically harsh, the possibility of becoming CERF (pronounced "surf") was met with general approval. A possible name change wouldn't deemphasize the efforts of the present majority of ERF members, but would rather increase interaction with those who study coastal regions, which are becoming

progressively more recognized as globally crucial habitats. Concern was expressed over possible overlap with the Coastal Society. Peter Larsen queried as to what conferences coastal researchers attend to present their research; both the Benthic ecology meetings and the ASLO meetings were mentioned as likely. Jay Moore moved that President Townsend contact ERF President D'Elia about changing the name of ERF to CERF; the motion passed by a vast majority.

8. The nature and format of NEERS meetings was discussed.

Bernie McAlice asked how many of the people who attended the Thursday session on coastal processes had joined NEERS: about 12. Dave Townsend will follow up on the folks who attended Thursday's session.

Peter Larsen indicated that we must consider having a higher density of papers at meetings, possibly including concurrent sessions.

Linda Bireley indicated that for some previous meetings, the program chair and meeting organizers had sometimes had to beat the bushes to get papers submitted.

Veronica Berounsky said that over the previous 10 years, word-of-mouth contacts had often made the difference for attracting new attendees and subsequent members. The informal, regional, work-in-progress format of NEERS meetings is attractive to many people.

Wendy Smith argued from and for the generalist's viewpoint, that concurrent sessions didn't permit one to hear the entire range of work being presented and might make it difficult for the necessary interconnections of work to occur. She suggested that recruiting letters emphasize that papers of work-in-progress are very welcome.

Robert Buchsbaum indicated that giving a paper at a NEERS meeting isn't, and shouldn't be, an ordeal.

Peter Larsen agreed.

Julie Rankin said that the Thursday session on coastal processes was good, not being presented as a special symposium, but as a session, and encouraged future such thematic sessions.

Michele Dionne said that she enjoyed the integration of estuarine and coastal topics in the session.

Marshall Pregnell said that the encouragement to students to present papers, often their very first presentations, should remain.

Alan Young added that student attendance at meetings, while variable, was also important in helping their professional development.

Linda Bireley suggested looking at the history of recent meetings to determine what worked successfully for recruiting people to submit papers of a diverse nature.

Michael LaMontagne suggested making it possible to student award papers to be presented in any session, particularly if the paper would be more appropriate in a thematic session:

Wendy Smith pointed out that many people can only attend one day of a meeting, and that this can work both for and against attendance from Thursday through Saturday.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

P.S. At the banquet, the Buck Ketchum Prize for the best graduate student presentation was awarded to Michael LaMontagne of the Boston University Marine Program for his paper "Application of DNA hybridization to the study of denitrification," and the Stubby Rankin Prize for the best undergraduate presentation was awarded to Elizabeth Allen of Connecticut College for her paper "Feeding patterns of *Fundulus heteroclitus* on a restored impounded marsh and on adjacent unimpounded areas of the Wequetecock-Pawcatuck tidal marsh system, Stonington, Connecticut."

SECRETARY'S REPORT
8 MAY 1992
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

1. Read minutes from May 1991 meeting.

2. Membership report:

Approximately 380 members in data base, ≈ 165 unpaid dues for 2 or more years, ≈ 215 active
About 30 new members in past year, about 40 dropped or moved away.

3. Meeting report:

101 registered thus far: 66 preregistered, 35 walkins, 1 cancellations.

75 Regular NEERS members, 23 Student members, 3 nonmembers

Ketchum papers: 7

Rankin papers: 5

Total income for this meeting is about \$3895, including \$150 contributed to the Student Fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT
8 MAY 1992
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Balances as of 3 May 1991:

Cash and undeposited funds	795.72
Checking account (Poughkeepsie)	2736.54
Savings account (Falmouth)	701.96
Savings account (Poughkeepsie)	5249.15
<u>Student Fund account</u>	<u>6315.13</u>
Total	15,798.50

Checking account (Poughkeepsie)

Income	
Dues and registrations	570.00
Transfer from savings	5500.00
Interest	72.17
Expenses	
Spring 1991 meeting expenses	1299.58
Ketchum award, spring 1991	100.00
ERF Student Travel award, fall 1991	300.00
Postage, copying, other expenses	542.11
Refunds, debits	529.00
Internal Revenue Service filing fee	150.00
Spring 1992 meeting expenses	3555.00
Travel to ERF governing board	1058.56
Balance	1401.89

Savings account (Poughkeepsie)

Income	
Dues and registration	5716.00
Interest	291.56
Disbursements	
Transfer to checking	5500.00
Balance	4731.71

Savings account (Falmouth)

Income	
Interest	32.19
Balance	734.15

Student Fund

Income	
Contributions	
Interest	307.23
Disbursements	
Awards	
Balance	6622.36

Summary

Cash and undeposited funds	890.00
Checking account	1401.89
Savings account (Falmouth)	734.15
Savings account (Poughkeepsie)	4731.71
<u>Student Fund</u>	<u>6622.36</u>

Total \$14,380.11