

MINUTES OF THE NEERS BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 21, 1993
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, AVERY POINT

1. President Veronica Berounsky called the meeting to order at about 4:20 PM
2. The Secretary's report, which included the minutes of the last meeting, was accepted as read.
3. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read. Linda Birely suggested that funds not needed to cover expenses should be placed in an interest-bearing account.

4. President Berounsky then led a discussion of what to do with some of the money NEERS presently has available beyond what it needs to cover expenses. Since the Society is currently on firm financial footing, she suggested three possible services it could carry out for its members, in addition to the existing student awards:

- a. Provide small research grants for regular or student members.
- b. Provide travel funds for regular members to ERF meetings. This would be for active regular members who have given papers at NEERS meetings over the past few years. It could be tailored toward those members who are between jobs and therefore do not have funding for travel.
- c. Finance outside speakers to come to a NEERS-sponsored special symposium.

A discussion ensued on these ideas. A number of people (Linda Birely, Bob Radulksi, and Richard Orson) favored funding student travel or research rather than funding regular members. There was also support for the notion of supporting a special symposium on Thursdays before regular NEERS meetings (Julie Rankin) or to pay for special speakers to come to NEERS meetings (a number of people).

Although there was some concern expressed that we should not be too daring with our finances in these difficult financial times, Mike Dunn urged NEERS not to be too conservative either. He liked the idea of giving grants for workshops, perhaps to fund a person who is strapped and between jobs. Linda Birely suggested that we set aside a certain amount we can live without for a special needs fund. Then perhaps a number of the ideas could be accommodated.

Robert Buchsbaum commented that although funding students to attend meetings is a great idea in theory, in practice not many students apply for the ERF travel award we currently offer.

Another idea was to fund a regular NEERS newsletter, which might also serve to expand membership. Alan Young brought up the idea of an introductory letter for new NEERS members, an idea that was first discussed at Wells. President Berounsky said that she was currently working on a draft of such a letter.

5. Upcoming meetings and mailings

President Berounsky briefed NEERS members on upcoming meetings and ERF business. Discussions are underway with Bernie Gardner and Sandy MacFarlane who are interested in hosting the Spring and Fall 1994 meetings in metropolitan Boston and Cape Cod respectively. The Fall 1994 needs to be centrally located to attract a large crowd, since it is an election meeting. The order of the meetings (Cape Cod or Boston) may be switched.

The ERF meetings is November 14-18 at Hilton Head, NC. One of the two poster sessions will be sponsored by the affiliates. Wendy Smith Leo volunteered to put together a poster on what NEERS is all about, hopefully being able to dredge up a 1985 poster of Kathy and Ed Rhodes and some historical photos from Jay Moore. Foolishly, the other affiliates have dared to challenge NEERS to a volleyball tournament at the ERF meeting.

A number of NEERS members are running for ERF offices. Candace Oviatt of URI is running for President-Elect against Margaret Davison of S. Carolina Sea Grant. Linda Deegan, Fred Short, and David Townsend are running for Member at Large.

Mailings this summer will include a questionnaire to members on NEERS itself, dunning letters to members who are more than two years in arrears, an update of the mailing list, and a proposal for a change to the NEERS constitution that would allow the Program Chair to be added to the Executive Board. President Berounsky noted that Bernie McAlice was stepping down as Program Chair, but unfortunately could not attend the meeting and be suitably toasted (roasted?) for his long-standing service to NEERS in that capacity.

6. President Berounsky announced that Bernie McAlice was stepping down as Program Chair after years of excellent service. Unfortunately Bernie was not able to attend his final NEERS meeting in his capacity as Program Chair, but he did tell Veronica who the poet was in the program. President Berounsky will be sending out a proposed constitution change to NEERS members to make the Program Chair a member of the Executive Committee.

7. President Berounsky thanked Barbara Welsh and her family and graduate students for putting together an excellent meeting. NEERS members expressed their agreement with a round of applause.

8. President Berounsky then introduced Chris D'Elia, President of ERF and briefly outlined some discussions of the ERF governing board about changes in the relationship between ERF and the affiliates.

President D'Elia then took the floor to discuss his views on the relationship between ERF and the affiliates. ERF is a relatively new organization that arose from AERS and NEERS, so it is not surprising that affiliates have more members than the national organization. He stressed that there is a need for both ERF and the affiliates. The affiliates are less formal than ERF and have more student involvement. ERF, however, is essential for allowing a proactive approach to funding and policy on the federal level. We need to have ERF's voice at the federal level to have a national impact. ERF also encourages thinking in a comparative way, beyond regions.

NEERS is the healthiest of all the affiliates in terms of membership, interest (and feisty statements to ERF). AERS has ebbed in recent years, but President D'Elia stated that Frank Reilly, the new AERS president, will change that.

The ERF governing board just met to discuss the role of ERF and the proposed name change. There has been talk of ERF taking on the task of billing for the affiliates and having a centralized mailing list of ERF and affiliate members. There was some opposition to the name change, but there was also some opposition to using "estuarine" since it is not generally recognizable by the public. President D'Elia used the "hot tub" approach as a litmus test, stated that "coastal" was certainly better recognized than "estuarine" and provided a better frame of reference. He stated his preference for ECRF (Estuarine and Coastal Research Federation), particularly since it fits in with the European Society. The acronym CERF is already being used by the Coastal Education and Research Foundation.

President D'Elia then put in a pitch for attendance at the ERF meeting at Hilton Head in the fall. Over 500 abstracts have been received and there are some excellent special sessions. Of particular note will be the presence of both Gene and Tom Odum in the special session in honor of Bill Odum. On another level Hilton Head gives the feeling what barrier islands might turn into in the future.

President Berounsky then urged NEERS members to attend an open discussion with

President D'Elia on the relationship between ERF and the affiliates to be held the following morning before the start of the technical sessions.

NOTES ON THE DISCUSSION WITH CHRIS D'ELIA ON ERF AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AFFILIATES. 22 MAY 1993, 9AM

1. The journal - President D'Elia stated that the costs of scientific societies are not covered by dues. Publication costs for Estuaries have doubled in the past number of years, but membership has not. ERF is going to have to raise dues by \$10-15 to make up for this shortfall.

R. Eugene Turner's citation analysis indicated that Estuaries is become more popular relative to Limnology and Oceanography. More on that later.

The ERF Governing Board has decided not to change the name of the journal, even as they are considering changing the name of the organization.

2. ERF Newsletter - All NEERS members should be receiving the ERF newsletter, even if they are not ERF members. It costs about \$5.00 per person, but ERF thinks its worth it. ERF has been working hard lately to enhance the newsletter in terms of timing and scope. President D'Elia stated that the current news from the affiliates is rather limited in scope, dealing usually only with meetings. The ERF Governing Board has decided to include articles on scientific "hot issues" in each region. PERS, for example, is dealing with Spartina as a nuisance species. The newsletter could be a forum for expressing opinions on issues. President Berounsky said that Bernie Gardner of U. Mass-Boston will be writing a piece for the newsletter on the Boston Harbor cleanup.

3. Political Actions - President D'Elia said that scientists need to speak up for good science in application to practical problems. He is pushing the federal government to add \$20 million to Sea Grant's budget for marine biotechnology. He also thinks that ERF should be involved jointly with ESA, ASLO, and the Society of Wetlands Scientists on the federal wetlands manual. There is a real need for a scientific analysis free of politics on that topic.

4. Meeting Topics - President D'Elia suggested that meetings with special topics were often more successful than general meetings. He used the example of a recent, well-attended symposium on toxics in Chesapeake Bay, which was held only a few weeks after a poorly attended AERS meeting. Regional marine research programs, such as the Gulf of Maine initiative, would be good subjects for special meetings. Of course, general meetings still have an important place.

5. On affiliates relationship to the national organization - President D'Elia mentioned that ACS is producing a manual for incoming officers in its affiliates which recommends how officers should operate. They need to get to know the history of the organization as well as their own responsibilities.

President Berounsky then put up a transparency of the different roles of ERF and NEERS.

It summarized much of the discussion that had already taken place, stressing ERF's role in national and international issues and as the producer of Estuaries and NEERS role in regional issues and in holding semiannual meetings and producing its own newsletter. NEERS does have an international role in that our "territory" includes Canada. Julie Rankin suggested that NEERS should refer to "Northeast" rather than "New England" to reflect this.

Discussion then centered around the NEERS newsletter. President D'Elia said that it may be possible for the newsletter of affiliates to be included as an insert in the ERF newsletter. A number of people suggested that the NEERS newsletter be expanded and include more information, but clearly the limiting factor is in finding a committed person who has the time to do it. President D'Elia said that Jerry Williams, retired ERF Executive Director, is now doing the newsletter for AERS. Wendy Leo asked if an expanded newsletter would include more information about such things as funding opportunities or about the results of research in the region. She suggested that if the latter were the case, than it made more sense to write for the ERF newsletter because of wider exposure. President Berounsky, using the example of the four page article in the PERS newsletter on getting rid of Spartina, said that in depth coverage of important regional estuarine issues might be too long for the ERF newsletter.

Betty Borowski said that a missing element is that there are no announcements in the newsletter that deal with the community level. This could be a role for the affiliates. President D'Elia added that ERF and the affiliates do little with K-12 education. The affiliates could really work with teachers, particularly since funding agencies for education are not interested in national agencies, but want to work on the regional level.

NEERS Secretary's Report
Spring 1993
University of Connecticut, Avery Point

1. Read minutes of the November 1992 meeting.

2. Membership report:

A. 432 people are now in our data base, includes members ERF officers and officers of the other affiliates. 14 new members signed up at this meeting will be added to the database.

B. Dues paid this year:

Regular renewals:	55
Student renewals:	16

New regular members:	7
New student members:	7

Total paid up for '93:	85
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C. About 132 people on our data base are more than 2 years in arrears.

D. Members who owe for 1993 but are paid up through 1992:

Regular members:	131
Students:	23

E. Approximate active membership (i.e. paid up through at least 1992):

Regular members:	193
Students:	46
Total:	239

3. This meeting

	<u>Preregistrants</u>	<u>On site registrants</u>	<u>Total</u>
Regular	34	21	55
Student	15	9	24
Total	49	30	79

Non-members attending: 11