

Minutes of NEERS Business meeting

May 2, 1997

Wells NERR, Wells, ME

Wendy Smith Leo, Secretary

1. The meeting was called to order at 1625 by President Short. The **Secretary's report** was read by Wendy Leo and the **Treasurer's report** by Pam Arnofsky and approved.

Fred Short reported on the **ERF Board Meeting**.

- Travel funds are available from ERF for ERF '97 in Providence RI; an announcement is forthcoming from ERF.
- Affiliate societies should provide posters about themselves.
- Lifetime achievement and early career awards will be made at ERF '97.
- ERF '99 will be held in New Orleans and ERF '01 in Florida.
- For the ERF newsletter, David Taylor is writing an article on Massachusetts Bay and Chris D'Acutis is writing one on Narragansett Bay.
- Nominees for ERF officers will be in the ERF newsletter.
- New for ERF '97 is a student meeting; a student sub-organization will be formed to discuss student concerns.
- *Estuaries* is doing well; it publishes rapidly.
- There will be a session at ERF '97 on "geographic signatures"; the NEERS presentation is being put together by a committee of Charles Roman, Stuart Findlay, Scott Nixon, Fred Short, and Scott Warren.

Veronica Berounsky provided additional detail about **ERF '97**. There were 660 abstracts received; 95% came in electronically, and 67% came on the deadline day. There are more papers about eelgrass (60%) than any other topic. About half the papers will be oral presentations and half will be posters. There will be two mornings of thematic sessions comprising longer talks in fewer sessions. There will also be informal workshops to discuss work in progress. NEERS needs to provide an affiliate poster. Local organizational sponsors are still being sought. On Wednesday night there will be a "Capitol Celebration" conference dinner, featuring the James Montgomery Blues Band. Sunday will feature several field trips.

Rich Orson mentioned that the **NEERS News** would like to add a new feature: a coastal cookbook.

Old Business

The question of a name change will be deferred to next spring to see whether a Canadian group is formed.

New Business

- NEERS needs a new poster. A committee was formed consisting of Wendy Smith Leo, Linda Deegan, and Rich Orson.
- Hosts are needed for the next two meetings. Spring 1998 may be in Mystic CT; Fall 1998 is an election meeting, which perhaps a Waquoit Bay/Woods Hole group could host. Another Nova Scotia meeting might be possible in Spring 1999.
- Two \$150 student travel awards are available for travel to ERF. Send name and abstract to Pam Arnofsky by September 1 1997; winners will be chosen by lottery.
- A new NEERS award, for the recipient's contribution to estuarine science or preservation, has been suggested. A committee of Ernie Ruber, Dave Burdick, and Dave Franz was put together to develop the idea.
- Larry Spencer seeks links to put on the NEERS web site. Please visit the site at <http://oz.plymouth.edu/~biology/neers.html> and email ideas to Larry, Its@plymouth.edu. Dave Burdick suggested a computer link to the site as part of the NEERS poster.
- Charlene D'Avanzo, seeking ways to enhance the educational aspect of NEERS meetings, wondered if students would find more feedback on their presentations useful. Students present voiced a need for comments on their presentation skills particularly. We can adapt the forms already used for judging student papers, and look at ERF and marine fisheries judging forms for ideas. A motion was passed that the present form be modified to provide space for feedback.

Notes from NEERS banquet

The Ketchum Award was given to Jen Hogan of Northeastern University for her paper "Distribution of *Melampus bidentatus* in a natural and restored salt marsh." The Rankin Award went to Aaron Spares of Acadia University for his paper "Goat Lake, a warm water, estuarine refugia for molluscs." The Dean Award was given to the University of New Hampshire's Stefanie Getchell for her poster "Trace metal contaminants in the Boothbay region: core profiles of trace metal concentrations and Pb isotopic composition."

Michelle Dionne was thanked for organizing the Spring meeting and workshop.

NEERS Secretary's Report
Spring 1997 Meeting, 2 May 1997
Wells, ME
Submitted by Wendy Smith Leo, Secretary

1. Read minutes of Fall 1996 meeting (Block I)

2. Membership (as of 5/2/97)

A. Database

Members in good standing		(29 joined at this meeting)
Regular	193	
Students	60	
Honorary	5	
Total NEERS members	258	
ERF, etc. officers	11	

We have fewer members since the last meeting (387 memb at last mtg)

B. Status of dues payment (as of 5/2/97)

Paid through 1997:	116 reg + 37 student = 153
Paid through 1996:	82 reg + 23 student = 105
Paid through 1995:	52 reg + 22 student = 74
Paid through 1994:	41 reg + 31 student = 72

C. Geographical Distribution of membership

NS	3
NB	0
ME	23
NH	22
VT	2
MA	62
RI	48
CT	47
NY	25
NJ	17
Other	8