

Minutes of NEERS Business meeting
May 8, 1998
Connecticut College, New London CT
Wendy Smith Leo, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1647 by President Short. The **Secretary's report** was read by Wendy Leo and the **Treasurer's report** by Pam Arnofsky and approved. President Short thanked Wendy Leo for putting together the NEERS poster, and Charles Roman for the "geographic signatures" paper at ERF '97. He thanked Veronica Berounsky for attending the ERF board meeting, and thanked the NEERS Executive Committee for all its work.

Old Business

No **student travel awards** to ERF '97 were given, as there were no applicants. For ERF '99, two \$300 will be available. Students should send their abstracts to the NEERS Treasurer when they submit them to ERF (April 1999). S/he will choose the winners by drawing two names.

Name change for NEERS: There has been a motion on the table to change the name of NEERS to the North East Estuarine Research Society. To reach closure on this issue, the Executive Committee would like to re-activate this motion so that notices can be sent out (required for a constitutional change) and it can be voted on at the Woods Hole meeting this fall. It was noted that the IRS would have to be notified if the name is changed; we can also use "also known as" NEERS to avoid any problems in that regard. The Canadian group that was trying to form an ERF affiliate has had an organizational meeting, apparently, so we need to find out from ERF Executive Director Joy Bartholemew whether such an affiliate will be formed. The newsletter should have a background article including this information and also information on the geographic distribution of the other ERF affiliates. A one-page fact sheet on the name change issue can also go out with the call for papers for the fall meeting.

Dave Franz described the **NEERS Achievement Award** (see attachment). The membership felt that NEERS Achievement Award was the best name for this award. A few clarifications and suggestions were made. The nominating committee was limited to four past-presidents, rather than all of them, to avoid modesty precluding nominating a past-president of NEERS. It was made clear that the recipient can be from outside NEERS and from outside New England.

The updated **NEERS membership list** is available; members should pick up a copy.

The **student judging form** has been revised, and a new feedback form devised, by Charlene D'Avanzo and Wendy Leo following the recommendation at the last meeting. Feedback from students and judges on the new forms is requested. It will be helpful to send blank forms to the students before the meeting. Alternatively, they can be posted on the web site. Ron Rosza will do this.

NEERS meeting at ERF '97: Now that ERF meetings make money, a donation from the affiliate societies to ERF to sponsor a poster session or social is not critical to the success of the ERF meeting. However, the affiliates decided to continue to partially sponsor an event at each ERF meeting by contributing \$300 to show support from the affiliates for ERF. For example, at ERF '99 the affiliates contribution will be likely used to sponsor entrance to a blues bar. Anne Giblin is the incoming ERF president.

The Executive Committee has voted to grant **honorary membership** to Herb Jackson, son of the founder of the Jackson Lab and long-time NEERS member. We will send him a letter to inform him.

The **Fall 1998** meeting will be hosted by Linda Deegan of MBL in Woods Hole, and will be held at the Quality Inn in Falmouth, October 22-24, 1998. The Thursday symposium is being organized by Sandy MacFarlane and Maggie Geist, and will have the theme "what has all this science done for management?"

New Business

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

- ERF '97 in Providence RI was record-breaking in terms of attendance and financial success.
- ERF seeks articles for the ERF newsletter. Student articles would be especially welcome. Perhaps NEERS student presenters could do extended abstracts for publication in the newsletter.
- ERF also seeks student opinion and perspective on ERF membership.

- ERF '99 will be held in New Orleans, September 26-30 1999. The call for proposals for special sessions is out; sessions are being organized by Robert Twilly. The meeting is expected to have a tropical flavor, and Latin American/Caribbean contributions are especially sought.
- The ERF web site will be improved by naming an editor; they especially want better links to other sites of interest.
- *Estuaries* is seeking a replacement for Harold Stephenson, who is stepping down as editor.

Changes to NEERS officers: Marshall Pregnell is stepping down as Program Chair; Jay Moore is resigning from his position as Historian. Nominations for both positions are sought by President Short.

Upcoming meetings: The Spring 1999 meeting will likely be held in Nova Scotia. There are various possibilities which can be reached from New England states by combinations of ferry, charter bus, car, and air. Mike Dadswell presented the case for Chester, on Mahone Bay on the southeastern coast of Nova Scotia. Student travel awards will be available for travel to the Nova Scotia meeting. The date will be sometime between May 10 and May 24, 1999. It's not too soon to think about volunteering to host the Spring 2000 meeting.

NEERSLST: The Executive Committee proposes to add all the email addresses we have to the NEERSLST, to make it a more useful communication vehicle. There will be an option to drop subscription if one doesn't want to be on the list server. This idea was approved by the membership.

The **NEERS web page** could be improved by members posting more on it. What we'd like to do is export some knowledge about estuaries. For example, bibliographic information could be added, building gradually by focusing on one theme at a time. If there is interest a NEERS web committee could be formed.

Nominations for NEERS officers are sought by President-elect Scott Warren.

President Short thanked Scott Warren and Ron Rosza and those who helped them for organizing the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1802.

Notes from NEERS banquet

At the awards banquet, the Dean award for the best student poster went to Mike Peck of URI for "An energy budget of the inland silverside, *Menidia beryllina*: energetics vs. life history in a Rhode Island estuary. The Ketchum award for the best graduate student paper was given to URI's Mark Brush for his paper on "Modeling phytoplankton production. I. Problems with the Eppley curve and an empirical alternative." The best undergraduate student paper was too close to call, so the judges decided to give two Rankin prizes. These went to Joseph Mack of Salem State College for "Comparison by scanning electron microscopy of Atlantic and Gulf coast populations of the hermit crab *Pagurus longicarpus*", and to Angeline Marshall of Acadia University for "The role of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in relation to the epibenthic macrofauna in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia". Scott Warren and Ron Rosza were thanked for organizing the Spring meeting and symposium.

NEERS Secretary's Report
Spring 1998 Meeting, 8 May 1998
New London, CT
Submitted by Wendy Smith Leo, Secretary

1. Read minutes of Spring 1997 meeting (Wells)

2. Membership (as of 5/8/98)

A. Database

Members in good standing		(32 joined at this meeting)
Regular	249	
Students	74	
Honorary	5	
Total NEERS members		328 (before meeting)
ERF, etc. officers	9	

We have 70 more members since the last meeting (258 memb at last mtg)

B. Status of dues payment (as of 5/8/98)

Paid through 1998: 101 reg + 15 student = 116

Paid through 1997: 83 reg + 31 student = 114

C. Geographical distribution of membership

QC	1
NS	3
NB	0
ME	29
NH	22
VT	3
MA	91
RI	58
CT	63
NY	29
NJ	18
Other	11