

NEERS Business Meeting

7 April, 2006

Nantasket Beach Hotel and Conference Center , Hull Massachusetts

Meeting called to order at 5:03 PM by NEERS president Pam Neubert

Secretary provided report. Motion to accept report. MSV

Treasurer's Report: NEERS has two accounts. The checking account has 30,000 mostly due to income from this meeting, (note NEERS received a healthy 5,100 in donations/support for the meeting. Thanks to the organizers for doing such a good job at finding under writers). NEERS was able to provide seven travel awards- 2 from NEERS, 2 from WHOI SEA Grant and 2 from MIR SEA Grant. The approximate income from this meeting should about equal costs (\$21,000) or a bit more.

There is nearly 28,000 in student endowment account. Should have 52,000 after we pay up for this meeting. We are looking into how to best 'invest' the student endowment to get a bit better return. Motion made to accept treasurer's report. MSV

ERF: Jim Lattimer reiterated the momentum is building for ERF 2007 and is pleading for support from NEERS. Contact Jim or Giancarlo if you would like to find a niche to help out at ERF 07 in Providence RI..

Old Business: NEERS list server is still under populated and we will be working on convincing members to sign up. NEERS is moving to electronic documentation of materials highlighting the importance of members being on the list server

Tech Transfer- NEERS Web Master Ron Rozsa brought the idea of having establishing a NEERS tech transfer site on the web page. This would be a place where people could access information such as research and finding so they need not 'reinvent the wheel'. Ron was a bit redirected on other projects but did cobble together some examples of restoration projects around NE and circulated the information to get feedback. Susan Adamowicz agreed to help. He has received input on a good final product. NEERS will need people to be writers and more discussion on format is needed.

Alan Young- Alan has been working to photo copy all the old NEERS materials and have them scanned so they may be posted on the web site. This has required laboriously going through the material to correct/ adjust. The first 51 past programs are now available on the web as pdf files. The abstracts are also done and will soon be on the web for people to access. Not all the abstracts are available for all 30 years- though Alan was able to cobble together some of the 'unpublished' meeting abstracts. Some of the programs offer interesting tidbits. Might be working toward a searchable database.

New Business

ERF report- Robert B is now the NEERS rep for ERF Governing Board. Some of the issues facing ERF are name change- from Estuaries to Estuaries and Coasts. This name change will be voted on. Robert is volunteering to help publish a newsletter, through

ERF, aimed at providing main points and bullets to managers (Coastal Estuarine Science News) and this bulletin is available to anyone via ERF's web page.

ERF is also doing strategic planning on: affiliates, education, international participation, membership, communication, names change and these issues were part of the ERF-Norfolk town meeting. Can go to ERF visions on web page and comment on these issues. There is extended information on the web site.

Dashboards- these deal with ERF membership and finances. Membership up 25% since 1995-96. The conferences provide about half of ERF's operating funds. In terms of affiliates, NEERS has the largest membership though we have the lowest number of members who are also ERF members. We are also the most solvent affiliate though AERS has an endowment and close to us in financial liquidity.

Have a confirmation from Sam Wainwright at Ct Coast Guard Academy to host the autumn meeting to be held at their facility in New London. He will be looking for some willing helpers. (it should be noted this will be an election meeting). No date yet but maybe around Halloween. ERF committee meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> so should avoid those dates.

Data base progress- converted to Access from Filemaker. Discussing processing the database to cull the list a bit and possibly sending out dunning letters. Ron is working on possibly moving over to MYSQL which would allow a web-based maintenance by Treasurer, Secretary, Pres, Program Chair- etc. We are also still looking at how to get the credit card function on the registration (though Ron will not be working on this part).

Sudden Wetland Die Back- last spring the Board agreed to be host to a web site on this issue and the site is up now. There are about 60 people subscribed to the list serve. Sue has pdf materials from the recent workshop and workshop is planned for May 24<sup>th</sup>. Attendance is going to be limited to 60 people. Have invited some special speakers.

Final web related item- Pam has been in contact with the Schneider Group- the business that provides the meeting registration for ERF. Schneider has provided a proposal to NEERS. It was felt the proposal is not especially cost competitive so Pam will be contacting a few other companies NEERSians have worked with and hopes to have an update in the autumn. Pam leans toward using Schneider, because they have worked out well for ERF, but only if the price can be made reasonable.

Marshall was able to rescue the NEERS poster at ERF. We do need a new poster and Marshall has agreed to make a new one. People should send pictures to Marshall for consideration.

Jamie Vaudrey is student rep but she is not at the meeting and did not send a report. At the moment the student list serve has not been active.

Election: looking for candidates for secretary. Have a candidate for treasurer but others are welcome to voice interest. Need president elect candidates. Marshall is the chair of the nomination committee and if you are interested in serving or have ideas on people who would be good candidates let Marshall know.

Pam asked faculty in attendance about travel awards and our problem with getting students to apply for the awards. Is it because students do not need the money? We have pledged to do a better job of communicating the availability of these awards and being more strict about the deadline. Question was posed about NEERS' outreach to minority colleges. Might also consider putting the travel award on the registration form with a brief application.

New Business: Fred Short had a comment about reminders. He received his postcard the day after the pre- registration ended. Fred would like to make it easy to register after the close of the registration- still have some form available on line. Ron pointed out that we took the form off because people are suppose to send checks and there needs to be time for the check to arrive.

Other new business- The NEERS web site gets about 1000 hits a month.  
Move to adjourn. Seconded. MSV.

Addendum:

Student Award Winners:

Rankin-Sarah Foster

Warren- Angela Mills

Ketchum-Autumn Oczkowski

Dean-Carrie Chadwick

Stickleback-Sheldon Pratt