

NEERS Business Meeting Minutes

Spring 2008, Great Bay, NH

1) Treasurer's Report

Report on the CD and Money Market balances and checking account and savings account:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Checking Account | \$ 8,623 |
| Student Savings Account | \$ 5,367 |
| Certificate of Deposit (4.65% interest) | \$ 36,146 |
| Total (12/31/07) | \$ 53,869 |

Allocation of money from CD to Checking & Student Accounts:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Checking Account | \$ 21,867 |
| Student Savings Account | \$ 32,002 |
| Total (12/31/07) | \$ 53,869 |

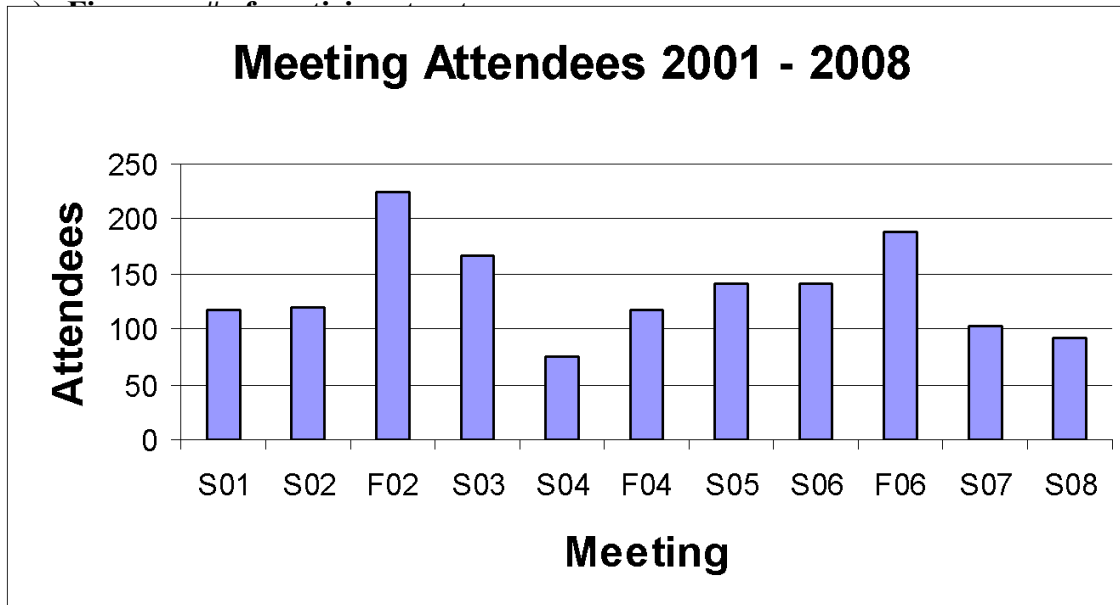
The savings account is dedicated as a student account and the interest in the student account is supposed to pay for awards. There was a discussion about having two separate accounts including a "student account" and "rainy day" account – rainy day for a cushion in case something happens like a hurricane or other emergency preventing people from coming to a meeting. Our CD will be maturing in a month or so and Ed will put it into a short term CD until we figure out what to do.

Donations to Spring 2008 meeting:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Battelle | \$ 250 |
| ENSR | \$ 250 |
| Hach | \$ 500 |
| MIT Sea Grant | \$ 200 |
| New Hampshire Estuaries Program | \$ 300 |
| Normandeau Associates | \$1,000 |
| Saquish Scientific, LLC | \$ 200 |
| YSI, Inc. | <u>\$ 500</u> |
| Total | \$3,200 |

We were fortunate to have had several generous donations. In the end we made \$620 dollars on the meeting and it didn't cost as much as most meetings do.

2) Portsmouth meeting preliminary report



b) Student travel awards

We had three applicants for student awards. There are two WHOI awards covering total meeting expenses. The NEERS Exec Comm. awarded two WHOI awards and one \$100 NEERS travel award.

We should publicize the awards so that more students apply. There are a total of 5 possible student awards including our 3 and WHOI's 2.

There was some discussion of announcing that the travel awards could go to non-presenting students, with priority to presenters. Next meeting we will accept applications from presenting and non-presenting students for the awards.

3) Treasurer and Secretary Responsibilities

- a) **Progress on membership database.** At the moment there is a contractor at EPA that is available to work on the database and can edit the interface as well as update the membership lists for us. This is great news and is a big help. We are also working on a way to have the secretary and treasurer access the same database. Maybe on-line. EPA might have a way to do that too through an environmental connector.

4) NEERS Meetings in the Future

- a) **NEERS Fall 2008. Progress report on Block Island.**
Veronica has secured the Spring Houses Hotel on Block Island. Organizers include Veronica, Walter, Leanna and MJ

- b) **Future themes and meeting venues**

Climate change was suggested as a future meeting theme. A symposium could be “effect of climate change on estuaries” with a special session on communicating science to the public and managers.

Venues for the future: Orleans, Cape Ann, Falmouth area, Bar Harbor. Possible joint meeting with ACCESS the Canadian, New Brunswick group(?) Pam has talked to the president about the spring 2010 meeting as a joint meeting. St. Andrews is 2 hours from Bangor.

5) **Nomination Committee**

Pam A. announced that there will be a Nomination Committee for Fall 2008 elections. She asked that people talk to her with ideas

6) **ERF News**

Pam Morgan gave the report from April 2008 Governing Board meeting. CESN newsletter will go to all ERF members. Benefits of ERF membership include: 25% discount on Springer books, CESN newsletter, Journal of Biogeochemistry for free.

Pam is on the Education committee and they are redoing the ERF website and might be able to assist us with our site, putting together white papers on management issues.

7) **Communication issues**

a) **Web Update**

Webpage – Pam is also on the Education committee at ERF. ERF is going to update their web pages. ERF might be able to assist us with updating our webpage or give us space on their site. It was decided that Schneider group is too expensive and not an option for hosting NEERS’ webpage.

Logo – Sara Grady volunteered to update and redesign the logo

b) **Ron Rozsa’s web report**

i. Ron Rozsa will be retiring so we need to start thinking about who can manage the website in the future. Discussion of an electronic version of the newsletter

ii. discussion of the listserver and the recent split into two listservers 1) discussion based and 2) a members listserver solely for the board to communicate meeting and other pertinent information with members.

iii. Automated abstract submission, pre-registration online both going well.

iv. If people have photos of the meeting, please create a pdf version and then send it to Ron to post on the web

c) **Neers news – Pam will write an update after the meeting. Sara Grady will write a little blurb about the meeting.**

- d) NEERS poster
- e) Robert read the proposed changes to the Constitution: 1) a student rep will be a voting member of the ExComm, 2) clarification of officer roles and updates to duties, 3) changed the name of ERF to CERF.

Changes were voted on and approved by the membership.

- f) Suggested changes to Operations Manual
Updates are underway. Pam will send out a draft for review and we will vote on the changes at the next meeting.

- g) Update on credit card payment of dues and meeting registrations
Paypal – other affiliates use this but there are some issues. Ron suggested that Paypal Maybe not secure. Schneider Group currently hosts CERF website but they are too expensive for NEERS at this time.

8) **Recommendations on NEERS Awards**

- a) **Professional Achievement**
- b) **Early career achievement**
- c) **Graying Gracefully-** For a presentation by an old timer. Not a serious award.

9) **Other Business**

NEERS meeting evaluation forms. Susan A. requests that people please fill them out.