

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE CLIMATOLOGISTS

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

DES MOINES, IOWA AUGUST 6-7, 1987

The 12th annual meeting of the American Association of State Climatologists was called to order by President Dave Miller (CT) at 0900. The approximately 80 attendees were welcomed by Shirley Danskin-White, representing the Iowa Department of Agriculture.

Former president Stan Changnon (IL) gave the keynote address, "Challenges for the AASC". After outlining the benefits of membership in such an organization, he provided a brief review of the association's history. Next came a discussion of the issues arising as a result of growth, after which he highlighted some of the signs of an organization's maturity. He concluded with a reminder that personal willingness to contribute remains an essential issue.

Following a format different from recent meetings, a series of issue-oriented sections followed. In each, an initial speaker provided an overview, and afterward several respondents replied with agreements, rebuttals, elaborations, clarifications, objections, and other comments. At intervals, the audience was allowed to provide more of the same.

Topics were:

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| Data Availability and Quality | * Ken Kunkel (NM SC)
Ken Hadeen (NCDC)
Tom McKee (CO SC)
Jerry Barton (NWS)
Jon Parien (NWS) |
| Regional Programs and Research | * Dave Miller (CT SC, Pres)
Ken Hubbard (NE SC)
Alan Hecht (NCPO) |
| Corporate Membership and Professional Certification | * Wayne Wendland (IL SC)
John James (NV SC)
Myron Molnau (ID SC) |
| AASC and the Climatic Change Issue | * Pat Michaels (VA SC, Pres-elect)
Peter Lamb (IL)
John Griffiths (TX SC)
Norton Strommen (USDA) |
| Journals and Publications | * Paul Waite (IA SC)
Grant Goodge (NCDC)
Tony Brazel (AZ SC) |
| The Future of AASC | * Peter Robinson (UNC)
Gayther Plummer (GA SC)
Bob Muller (LA SC) |

The overviews and responses brought out numerous points of great interest and concern to the membership. Issues such as data quality, NCDC funding, communication among agencies, effects of new technology, recognition of climate as an important social concern, and many others, were recurring themes during these discussions.

At the noon luncheon, a video produced at NCDC was shown of the temporal trends in the spatial pattern of the Palmer Drought Index in the U.S. during this century.

Later, after breaking into small groups, the membership produced a series of statements on the six topics summarizing the discussions and reflecting the collective views of the group. These draft statements then were read to the group at large, and commentary was solicited from the audience. No attempt is made here to report on the diversity of points raised during overview, comment, and discussion sessions, in part because the statements are reproduced elsewhere in this publication.

Members then volunteered with only modest arm-twisting to write state sections for the USGS annual National Water Summary.

After a full day of talking, attendees relaxed behind dessert bowls as Howard Critchfield, recently retired as Washington's state climatologist, provided a most amusing and entertaining recapitulation of the pitfalls and rewards associated with this unique and rather unusual occupation.

A short business meeting occurred on the afternoon of the 7th.

The minutes of last year's meeting, printed in the 1986 edition of The State Climatologist, were approved.

Kelly Redmond (OR), treasurer, reported a balance of \$5826 as of June 30, 1987. Dividend interest from the account at the Arcade Credit Union in Asheville provided \$165 during the first 6 months of the year.

Only two committees offered reports:

Ken Kunkel (NM) noted that the instrumentation committee continued to work on standards for height and exposure of automatic weather stations.

Fred Nurnberger (MI) is in the process of updating a membership survey on the status of state programs. It is hoped that this will become an ongoing activity of the organization.

Tom McKee (CO) moved that copies of the draft statements produced earlier in the meeting be reproduced and sent to all members, with two weeks allowed for response. The executive committee would then review the revised versions, and publish all of them in The State Climatologist, and some of them in a wider forum as appropriate.

A discussion of the length of AASC office terms ensued, but no action was taken.

New associate members were nominated and seconded, and accepted by voice vote. They are:

Harry Hillaker, Jr. IA	Waite/Michaels
Gerald Barton DC	Waite/Michaels
Jon Parein MD	Waite/Michaels
Greg Spode MN	Zandlo/Waite
Elwyn Taylor IA	Waite/Michaels
Mike McCorcle IA	Waite/Michaels
Scott Sidlow SC	Purvis/Waite
Jim Laver DC	Muller/Redmond
Richard Reinhardt NV	Redmond/Michaels
Mark Albright WA	Redmond/Waite
*David Stutsberg ??	not known
Peter Lamb IL	Miller/Michaels
William Easterling DC	Hubbard/Michaels
Dan Cayan CA	Redmond/Waite
William Koellner IA	Waite/Redmond
Wallace Akin IA	Waite/Redmond
John Grymes LA	Muller/Michaels
Robert Balling AZ	Brazel/James
David Stooksbury VA	Michaels/Waite

* Address and nominator now known (could you please speak up?)

A nominating committee of Nurnberger (MI), Muller (LA) and Molnau (ID), after delicate and extended deliberations, presented the following carefully selected slate:

Wayne Wendland	President
Kelly Redmond	Secretary/Treasurer

The candidates were elected unanimously. Victory speeches were short.

The location for the 1988 annual meeting was next debated. Tucson and Portland were promoted, with a general wish that the gathering occur in August once more. Climatological and radiative considerations prevailed, and the Portland area was selected.

Wayne Wendland (IL) brought to the members' attention the availability of a capable assistant from Alaska, victim of state budget cuts.

Paul Waite (IA) distributed copies to all SC's of "A Primer on Climatic Change," published by Resources For the Future.

Paul was next serenaded by a round of applause for arranging for the pleasant accommodations and facilities.

A similar fate awaited Dave Miller, in recognition of his year of service as President.

The gavel was passed to Pat Michaels, who promptly adjourned the meeting.

Members then departed to once again roam the endless corridors of the Des Moines Skywalk.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Redmond
Secretary/Treasurer



The audience is rather intense don't you think?



Howard Critchfield describes the pitfalls and rewards of being a State Climatologist.