

## Wednesday July 10,2012

### **2012 Annual Business Meeting (Part 1)** Called to order 3:37 pm

Minutes were approved by e-mail back in 2011.

Treasurer's report was distributed.. We have a lot of invoices we haven't paid, mostly from SCEP grants haven't been invoiced. If you are doing a monthly report, please send Mike your invoice. Over past year, balances going up due to prepaid on some of the SCEP funds before the SCEP money came in. We are projected to get a payment from George Mason University grant, but not paid yet. We need to provide paperwork to be an approved vendor (\$25K). The GMU project was not funded for continuation of their project. Saved the dissertation award money. We had almost no executive committee travel this year. Income for this meeting vs. our planned expenses will not match, but last year we had a surplus of our annual meeting, so this will balance out. Motion to approve the budget/treasurer's report. Renee McPherson, seconded by Ryan Boyles. Approved unanimously.

Executive Director (revisit): Started several years ago with Nolan. Other national organizations have a paid Executive Director to do day to day management and also be a visible presence while Exec Comm gives guidance. All agreed it was a good idea, and no one wanted to volunteer, because we had no money. Maintaining the organization while doing our own SC jobs is difficult. Scott Archer retired from BLM and volunteered to do it. We had a basic job description, but not much was done as Scott became ill early on. We did add a member of the Exec Comm by separating the Secretary and Treasurer positions into two positions. Some sharing goes on to cover meetings we need to attend. But we need someone going out and talking about AASC, not waiting for groups to come to us and ask for our input. The President doesn't have enough time to follow up on all the opportunities there are for us as an organization. The Executive Director would be able to do that. We need to increase the activity level and recognition of the organization. We are looking for input and if anyone has an interest in doing this, please let us know. Need to find someone to go find money so we could pay them. Any ideas on finding money to start someone at least part-time would be welcome. Has been talk of increasing our dues from states that could/would pay an institutional membership, even if other states couldn't do it right away. Leverage administration and overhead costs on NOAA money. Can't just have NOAA pay for it, as NOAA money can't be spent on any lobbying type activities, only travel and some operating money. How much are we talking about this to start it? Institutional memberships? If you are going to do institutional memberships, they will pay every year and they will get some value for that money. We have to figure out what that value is, and we would have to generate value before we can ask anyone to pay for it. Once we can get it going, we can build on that. Lots of our colleagues have trouble getting their institutions to support them, much less support an organization, until there is some value to gain from it. Our partners need to help us demonstrate the value of our partnerships.

What is our definition of ARSCO, and what level of commitment do we have to have to gain ARSCO status? Registration fees higher might raise more money, as dues are balked at, but registration fees are not balked at. For 100 people, a \$400 registration fee, with half going to the annual meeting, would raise \$20,000 for the organization as a start. If we asked institutions to pay a \$10K membership fee, most SCs would see more value in getting that \$10 K directly for their own operation rather than giving it to the organization. If we can increase the value of ARSCO status, then we will have more value to institutions. One of our SCs (not sure who) had a good vision of the organization, but wouldn't accept a position as Executive Director without some salary. The GMU dollars (\$25K) might be a start. We want someone who knows the organization, knows what we're about and knows something about the partner agencies we work with. **Stuart will make a commitment to work on it, and come up with a plan before the end of the year.** Danielle – perhaps it's not critical to have someone who is very familiar with the organization. Someone from outside with a fresh look, requires you to convince them of the

importance and value of the organization, so they can sell it, if you can sell them. Someone with a public affairs or marketing background might be better, since we want them to market us. **A 360 review.** Pay someone to come in and evaluate your organization and see if you are in line with what your goals are. Since NOAA NCS is on hold to a large extent, we are out there in all states, and that's a strategic advantage, we want to build on. So, a review of ourselves is a good first step. Look for some other Executive Director models. The 360 reviewer should be able to advise us on a model that might work for us. Ryan had an idea of a way to get someone to help us develop a structure. We need someone who has no home responsibility – potentially part time, but not part-time with another job on the side. So a retiree is a good option. Branding ourselves may be a useful idea, but it's important to have proper branding. **Please send your ideas to the Exec Comm – any member of the committee.** Private foundation idea may not be so good, as we are all public servants. But, public institutions are all begging for private funding. All the public universities beg for money from private industry. We may ask some of you to join us for meetings about this in the coming week/months.

Nominating Committee – Paul Knight – nominating committee: Jim Angel, Tim Brown, Hope Mizzell, and Paul Knight – came up with a slate of candidates for treasurer for two year term, starting January 1, 2013. People who show strong support for AASC goals and can't have already served. They have vetted the candidates, and propose Adnan Akyuz be the candidate for treasurer of AASC. No other candidates were proposed. Unanimously elected. Nancy Selover has one more year on the secretary term.

Associate member nominations – listed below.

<u>LastName</u>	<u>FirstName</u>	<u>Nominated by:</u>
Tapan	Pathak	Ken Dewey
Hilberg	Steve	Nancy Selover
Edwards	Nathan	Nancy Selover
Zarrow	Daniel	Dave Robinson
Imhoff	Kyle	Paul Knight
Wootten	Adrienne	Ryan Boyles
Davis	Corey	Ryan Boyles
McGuire	John	Ryan Boyles
Cumbie	Rebecca	Ryan Boyles
Deming	Monica	Renee McPherson
Kloesel	Kevin	Renee McPherson
Stooksbury	David	Dennis Todey
Houston	Tamara	Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux
Wax	Charlie	Nancy Selover
Legates	David	Nancy Selover
Dunkley	Nyasha	Nancy Selover
Gray	Steve	Renee McPherson

Motion to accept the new associate members, by Mary Knapp, Jeff Andreson seconded. Unanimously approved. Previously we have talked about honorary status and emeritus status, but emeritus status was not acted upon. We need to review and update the constitution if we have emeritus status. Suggested we give Charlie Wax honorary membership. We have tried to get a list of members who would be honorary – held at the highest level. Helmut Landsberg, Stan Changnon, and others - but we want to review the list. A committee was formed to formalize a definition and look at emeritus status – and our constitution. **Nancy Selover chair, Barry Keim, Jeff Andreson, Mike Brown are the committee. They are charged with reviewing**

honorary status and potential creation of emeritus status with possible changes to constitution, with a 3 month timeline from now to have it moving along.

Annual Meeting Choice (2014): Central St. Louis next year, July 8-11, 2013. Probably Hyatt Regency near the ball park, downtown. Pat Guinan, Beth Hall, and Jim Angel coordinating. Call for proposals for the west for 2014. Got two offers.

Stanley Engle (Asst SC NM) proposal for Santa Fe. Oldest Capital in Western US. 8 Climate Divisions, Sangre de Christo Mtns., Baldy-Complex fire, 2 NWS offices, coldest temperature -50. Record snow depth 96". Moving it to June is end of fiscal year, not usually a good idea. Avg max temp 83 in June. High and arid – cool in the evenings. July is more tourist season so prices go up. About 1 hour out of Albuquerque, Santa Fe shuttle \$47 round trip. Rail Runner train commuter times from downtown, but not from airport. LaFonda on the Plaza, meeting room can accommodate 300 people, \$130/night in June, more in July. A number of other lodging choices in historic Santa Fe. Near Bandelier NM, Hike Santa Fe ski area, Bradbury Science Museum, bowling, Taos that has white water rafting is an hour and a half away.

Washington-Oregon- Karen Bumbaco and Kathie Dello. Skamania Lodge in Stevenson WA in the Columbia River Gorge. Accessible through Portland airport Will honor the federal per diem rate for everyone, and extend before and after event (was \$113 in 2012). Free Internet, Waive meeting room fees. Has perfect weather. Moderate temperatures and very little chance of rain. They do have summer, starting July 4<sup>th</sup>. What about CoCoRaHS bowling – there is bowling 35 miles away. Or a 1.5 mile Creek Loop trail walk. Or basketball tournament along RCC divisions, Lots of recreation on the Hood River, on-site spa, golf, hot tubs, tennis, basketball, volleyball, light hiking, waterfalls, rafting, kayaking, wind surfing and horseback riding. And almost no bugs. 49 breweries in Portland, largest independent bookstore. Light rail. Still lots of stuff in Seattle, not so far away. .Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Rainier.

Potential for joint meeting with AMS Applied Climate Committee, both places could accommodate. Anyone can vote, including associate members, paper ballots. Will count and announce at dinner. Washington/Oregon won by a significant number of votes (39 to 20). Now out to the deck for a group picture.

Meeting adjourned 5:05 pm

## **Thursday, July 12, 2012**

**8:00-10:00am Annual Business Meeting (Part 2)** – Called to order at 8:04 am

Future of ARSCO – Several states have an SC office that is active, but not ARSCO, and others have no SC, but the office is active. A review of ARSCO by Dave Robinson, who is the only ARSCO coordinator we have had. And we will need to formalize the ARSCO coordinator position. Original requirements were have to be a PhD and have fulltime SC status. Most SCs didn't meet that requirement. From St. Louis mtg. Dave was on the committee to figure out how to set up ARSCO. What constitutes an effective SC office, not the SC position, but the office? That was over a decade ago. Over the past few years we have discussed updating the requirements. Maybe more stringent qualifications. Some want to get more state support before becoming ARSCO, others might be better positioned to get university support if they have ARSCO status. What is the utility of being an ARSCO – what benefit? Why do it? If we all have strong ARSCO offices, we would be in a better position to argue for the AASC as an organization. **Need to have a committee to spend a couple days hashing this out to see if we can make improvements in this or not.** AK has two offices, one SC and the other is the ARSCO. We don't have a single model of an ARSCO, but many models. It needs to be active in various fronts, but not necessarily equal across all activities. Must have a web site. Broad service is

important, but each state has different needs. Need to be statewide service, not just a city. When Mississippi was trying to get their MOU put together, the signatory on the MOU was between the NCDRC and the state, not the AASC. So, we are not involved in that directly with signatory authority. But the NOAA lawyers wonder why NOAA is in the middle of it. ARSCO coordinator mentors the new state programs and tries to promote and recruit states to be ARSCO offices. Dave has been doing this for 10 years. The position is an Exec-at-large. Kelly – we should try to adhere to a minimum set of standards as we are a large group in a highly visible business. When people are trying to recruit SCs, they should look at the ARSCO guidelines and standards as a model to use for their SC office. Renewal time for ARSCO status is annual – you submit your ARSCO report each year, and it is reviewed. The coordinator can't do all of this alone, the RCCs can help. Annual reviews keep us on our toes, while two years is enough time for things to fall apart. If you don't submit an annual report two years in a row, you are no longer meeting the ARSCO requirements. This year Dave and Dennis both signed for Mississippi and New Hampshire when they needed a formal document. John C. – AL is codifying ARSCO as a qualifying requirement for SC, so the standards need to be maintained and remain formal. Historically, if you were an ARSCO recognized by NOAA, you got \$500 per year of free data. That has evolved, and our strongest relationship is with NCDRC. But, SCs generally get more money from USDA than from NOAA. We have a broader outreach across the fed govt, than just NOAA. Ryan - If we build up our reputation as individual states and together as AASC, then we will have more clout or influence across the broader climate community. Yes, perhaps we are only as strong as our weakest state. We have put together statements and definitions of climate service, though those white papers should be updated and revisited. We control what we say about ourselves, and we don't control our federal partners. We now are signatory to the MOAs, and NCDRC is not anymore. **We do need to formalize that.** Mark S.- Maybe we can require the SC annual reports to indicate who are their federal partners, and what are you doing with them?

Dennis - What is the minimum standard for an SCO or an SC? For SC, the state has to make their own decision as to what the standard is for the SC. But the form can list the minimum requirements for an ARSCO, and most members do follow the requirement list in the format of their annual reports. Was limited to 3 pages to keep it brief, and to the point, and not require enormous amounts of time. We are not primarily a scientific organization, but a service organization. Mary K.-most organizations have an evaluation standard and if we have a formal process for review or evaluation every X years, then if you are not meeting standards, there are suggestions as to what you need to do to bring it up to standards. That requires more follow-up and time for a review committee to keep on top of it. Should it be based more on service climatology? We are scientists, but we do applied research for stakeholders. If we have more structure in our definition, and we raise the standards, we can pull the whole organization up. Some states have an SC and others have an SCO, and some want to call it climate service office, not state climate office. SCs may not need to be the director of the climate service office. We need to focus on activities that are managed under a state entity, not necessarily on SCs – the person or their title. Maybe we can say the SCO in engaged in xxx things, and/or XXX things, and/or XXX things, since we are not all the same with the same duties. Kelly –in the last 10-15 years, other agencies have sprung up (RISAs, LCCs, and CSCs, and people wonder what is the relationship between these agencies and them and SCOs. . Do any of these other climate groups interact with SCs or mention SCs? RISAs are supposed to interact with RCCs and with SCs, and some don't. Dennis - Can we be a focusing organization with larger climate services? Ryan – we could if we broaden and expand our activities as a group. Mark S. Large opportunity in the climate assessments to get down to the local scale in the assessments. Most of us have been involved in the assessments. This was the kind of thing we need to continue – the assessments – an ongoing activity. Dennis – set up a committee of 6-8 people, review the current ARSCO status, spend a couple days taking it apart, and updating or re-structuring it,

and make a recommendation back to the larger group. Need an RCC, RCSD on the committee. Harry – tasks are: current ARSCO requirements, new requirements, and structural coordinator position recommendations. The requirements need to be balanced by the carrot at the other end, and what do we perceive our relevance to be and what our relevance is perceived to be from the outside. One of the members of the committee should be someone with a lot of experience in this organization. Original purpose was for us to have our organization be credible at the national level. Has turned out to be more useful at the state level for us to justify our need for support based on the activities we need to be doing.

Duties: of ARSCO Coordinator

Recruit and promote SCO in non-served states

Make it a 3 year term, renewable for another 3-yr term

Serves as Exec-at-large because it preserves institutional memory –

Recommend it be a past Exec board member.

Not same duties for the ED, but the Executive Director could help a state get recognized by gathering information about how various SCOs work.

Ryan moved that we form a committee 6-8 people, to include RCSD, RCC, tasked to review and formalize the ARSCO coordinator position and duties and review and recommend updates/changes to the ARSCO requirements. Seconded by Lesley-Ann. Discussion – need a timetable. Need to have a deadline of being done ready for voting by next year's meeting, and by the end of the calendar year a date needs to be set for the meeting. Would like Kelly Redmond to be chair. Approved unanimously.

Curriculum committee – John N-G: Dave, Lesley-Ann and other members drafted a set of criteria of what should be in the training of an SC, and was presented at the AGU and AMS meetings. There are so many things for a service climatologist to do, it required an advanced degree. Suggest at this point that the document be cast as an information document that these are the sorts of activities an SC should be able to do, and here are a list of courses that will provide that sort of education. AAG also heard about this curriculum requirement. One geographer from Singapore thought it was good and would take it back to Singapore. Ask for motion to formalize it as an informational statement of the AASC, and have the curriculum committee write a final draft and publish it as an article in one or more publications, Mike Anderson so moved and Renee McPherson seconded. Nolan – were there any feedback/comments to change it. Only a minor thing about paleoclimate, which will be changed. Unanimously approved.

Website hosting – NE first hosted, then OU hosted, then NCDC. Our website will no longer be hosted at NCDC, so we need to find a new host. Ryan offered to host it in NC State climate office. Just to take it over in its current form is simple. Perhaps we need to do some more things with it, but we can do that after we make the shift to a new host. Includes the list-serv management. Need approval for e-mails from non-members, about 50 at most. Adding people to list-serv. Lou has offered to continue to help out, and he has some ideas about new stuff for the website. The fees from the old host will be transferred to this new host? We should budget for this. Potentially travel for Lou or something like that.

Our dues payments will help pay for this. Mary Knapp moved we accept NC State offer to host the website and Harry Hillaker seconded and we continue to budget for website hosting and design. (Adnan – when you work on the next budget, need to include billing from NC for the web hosting.) Approved unanimously.

Logo – you get to post the AASC logo on your website when you get ARSCO status. Is there an original copy of our logo? Our webpage banner is not the same as our logo. Stuart - the logo may be part of the overall 360 review of our organization by a consultant to figure out what we need for an ED. Western Kentucky has a design group that can look at making our logo higher resolution.

Other Business – Health of the COOP network There seems to be information going around that NOAA plans to cut the number of COOP stations by a large number. If they remove a station they have to return the location to a condition it had before the station. Costs are sited at the reason. But the costs of closing the stations may exceed the costs of maintaining. We should also point out the importance of the network. Kelly - WRCC has been heavily involved in the CRN network and the HCNM networks, and they have all been cut. That all stopped in March, and the 4 corner states were all deployed (120), and working. Once all of those got installed, that would be a great network, with HCNM (COOP) as the long term backbone. So, the first budget crunch that comes along stops the monitoring network. WxCoder3 is going to be all there is, by some date this year, no more paper. It is mind-boggling that we have to keep having the discussion about how critical the monitoring network is. The federal partners in NOAA can't lobby for this, so we have to. **We need to generate a very short statement to NOAA about this, and find out where we can direct this.** WWA and WGA are two groups who would be good backers of our effort in this. They are supporters of the monitoring network. WGA identified that we need better snow measurements in the plains to prevent the type of flooding they recently had on the Missouri. **We have to lay out very clearly how important this so WGA and WWA can take it forward.** Also, the drought monitor is dependent on the rain gauges so we can monitor drought. Removing stations means less information on drought. There was a move to put the satellites under NASA rather than NOAA. The COOP network is dying with equipment failures and we need to propose improvements to the COOP network, not just keeping it. Beth Hall – we can also advise, if there will be cuts, we are the people to help decide which to keep, which could go. Dennis - Yes, but the budget people don't care about science, so they aren't interested in which ones to save. NOAA would be.. We need to emphasize the benefit of the COOP network to NOAA. John C. In the past, NOAA has selected the most important program to cut so they get the biggest outcry and support to maintain their budget. But we can get the statement to the proper person on the appropriations committee. Dennis - We also have our states who will lose out with the drought monitoring loss. NOAA operates the COOP network on behalf of the country, not for their own benefit. **This group should put out our information to many groups, not just one.** WxCODER3 has removed some of the QC burden already. John N-G – don't put forth a negative, but offer positive, a path forward that is an improvement; a regional CRN plus a volunteer CoCoRaHS network. But the CPMs will continue to exist even if the program disappears, so there is no money savings from this cut.. We should have engagement in what's going on and trying to stop the cuts, and then a path of where to go from here. **Committee: John N-G - Chair, John C, Dave R., Nolan, Dennis Todey, Harry Hilaker, Kelly Redmond.** Just start with a statement that the COOP monitoring is critical and the perception we have is that there are plans to cut COOP stations. Approval for the committee to draft some responses. John C got a notice that NOAA wanted to cut-remove 17 CRN stations from Alabama. Mark S. we need to be visible at the congressional hearings on this budget issue. Mary Knapp– also, you can't shut down a station for 2 years, then start again. Continuity of measurements is critical.

Presentation of a plaque for Dennis recognizing his service as AASC President. Dennis – thank you for the opportunity to work with this group. Stuart Foster is the incoming president. Stuart - This has been a welcoming group and it is always a pleasure to come to these meetings. He will draw upon the experience of many of the members to move forward. We also want to thank Mike Anderson for his service. Paul Knight moved we adjourn the business meeting. Kelly Redmond seconded, and adjourned at 9:51 am.