



Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting, Grand Hotel, Cape May, New Jersey, June 23-26

Tuesday June 23rd

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Registration
 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Opening Reception

Wednesday June 24th

9:00 am – 10:00 am: **State of the Association Annual Report**

Moderator Dan Leathers, Delaware Welcome from Delaware – about 25 miles to the west of here. Association is in very good shape, in large part due to the leadership of Stu Foster. Want to present a plaque to Stu thanking him for his leadership and support this past year.

State of the AASC is very good, but we still have a lot of work to do. We have identified a national office for the association, and are working with a consultant to develop a business and marketing structure to continue developing the association. A group has contributed to a new Association website, and we are almost at the end of the Executive Director hiring process.

Membership update and Introduction of new State Climatologists & ARSCO
Update: We have SCOs in 48 states plus PR and Virgin Islands. We have a couple holes, one is Tennessee, and in the last two weeks we have had renewed interest from Tennessee. Massachusetts is also a place we need to work on. There had been an SC job posting at UMass, but after the new governor was elected he cut the position. There is not much push from the state to get this started again. We will work on this. Also have no Guam SC. Maybe we can have the next meeting in Guam. Would like to have an SCO in every state and territory. For 2014 we had 120 persons who were paid members of AASC. But our membership list is over 300. So we need to get the rest to pay or drop them 18 states are IMs 7 at Leadership level and 11 at Associate Level. Need to increase our membership base especially with institutional memberships and expand our associate membership. Have three new SCs to welcome – 1) Maine - Sean Birkel – Masters in Geology and PhD in climate modeling. WARF modeling and visualization. The SCO in Maine is just starting up as the state has not funded the office, so he is working on it. 2) Pennsylvania - Kyle Imhoff – BA, MS Meteorology Penn State. SCO is good shape, thanks to Paul Knight. Paul Knight retired in June and there's a You Tube tribute. 3) Rhode Island – Lenny Giuliano. Lyndon State BA in

Meteorology and the State Meteorologist. Dave Robinson has been pushing for the RI SCO for years. No website up yet and no staff, but working on it and can use all the support he can get.

Executive Director Search Update –Started after the last meeting when we got approval to work on it. A request for proposals went out for institutions to host the national office. The EC looked at them and our consultant helped. We visited the sites. We chose Asheville, NC because there is a concentration of climate related activities, the CICs, NEMAC, NCEI and a large and growing private sector for climate services moving to Asheville. We wanted to be in the middle of all the climate activity as we want the ED to be able to talk to all those people and be in on the beginnings of any climate service discussions. We advertised for the ED position. Had more than 40 qualified applications, and we pre-screened down to 16 people, and the search committee then ranked them and selected the top 4 to interview at the end of May. We would like to be able to say we have hired someone, but we have selected a candidate and are putting together an offer. Hopefully we will be able to announce in the next couple weeks and then we will set up some conference calls and once hired the ED will be calling each SCO to start to get to know the person and the office. The responsibilities of the ED will be to do a lot of things the Exec Comm does not have time to do as we all have day jobs. Maintain updated profiles of each office, develop resources to assist the SCOs with planning, organization operations, and marketing. Where no SCO exists, try to get them started with the ARSCO coordinator. Publicize the activities of the SCOs across the country. Our association is the largest collection of service and applied climatologists in the world and we need the world to know that. Establish and maintain sound working relationships and cooperative arrangements with partner agencies, maintain the official AASC website, records, and documents, do some fund-raising for the organization. We were looking for someone with meteorology/climate background as well as some non-profit experience and business experience. The ED will be working with the Executive Committee – not operating alone or going off to pursue their own interests. They will be directed by the Exec Comm. We will need to make a few by-law changes to define the relationship and responsibilities of the ED, so one thing will be a committee to make some suggestions for the constitutional changes we may need.

AASC Web Site Update – Ryan Boyles, Lou Vasquez The process has been ongoing for over a year. We started with a survey of information and a large committee. Each person did a bit of work on the webpage. Kathie Dello, Nina Oakley, Steve Hilberg, Ashley Hiatt, Lou Vasquez, Kevin Brinson. News comes from twitter feeds – most of it is from OK right now as they are pretty active with their twitter feeds. Following institutional twitter feeds, not personal. Journal of Service Climatology is there and there's lots more we would like to do. Should be easy for people to add pages and things. Henry has added some historical documents. What else would you like to see integrated into the page – or questions-? Used to put monthly climate summaries for the news feeds up. If you tweet about it, we want to leave the documents on your own site, but link to them from here. The links to state pages don't show if there is anything new at that state, but if you put out a twitter about your new document it will be picked up and then link back to it. For those not affiliated with an SCO, can we put up a membership list so we can see who else is a

climatologist? Yes, but we have to figure out what is open to public and what is open to members, and who has permission to what on the webpage. Also want to be able to sort members by expertise. Can we have a page that includes all the state mesonets? Could if we have the data feeds and everyone keeps their mesonet info current. We need a committee of a lot of people to do this stuff, but we can do this. We need to be marketing this in our own state, so having a page like that would be helpful. Lots of interest in this – so the IT committee will work on this, and we will add people to the committee who want to contribute to this. Lou has a regular job, so he can't do everything. It's an easy platform that you can log in from anywhere, so this can be done. Question about security for the log-in procedures with lots of people having access. The Drupal site has good security, and it has Google log-in security that we need to keep up to date. It should be fairly secure, and we don't have to store a bunch of passwords and usernames. If you have more ideas, pass them along to Ryan or Lou or the Executive Committee.

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm: **ARSCO Certification Discussion**

AASC Lapel Pins are available at the front table if you don't already have one.

Moderator David Robinson, New Jersey. Panel Members: Adnan Akyuz, North Dakota; Kathie Dello, Oregon; Mark Shafer, Oklahoma

Discussion – what's it like to be an ARSCO, what are the basic standards we want to have? The document is 15 years old, and we have 37 or 38 ARSCO states. Should we up our standards for the websites, for the annual reports, or are we OK? We now have two levels of membership at the institutional level? But just because you pay money, does that mean you're at the gold standard? When we started we didn't have an ED or the RISAs or the other Climate Science Centers, or Climate Hubs and now we do. Adnan - Missouri – became an ARSCO (NRSCO NCDRC Recognized State Climate Office), then North Dakota – has been certified 3 times, so it's pretty easy. Easy to protect your certification. Need a communication capability. North Dakota - main client/stakeholders are agriculture. ND SCO already had a lot of agricultural applications that the farmers use, so it was easy to get certified. Can't certify any other organization that is providing climate services, since our name is ARSCO – AASC Recognized SCO. What can ARSCO do for the SCO? May be able to help the SC negotiate with their University to have enough Service appointment to have the SCO be able to be recognized. Kathie Dello – ASC – does most of the SCO stuff, and represents the Associate members. Also most of the SCs are men. Not sure ARSCO status would matter to their stakeholders as they just know who to go to for climate services. Mark Shafer -OK has a long history as a State Climate Office and then as an ARSCO with a state mesonet. Climate Services and Weather services are not that different in OK, and their stakeholders don't care about the distinction. The intent was to determine what the basic capabilities should be for state climate offices, so people would know what to expect from state to state. Also we have the ability to tailor the products to the customers. Hoped to give a little leverage to some of the underfunded offices. We also need to involve others in this room who provide climate services who may not be involved in ARSCOs or SCOs. Adnan – ARSCO now says you are an efficient climate services provider – can go to his Dean and say we are recognized by a federal entity. Kathie – ARSCO status would not change the way they operate. Mark – the ARSCO

reports provide a lot of good information, and we can learn from what others are doing. Kostya – MD not an ARSCO state, and it doesn't mean much and it's time consuming to get the certification. Need help developing some resources. Jim Angel - the original intent was to develop some partnerships and that is a key component of it now. John Christy – has found it to be helpful to give some credibility to the office as it has been certified by NOAA. Kelly – thought of ARSCO as an inwardly directed concept. Many offices were inactive and just a title, and it was a way within the organization to try and bring up the standards, to at least offer some minimal capability. Promote its membership and help its membership to be better at what they do. There are more than a few SCOs that have not paid their annual dues, so is there a consequence for not meeting those requirements. It's peer pressure since the Association cannot dictate who the SC is. Pam Knox – being in two SCOs that were ARSCO and lost their status, it seems to have no meaning. The GA office can't be ARSCO as the SC hasn't had the Climate Service training. Ryan – it was supposed to be AASC recognized, not NCDC recognized. There was also supposed to be a carrot that only ARSCO offices would be eligible for some of the federal dollars or Association dollars that non-ARSCOs are not eligible for. The carrot could then be used to influence Deans to provide more support for their offices so they are eligible for more dollars? But now, how is being an ARSCO different than the carrot for being an institutional member. Lots of other people who have nothing to do with climate, Deans, University Presidents, congressmen, etc. may be impressed by what your office does, not so much by it being an ARSCO. If every time you have success with a stakeholder, write a vignette and send them to your dean or congressman, so they can see that you are having an impact, and that will help get you more resources. Two paragraphs and send it out to people who matter. Whoever you want to influence to get you the resources you need. Adnan – doesn't like the comparison of ARSCO vs IM. One asks you to be competent and the other asks you to be rich. Should be ARSCO if you become Institutional Member. Should not be forced to become an IM to get ARSCO status. Kathie – this group has struggled with identity in the world of climate services against CSC's RISAs, RCCs, etc. Need to look at our mission. Broadcast meteorology used to have weather readers, and now they are proud to have AMS certified broadcast meteorologists. Some sort of certification that you have the knowledge to provide these services and you have to keep it updated to keep the certification. Change the name? ARSCO was supposed to be program focused, not member focused. Climate services professional designation that might bring in more members. A previous discussion of an American Association of Service Climatologists vs State Climatologists. Dave – we had used ARSCO to ramp up the offices to ramp up the entire organization. Some have ramped up their program to become ARSCO, and others have had ARSCO first then ramped up the program. It has gone both ways for Tennessee, and nothing has come of it. Start it then get the money to come in or wait for the money to start it. Neither has worked in TN. What do you need to be a successful SCO today? Adnan – trusted source as science based resource. Kathie – support from people in your region. We have not changed with the world. Mark – partnerships – we don't have all the answers but we know where to connect to get the answers. Nancy – visibility (with capacity) and marketing of your services. Ryan – have to be there and have capacity. Jim – don't use the word "certification" as you have legal ramifications and liability. Need to be visible knowledgeable person.

We also need to raise the visibility of the organization as well. Sounds like an ED project. Ellen Mecray - we hope the ED will get out and help us lay claim to local climate services. Glen - Alvin Barkley said "He who tooteth not his own horn, his horn may go un-tooted." We can also get mileage out of tooting the horn of other SCOs in our organization. We find value in meeting with each other each year. Maybe more people need to know who we are and make us visible and we may need to put vignettes together to help make us visible. The organization should have a mechanism to help an office get started. We should not compete with each other, but cooperate to help them set up and move forward. The ARSCO coordinator has been doing that. Dave R has not felt in competition with other states. The ARSCO status is important for the three new states - as it recognizes that you are active and involved, whether it's internal or external. Helps to light a fire under them to improve their office. Mike Sweet (MT ASC) An internal bar so the offices know what they need to do. For him AASC provides an avenue into a dialogue on climate service in their state. The bar is not set very high, and probably should raise the level of involvement in climate service. For Fiona at NWS, the ARSCO means the local office is working well with the local NWS offices. She can direct the local NWS offices to go to the SCO for help in climate information. SCOs are often not doing high level research so their universities complain, but ARSCO status is something they can take back to the university and say to maintain the status they have to be doing more service. Stu - our website talks about the National Climate Services partnership and that the ARSCO status is signed by NCDC. So each of our offices is part of a much larger partnership with regional and federal offices. It's an opportunity to leverage the larger partnerships. If someone from NCDC signs the ARSCO certification, then they need to be involved in this discussion as that leverage opportunity is important to us. In 2003 Dave organized a meeting that brought in feds, USDA, NOAA and regional and others - we can facilitate what the others can't. Is it worth still maintaining an ARSCO program? With the new ED coming on, is there a need for a new committee or the Exec Comm to look at those standards and revise ARSCO and come back next year to the meeting with some recommendations for it? Don't want the bar to be set too high. The IT committee had a lot of people so no one had to do a huge amount. We need some committees and people to participate to spread the load around. If you have strong feelings about this, get on the committee. How do we want to move into the future? We need input and buy-in from everyone. But we need to direct the ED and decide what we want done. Adnan - when the ED comes - if they are outside the organization we should solicit a fresh outside idea. We shouldn't set the past on fire, as we have a lot of good institutional knowledge, but we also need new fresh ideas and the new members and associates offer input. Mark - leverage the synergies. AASC started when no one else was doing climate. Now lots of people are in it, but we need AASC to be a strong voice in the larger climate discussions. We need the SCOs to be seen as credible sources of information and broaden the organization, but maintain control by the states. Dave - all hands went up when asked about maintaining ARSCO, so he expects everyone on the committee.

Thursday June 24th

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm: **Business Meeting**

Moderator Dan Leathers, Delaware

Treasurer's Report – Dave Zierden – This report is activity since our last meeting. Income \$59,111.25 includes individual membership dues, meeting registrations, extra banquet tickets, institutional memberships, and interest. Expenditures –\$82,240.19 includes LSG contract \$46,244.66, travel for Executive Committee retreat \$4,037.18, Exec Office site visits \$997.94, the search committee \$2,694.39; legal fees for our ED search \$800.00; web services \$135.99; stamps and supplies\$34.02; Skamania Lodge final bill \$26,168.35; PayPal fees \$647.66; and refunds to members who are included in Institutional Memberships \$480.00. Total assets \$180,936.71.

Institutional Memberships - We would like you to renew. What is the fiscal year for the association now that we have the IMs? If we align it with the calendar year, it will make it easier for tax purposes and our non-profit status, and since our treasurer changes on January 1st. It will be helpful to have the invoices for our institutional memberships to get paid. We should have the benefits for each membership level posted on the website. Invoice should also include the time period the membership covers. On the website, include what the benefits are for each level of institutional membership so our institutions can see what we are getting for each IM level of membership. Has to be published somewhere. Accountants at some institutions won't pay dues, but "fee" is OK. We will check with our attorney on that – what we can call the payment. For NJ the pot of money they have to pay the IM might be empty by January 1, since the fiscal year starts July 1. Could send the invoice July 1st, for payment by January 1. Or, we can send the invoice whenever it is appropriate for the institution, and we will know that the money is coming. When we set the registration fee for the annual meeting, we need to know how much money will come in. We will also collect any unpaid dues at this time.

Update on New Mexico Meeting next year – Dave DuBois. Santa Fe - June 28-July 1, 2016 – is best rate for Santa Fe. Elevation about 7,000 ft. Temperatures 52/85 Dew point 45. Closest airport is Albuquerque – \$48-55 round trip shuttle from/to the airport. Large meeting space and on-site catering. "La Fonda on the Plaza" is the venue in Santa Fe – right on the town square. Large parking garage attached to hotel. Nice pool and spa. \$119/night single and double available 3 days before and after meeting. No resort fees at hotel. \$12/night parking at hotel. New bowling alley opening this year. Kelly says it's a great place.

2017 Annual Meeting proposals – Tami Houston from NCEI. Co-hosted with Ryan Boyle. Our new Office is in Asheville, where our ED will be. They have the most breweries per capita. Many new hotels. Renaissance or Four-Points and large and close. There are lots of walking-distance hotels around downtown to the meeting spaces. Renaissance has 13 meeting rooms, Four-points has 5 meeting rooms. Callen Center – where we are looking for ED office space also has a large meeting room. Banquet options Pack's Tavern, the Venue or Capitol Center.. Attractions Biltmore, NC Arboretum, Blue Ridge parkway, hiking, zip line canopy tours, golf, Asheville Outlets for shopping. Potential tour venues – Biltmore solar farm, Mt. Mitchell, NC Arboretum. Transportation – regional airport from Charlotte or Atlanta; or Greenville-Spartanburg

Airport has many direct flights from many locations. Last Asheville meeting was joint meeting with AMS. Applied Climate Meeting will be a summer meeting in 2017 – often a joint meeting with another group. We can entertain that idea. If anyone else has a proposal for a meeting location by the end of July, we can entertain that. AMS doesn't have to land a 2017 summer meeting until January, so we have a little time.

Approval of Minutes from 2014 Business Meeting – They were mailed out – John NG moved and Jeff Andresen seconded to approve the minutes from the 2014 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Associate Member nominations and election – The Associate member nomination list was presented. John NG, Jeff Andresen, Hope Mizzell, Kyle Imhoff, Keith Eggleston, and Dave Robinson talked about their nominees. Adnan moved to approve, seconded by Chris Fuhrmann from Mississippi. Unanimously approved. Need to e-mail them for their dues and also remind all others to pay dues if they haven't already. How long do we keep them on the list if they don't have their dues paid? If you don't pay your dues, you're not a member. Set some number of reminders and at some point we drop them from the list. We need to make sure we have e-mail addresses for all the new members to add them to the list-serv and request their dues. We had kept some people on the list as we wanted them to be in the loop about what we were doing – some feds were kept on the list for that reason. The ones who don't pay are exclusively associates. Not sure what period the dues cover and do they get a bill? Remind everyone to pay their dues. Secretary and treasurer need to work together to get the list back up to date.

Nomination Committee report – President and Secretary, Election of Officers – Jim Angel, Tim Brown, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, and Nolan Doesken are the nominating Committee. Secretary (Nancy Selover) has agreed to continue on for another term. Hope Mizzell is the nominee for President. Has been at the SERCC, an SC, and has been Secretary-Treasurer in the past, so lots of experience in the organization. Further nominations from the floor – for Secretary? None. For President – none. Nancy Selover unanimously elected as Secretary. Hope Mizzell unanimously elected as President-elect. Question about the ED relationship. The ED will work at the direction of the Exec Comm, doing things the Exec Comm would do if we had time. Hope has been working in applied climatology for 24 years. This is a thriving organization and she is excited to help this organization. The ED is essentially staff to the Exec Comm to help us. We need to appoint another member to the nominating committee as Jim Angel is rotating off. Ryan Boyle nominated to sit on the nominating committee. He was unanimously elected to nominating committee.

Constitution and By-Law Change discussion – Can't make changes today as we need 30 days notice according to our constitution, but at least we can talk about some of the issues and we can appoint a committee to discuss changes and make recommendations and craft the language. Some of the ideas we want to address are listed as the charge of committees:

- 1) *What is our purpose as a professional association in the 21st century? What is our value proposition as an association?* If we want new members to join us, what kind of value can we bring them? We keep bringing up things and then dropping them until the next year, but not making progress. One of the things we should add is student memberships. Students who are interested in climatology – rather than just joining AMS, they should join AASC.

- 2) *Status of Associate members including involvement in AASC; voting; holding office; recruitment of new members.* What is the status of our associate members? They are shut out of some committees and they can't vote. Do we want them to be able to vote or hold office? In other organizations a council is the group that votes on policy, there can be a difference in what things the SCs get to vote on and other things that every member can vote on.
- 3) *Executive Director Position including major responsibilities; interactions with EC; hiring procedure for future ED; etc.*
- 4) *The need for and nature of AASC Policy Statements including climate services; climate variation and change; etc. Is there a need for statements – maybe or maybe not.*

The committee should come up with some ideas for changes to the by-laws by the end of the year and we get the ideas out to the membership by early spring so we will be ready to discuss and vote on them next year. Which of the committees will discuss the ARSCO status? Dennis has already started getting some other people to work with him on the ARSCO questions. Also we need to have a committee talking about MesoNets as we are running many of them. Better for us to put out statements or ideas on climate monitoring. So we need a Mesonet committee. People are interested in having things happen, and this is one way to get everyone involved in moving us forward. Ryan – the constitution does not say we have to meet in person or only do this stuff at annual meetings. We could have virtual meetings more frequently, say in 6 months meet and talk about some of this stuff then, and not wait until next year. Certified Climate Services provider – part of the ARSCO committee.

We will put out a call for people to volunteer for committees in a week or so after you have had some time to think about this. Certainly for the first committee on our direction.

One of these committees will go through the constitution and by-laws to be sure our ED position is incorporated into the document. Yes, we have discussed that with our attorney and will tell him what we want to put in there and he will work the language to incorporate it into the constitution.

Group picture on the 2nd floor sun deck.

Move to adjourn – Stu Foster, Mike Anderson seconded. Business Meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm EDT

Friday June 26th

Thank you to Dave Robinson and his entire crew for getting this meeting together and running it smoothly.

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm: **Final Discussion and Adjournment** Would like to put the presentations on line. Next year we would like to consider recording it so we have the audio. The State Climatologist publication was finished and we will get it up on the website. Safe travels. Annual Meeting officially closed at 12:04 pm EDT