



Minutes
AASC Business Meeting
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, and Zoom
June 22, 2023

The business meeting started at 9:09 am Central time

1. Welcome

John Nielsen-Gammon opened the meeting in person and online with zoom.

2. Preliminary quorum status check

We need a total of 62 to reach a quorum. We have 71 total (50 in room, 21 online).

3. Ballot items

Voting for these were in the online ballot email to AASC members.

3a. Correction/approval of minutes from 2022 Business Meeting (Dave DuBois)

Minutes were emailed out prior to the meeting. There were no corrections.

3b. Consideration of Associate Member nominees **list attached

Each sponsor announced their nominee:

Geddy Davis (nominated by Aaron Wilson)

Tim Glotfelty (nominated by Kathie Dello)

Juliana Likourinou (nominated by Erinanne Saffell)

Steve Waters (nominated by Erinanne Saffell)

Chris Kucharik (nominated by Steve Vavrus)

Lane Simmons (nominated by Russ Schumacher)

Alistair Vierod (nominated by Russ Schumacher)

Zachary Suriano (nominated by Jerry Brotzge)

Bridgette Mason (nominated by Trent Ford)

Peter Banacos (nominated by Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux)

Rodney Chai (nominated by Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux)

John Goff (nominated by Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux)

Seth Kutikoff (nominated by Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux)

Abigale Barre (nominated by John Christy)

Alison Tarter (nominated by John Nielsen-Gammon)

3c. Consideration of Honorary Members (nominees James Angel and Stuart Foster)

First announced was Jim Angel. John and Trent Ford talked on his behalf.



Second was Stu Foster. Rezaul spoke on his behalf. Stu was present at the meeting and spoke about his appreciation for the nomination, his start as a climatologist as an undergraduate to being the Kentucky State Climatologist and Kentucky mesonet director.

3d. Election of President-Elect (nominee: Jeff Andresen)

Recall that the AASC president in total is a 5-year commitment: first as president in waiting for a year, serve a 2-year term as president, then 2-year term as past president. Jeff spoke about his position as professor in the department of geography and spatial sciences at Michigan State University and the Michigan State Climatologist since 2002. His specialty is agricultural climatology. Spoke about his predecessor Fred Nurnberger and how he inspired him.

3dd. Re-election of Secretary (nominee: Dave DuBois)

3e. Election of Nominating Committee (nominees: Adnan Akyuz, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, and Pam Knox?)

We had to make a change in the voting for Lesley-Ann since she was our past president and ineligible to be on the nominating committee according to the by-laws. The Executive Committee decided to keep the previous members Adnan Akyuz, Pam Knox, and Hope Mizzell for another term.

3f. Consideration of Amendment to AASC Constitution (John Nielsen-Gammon):

Text of amendment: Add fourth objective: "Cultivate a diverse, inclusive and accessible community of practice in the equitable production and provision of climate knowledge."

John Nielsen-Gammon announced it, said it came from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee as a proposal a couple years ago and came out of a discussion on our mission statement. John read over the three objectives in the current Constitution and this proposed objective would be the fourth. We had a brief discussion at the meeting. John mentioned that climate services are available for everyone and anyone who wants to participate can do so.

3g. Consideration of host for 2024 Annual Meeting (Russ Schumacher)

Russ provided a presentation on the 3 options for the location. He's proposing either Mid- to late-June or early July and depends on what venues will be available. Russ did a Mentimeter poll during the meeting to get feedback. So far Ft Collins was the top choice and the Colorado mountain area as second choice.

4. Quorum status check and voting

As of 9:40 am, we had 53 votes counted. We kept the voting open until we receive a quorum.

5. AASC Updates

5a. Finances (John and Martha Durr)



John Nielsen-Gammon talked about funding opportunities. The first opportunity are travel grants. We set aside \$7,500 in the budget for those needing support to travel to the annual meeting, mesonet meetings, and visits to NCEI. Just submit a brief proposal to the treasurer stating the purpose, the budget, and how it would benefit you.

The second funding opportunity is for membership support services. We have allocated \$20K for someone to help membership lists, emails, association documents are archived. AASC would be contracting out to your office for these services. Notify John if there is interest.

Thirdly, we have allocated \$11K for website modernization. We would like help from someone who has the skills to improve the website to make it more usable. Contact anyone on the EC for that opportunity. There was a question about the timeline of this request. John said that currently he is doing duties to update the website and ideally would have someone in the next several months to help. The role of the Communications Committee would be to direct the activities of the website updates. We had a discussion about the possibilities of a contractor and some costs to maintain pages on the website.

We budgeted \$30K for someone in Washington DC to speak on our behalf. The Executive Committee suggested that we need someone to work with on the agencies such as NOAA and others to make sure we are at the table in various discussions. We are capped as a 501c3 in spending a certain fraction of our total budget on government relations activities. At the meeting there was a question about the expectations of this position. John mentioned that the State Climatologists are not written into the NOAA budget, whereas regional climate centers are included in the budget. Several at the meeting commented about reaching out to other federal agencies not only for funding but visibility and integration. Another suggestion was to reach out to foundations for fundraising.

5b. Associate Member at Large (Karin Bumbaco)

Karin was online and gave a presentation. Note: We had issues with the voice connection in the meeting room and as a result John had to relay what Karin was saying. Karin was elected back in October 2022 and has a 2-year term. She would like to improve communication within the association and suggested sending Executive Committee meeting recaps and a monthly newsletter.

5c. ARSCO Committee (Mike Anderson)

Mike was online during the meeting and mentioned that the fourth round of review were finished by the committee. Note: Our issues with the voice connection continued and as a result John had to relay what Mike was saying. Maryland is part of ARSCO now. The committee is working on the program review and based on 6 elements. For year 4, not all offices responded. For year 5, we still have a few states to respond. So far this year we received 36



annual reports (5 ARSCOs missing). Feedback on all ARSCO things can be directed to Michael.L.Anderson@water.ca.gov.

5d. JOASC (Dan Leathers)

John spoke on behalf of Dan, the current Editor in Chief. Currently the Associate Editor is Megan Schargorodski. The most recent paper published was from the Colorado Climate Office. Peter Goble spoke about the good interactions from JOASC regarding the publication process. The Journal is active and doing fairly well. We look forward to receiving more papers relevant to climate services not just from our membership but from the general climate services community.

5e. DEIA Committee

No report.

5f. Mesonet Activities (Kevin Brinson)

Kevin spoke on behalf of the mesonet committee and talked about the activities such as the upcoming meetings. The next meeting at Davenport, Iowa is scheduled for next month and partnering with NIDIS National Coordinated Soil Monitoring Network for a one day field workshop. Topics to be covered at that meeting will be summary of the funding survey, best practices recommendations, and others. They are not doing a virtual option at the Iowa meeting. The National Mesonet Program portion will be virtual however. The committee is working on a web presence of the AASC website and have a mesonet directory.

At this point John reviewed the expense report for the calendar year. For the 2022 calendar year we had \$166K in income, \$136K in expenses, leaving us with \$229K available. That \$229K is about the amount of a reserve of two-years of expenses. The budget for 2023 is in line with the 2022 spending. The only exception is a somewhat larger annual meeting. The budget includes travel grants, administrative services, governmental relations, and website modernization. We have invested in membership tracking and voting software and OneDrive file storage. On the income side, we have \$30K from NOAA for two user engagement workshops in Colorado and South Dakota and three studies of engagement profiles of how products and services by NCEI are being used within the state for decision making purposes. Next NCEI indicated they will be offering \$25K for the same types of activities.

6. Discussion items

6b. Executive Director/Visioning (Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux)

Lesley-Ann summarized what Orit provided in the workshop and the session yesterday. An important part are compiling best practices such as how to be a good climate advocate and another is us as an association having a unified voice. She suggested having a common slide deck that we can all tap into with resources particularly with a climate change perspective. It



would be good to have a base line in outreach in climate services. Lesley-Ann suggested we need to network well and see conversations particularly at our annual meeting. How do we do that with a little more structured way? How do we create frameworks for allowing collaborations among and between State Climate Offices? That could be something like sharing tools, information, and resources to avoid duplication of efforts. She wanted to dispel the perception that not everyone is able to participate in the activities in AASC. We value everyone's voice and desire collaborations and involvement in committees. There was a suggestion for an AASC curriculum that was brought up several years ago. Another is being an advocate to be at the table for the NOAA climate ready nation. We are encouraged to be an advocate for high quality data. She proposed a state climate office support committee and asked the group. Dave Robinson talked more about the details on what would constitute a successful climate office. Case studies and successes would be supporting information. Dev supported the idea of a mentoring committee and would really help in Offices that are in the building stage. Lesley-Ann asked Hector to give his ideas on what would be useful. He mentioned best practices in funding and what has worked. Megan also supported this idea. Karin could see the two committees meeting twice a year to make sure they aren't duplicating efforts. Lesley-Ann also brought up our mission and wanted us to think about what is our unique identity. It might help us in strengthening our outreach and visibility. Stu talked about context in communicating climate. The State Climatologist should provide an objective context for what goes on in their state. It's the job of the State Climatologist to do this. Luigi spoke about how we define climate services. Adding in climate change is also part of climate services. Pete Boulay agreed with Luigi and always thought that AASC represents states and territories that are the official contact for the climate records of their location.

6c. Possible amendments to constitution and bylaws (John Nielsen-Gammon)

All of the motions have passed, Jeff elected as the next President and Dave re-elected as Secretary.

7. Other/new business

John mentioned the list of committees that need to be filled. The ARSCO committee can be expanded to oversee the mentoring and best practices document. John will create some sign-up sheets for those to indicate interest in joining a committee.

Lesley-Ann mentioned that she was asked to be a guest editor for the *Frontiers in Climate* journal and do a special issue on climate services. She has been thinking about how to frame climate services and presented a slide during the meeting with seven topical areas.

1. governance frameworks/science diplomacy
2. indigenous ways of knowing
3. adaptation/case studies
4. national climate service
5. services providers



6. portals/trusted brokers
7. users' capacity building/education

Lesley-Ann asked if there is interest in submitting a manuscript addressing one or more of these topics.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:00 am Central time