

AASC 2007 Annual Meeting

July 16-19, 2007, Coeur d'Alene

Business Meeting (phase I) July 18, 2007

Items to be discussed: minutes were approved online, the treasurer's report including a proposed budget, AASC non-profit status, followup from the RCC/ARSCO meeting, and membership status, role purge, and new members.

Knight (PA) pointed out that we are poised for important changes. Many activities such as the new Journal, etc. make our AASC more important and we can have an impact. We, not NCDC/NWS/etc., control our destiny.

Mizzell (SC), treasurer, reported that before the meeting, AASC had more than \$24k that included encumbered meeting registrations. A list of checks written was shown that paid for meeting and other costs including travel/awards/etc. Expected balance is about \$13k.: anticipated carryover is approx. $\$30k - \$17k = 13k$.

Knight (PA) mentioned the State Climatologist Exchange Program. McGuirk (NCDC) noted the existence of the 'Preserve America' program has funds for environment, etc. proposals with up to a \$12k match. Steve Doty is that contract awardee. \$7500 has been granted via AASC.

Knight (PA) talked having applied for and got CCR status (via Dunn and Bradstreet) that allows us to receive federal funds. D&B required that we are officially a 501c3 (non-profit). The Environmental Research Consortium will host our address. It will all cost \$1000 to establish. Since we will be listed in CCR we may need audits.

(Scott Archer, BLM, points out as an aside 'We (feds) actually have an office in Washington that keeps a list of acronyms we haven't used yet'. -- ha ha)

On the SC Exchange Program these items were listed: student program, travel support, and AASC/NCDC collaboration.

Motions were made and 2nd to approve the budget. A motion was made for a vote. A discussion ensued. Budget will drop about \$1k next year. Web costs have been made more realistic. Todey (SD) pointed out that once we are a 501 'donations are welcome'. Boyles (NC) asked about donating time as in kind. It was asked if dues recovery is going 'ok' to which Mizzell (SC) said that it should be 100% for this year for SCs. A list of current members will be brought up to date in a couple of months. Qualls (ID) confirmed that using PayPal for registration in the future would be available once we obtain 501 status. Paypal payments were run through Qualls (ID) for this year's meeting and the money then returned to AASC. For the next meeting, we hope to have a shopping cart on AASC website to go to PayPal website. Discussion ended. A vote of 'ayes' signified acceptance.

A followup question asked about removals from membership lists. The membership list was passed around at the meeting to cross out the names no longer associated with the AASC through retirement, job changes, etc,

Action (1) on the need for a communications protocol was brought up. It was pointed out that conference phone systems are available for teleconferencing. Sammis (NM) indicated that there are better teleconferencing choices available. McGuirk (NCDC) indicated that NCDC has purchased a web access system WebEx. Knight (PA) talked of volunteer expert on telecom. Sammis (NM) offered that he will try to get university help. Robinson (NJ) pointed out that the system must be able to be used easily, anywhere. Selover (AZ) pointed out that the University of Arizona capabilities can be expensive. Knight (PA) asked Sammis (NM) to sketch out a range of possibilities. Sammis (NM) suggested a document on the web with links to possibilities.

McGuirk (NCDC) asked a question about SCs vs SCOs. O'Brien (FL) responded that we are climate services regardless of others designations. McGuirk (NCDC) pointed out that AASC and RCCs should be in NOAA's strategic plan. Stookesbury (GA) said that we need to tell our Congressmen that we need to be in the national plan. Livezey (NWS) indicated that formal NOAA planning process has 'wish we could do that' under RDS (Regional Decision Support). The NOAA Strategic Plan is at a very high level; there is really no 'Climate Service Plan'. Knight (PA) will formalize plan for role of AASC in National Climate Service.

Action (2): a call for volunteers for the SC-ACIS issue yielded Zandlo (MN), Leslie-Ann Dupigny-Giroux (VT), Angel (IL), Boyles (NC), Taylor (OR), and (later) Akyuz (ND). Robbins (SRCC) suggested that a mirror of xmACIS could be established for SC use. More functionality is needed; e.g. flags. It can be a conduit for new product development. Knight (PA) asked that Zandlo (MN) be the chair and subsequently requested Eggleston (NRCC) serve as co-chair. Robbins (SRCC) suggested that a brief meeting should occur to discuss how to interact. Eggleston (NERCC) will be the committee liaison. Zandlo (MN) suggested that a tool development discussion could be hosted by the Journal.

Action (3). AASC should look over existing documents for siting, metadata and sensors. Goal to send to Jack Hayes by mid-Fall. AASC also creates documents on QC and storage (Boyles (NC) made a comment on the AASC document. Knight (PA) suggested a start with the documents that Crawford (OK) had prepared while serving at NWS for several years. 'As partners with NOAA we suggest ...'. Sammis (NM) offered that there are many standards but was met with the response 'But they conflict.' Livezey (NWS) suggests that standards were not being sought; they want requirements. Foster (KY) commented on a document with NOAA. Robinson (NJ) clarified that the climate focus is for us. Robbins (SRCC) suggested that the committee should work on it and move toward requirements.

Action (4). Knight (PA) reminded us that Karl (NCDC) has said that a policy document would be good; i.e. here are the issues that have to be addressed for data that 'goes

into the vault' and be considered 'official'. Redmond (WRCC) offered that other federal networks already existing have potential record: 'can it be 'official?'. Knight suggested it should be **this** is what **we** recommend. Livezey (NWS) suggested that we go beyond metadata and address sampling/density requirements as well. Knight asked for and got volunteers. For Action 3: Scott Archer (BLM), Crawford (OK, volunteered by Arndt (OK)-Chair, Foster (KY), and Hubbard (HPRCC). Volunteers for Action 4: McGuirk (NCDC), Todey (SD)-Chair, Hillberg (MRCC), Shafer (OK, volunteered by Arndt), Guinan (MO) and Jeff Andreson (MI). Todey (SD) offered that Karl (NCDC) saying 'I'd like to hear this.' is quite an invitation for the AASC.

Action (5). Hubbard (HPRCC) indicated that QC/QA is being addressed in new ways with the latest procedures/methods and even examines old data. RCCs want SC and NWS participation. Robbins (SRCC) pointed out several issues addressed including scientifically rigorous, routinely defined/refined, and other aspects that are timely and close to the observer. It was pointed out that WxCoder, NCDC, others should all use the same QC/QA. Angel (IL) added that the roles and responsibilities of SCs should be defined. Redmond (WRCC) said we should 'QC the QC' methods themselves as a philosophy. Sammis (NM) offered that there is chaos between the automated systems. Redmond (WRCC) suggested that we should start with the COOP as a model. Livezey (NWS) added that we should get our act together on the 'fab 5' (precipitation, max and min temperature, snowfall and snow depth). Sammis (NM) asked about spatial techniques. Robbins (SRCC) said methods should be exposed to journals instead of being treated as a 'black box' - add scientific rigor. Redmond (WRCC) asked to what extent do you want to allow type 1 and type 2 data, what frequency is allowed?. Knight's call for volunteers yielded Chris Fiebrich (OK), Deke Arndt (OK), Hillaker (IA), and Matt Menne (NCDC) (volunteered by McGuirk (NCDC)), Kevin Robbins (SRCC), Kelly Redmond (WRCC).

Knight (PA) deferred discussion for action items (6)-(8) until the next day.

Knight (PA) asked for meeting location proposals for 2008. Dupigny-Giroux (VT) said 'Welcome to Vermont'. She gave a presentation outlining aspects of a meeting in Burlington, Vermont. 4 possible dates were given. She pointed out that the dinner cruise rate comes down with the number of guests. A discussion of dates quickly vetoed all dates (all summer) except July 8-10. A motion to go to Burlington in 2008 was called for and gotten. O'Brien (FL) asked that other seasons be considered in the future. A vote of all 'ayes' and one 'nay' (Leslie) carried the motion.

Robinson (NJ) for the nomination Committee nominated Nolan Doesken (CO) for president. Motions were made and carried. A unanimous vote of 'ayes' made Nolan the president-elect.

New membership names were asked for to be voted on tomorrow.

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Knight (PA) showed Canada model output, which showed a tropical disturbance moving up the coast to Vermont (our meeting location in 2008).

Business Meeting (phase II)

Knight (PA) very briefly summarized some results from the Action items discussion of the previous day. He listed who (what state) will act on the items:

- 1) NM/PA;
- 2) MN/NC/VT/OR/IL/ND (SC-ACIS);
- 3) BLM/OK/KY/HRCC (guidelines);
- 4) NCDL/SD/MI/MRCC/OK/MO (mesonet policy);
- 5) OK/IA/NCDL/SRCC/WRCC(Lincoln accord).

Today (SD) expressed an interest in doing things faster on (4) than a 1 year timeline. Knight responded that the result for item (3) should be quicker but thought that 12 months for (4) was ok to make it well thought out.

New members nominated were Stephanie Fauver (Coastal Services Center by GA SCO), Preston Leftwich (NWS retiree by COAPS, FL), Tim Carey (USAF grad student by CT), Jim O'Sullivan (NOAA by NJ), Bob Reeves (NOAA by NJ), Chris Friebrich (OK by CO). 'Ayes' voted the members in. It was noted that new members can submit to the Journal cheaply.

Aspects of the AASC website were described. They will continue to host and technically maintain (manage accounts). They will facilitate incorporation of JASC, post web-based presentations, and look into PayPal registration link.

Stooksbury (GA) noted that 50ish people have said they will be submitting papers. It will take a few months to move them through review but the online capability is needed soon. He continued to address Journal plans. He asked what will be the page charges? He pointed out that AMS charges \$140/page. Is \$5/page too little; is \$25 too much? Angel (IL) asked what are plans for archival? Stooksbury (GA) answered that it will be at least in Athens, GA and Oklahoma. May want to distribute hard copy periodically for distribution to, say, libraries and for a paper archive. Young (WI) suggested that a librarian could be consulted about archival. McGuirk (NCDL) offered that NCDL's librarian suggested using 'Scientific Commons'. But it's submission is free no per page charges would be collected by AASC. Angel (IL) pointed out that the Journal will be freely distributed. Boyles (NC) made a motion the currently proposed charges of \$5/page for members, \$25/page for non-members be used for a year. Livezey (NWS) asked will the low charge cover costs? Stooksbury (GA) answered that 'out of hide' is common. Angel (IL) suggest that some authors may be trolling for low per page costs for their, say, 200 page paper. Maury Roos (CA) pointed out that engineering journals tended to have no per page charges. But a general discussion pointed out that the subscription cost then tended to be high. In a vote 'ayes' carry the (Boyles) motion.

In a follow-up discussion, Dupigny-Giroux (VT) asked about abstract listings. Stookesbury (GA) said that is being explored. Todey (SD) asked that Extension Services be informed about the publishing possibility.

Knight (PA) brought up that MOAs between SCs and NCDC vary widely. The federal government wants to protect themselves. But we need accountability to ourselves and our partners. We should explore what this document entails (who, what, etc.). This could fit with the review of ARSCO standards.

Action (6). We can say to other 'we follow this ...'. Robinson (NJ) said that in many cases MOA do not exist. NCDC wants a 'trace' to the appointing authority (Governor, Legislature, University). ARSCO certification requires a MOA. Pat Michaels (VA) pointed out the need to protect the appointment from the political process. Knight (PA) referred to Karl's (NCDC) slide 'Formalizing the Partnership'. McGuirk (NCDC) pointed out that an SC appointed politically could be a separate entity from an ARSCO (which refers to the office, per se). Angel (IL) reminded that we have talked about substitutes for moribund offices. Taylor (OR) noted that the wording is not 'NCDC State Climatologist' but rather 'AASC approved State Climate Office'. Todey (SD) asked are we adequately recognized, i.e. by a governor? Knight (PA) suggests that community organizations, e.g AMS, does recognition. McGuirk (NCDC) made analogy between WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and the Secretary-General of the United Nation's climate ambassador. Though we recognize the ambassador, for operational activities NCDC works with a WMO-recognized representative. Knights call for volunteers yielded Robinson (NJ), Michaels (VA), Arndt (OK), Curtis (NRCS), Taylor (OR), Young (WI), and Boyles (NC). Stooksbury (GA) suggested that we see what the state forester does - US Forestry funding is funneled. Redmond (WRCC) pointed out the two main ways offices operate: university and state. Zandlo (MN) indicated that the Governor declared the State Climatologist in 1977 but since that time it has been a classified position not controlled by the Governor. A mention of wanting to know who is now appointed by the state was expressed. Redmond (WRCC) asked what would the SC office be, really? Robinson (NJ) asked what does constitute a viable program? Qualls (ID) noting differing levels of funding cautioned not to squeeze out small operations. Robinson (NJ) replied that we do need true minimum standards; one person with a \$2000 budget may not be able to be an ARSCO.

Action (7). Form advocacy/information support to establish/strengthen/protect offices. Arndt (OK) pointed out that this is very closely associated with Action item (6). Archer (BLM) stated that a 'personalities orientation' lowers authority; focus on offices and their functions. Volunteers include Arndt (OK), Redmond (WRCC), Schaffer (OK), Anderson (CA), (WY).

Action (8). Knight (PA) and Doesken (CO) as president and president-elect will identify AASC memberships, etc. Dupigny-Giroux (VT) also suggested that affiliations of the past, say 10 years, also be explored. Knight (PA) suggested somewhat fewer years.

Akyuz (ND) suggested that SPC (Storm Prediction Center) be accessible by state rather than by date.

Stookesbury (GA) was recommended as representative for the Board of Oceans and Atmosphere.

Doesken (CO) mentioned a Mesonet survey by Howard Cohen. There are efforts to establish a commercial weather station network. He indicated that AWS ('Weather Bug') was behind this. Knight (PA) pointed out that a dialog would be great; that AASC has a different opinion on these matters. Boyles (NC) said we could respond that standards are coming out. Someone indicated that they are persistent - if they get no response at the level of, say, State Climatologist then they simply make their pitch at a higher level in the organization. Knight (PA) said he would draft a letter with the executive committee saying that we understand the initiative but metadata, standards, and full public access are required. It was pointed out that Senator Mikulski (MD) is a mover. They (AWS) may actually have an MOA with NOAA. McGuirk (NCDC) said 'yes, MOA'. Selover (AZ) asked them (AWS) for a list of relationships but they would not provide that - several answers indicated that it was proprietary. It was pointed that no NOAA money is involved just an MOA.

Doug Kluck (NWS) brought efforts in NOAA to make NOAA regional teams rather than just, say, NWS only teams. He asked 'What kind of funding ideas do you have?'. They are planning stakeholder meetings in next 2-3 years. There will be an opportunity to express data stewardship concerns. They would love to have AASC participation.

Dupigny-Giroux (VT) mentioned a geographers' proposal for mentorships. If you have interested students let Leslie know. A climate literacy effort will include web resources, etc.

Laura Edwards (WRCC) announced that she is stepping down from annual report editor duty. Melissa Griffin from Florida State Climate Office and Deborah Bathke from New Mexico will take over duties.

Stookesbury (GA) asked if JASC editor is on the AASC executive committee? Knight indicated editor may be a member in the future.

Archer (BLM) indicated that the secretary of the Department of the Interior has a climate change workgroup, esp. USGS, with a goal of a strategic plan in about a year. Eail Scott for more information.

'Ayes' closed the business meeting.