

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Bioengineering Section EXCOM Conference Call Meeting

December 8, 2009

Meeting began via conference call at 11:40 AM EST

1. Introduction & agenda update

In attendance (via telephone): Doug Dixon, Michael Love, Ted Castro-Santos, and John Johnson

Abby Franklin was invited but unable to attend. Ted will attempt to schedule her to join the ExCom at the next meeting in January.

2. Review & Acceptance of September and October Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from September and October were accepted. Michael will post them on the BES website.

3. Announcements

a. News from the Governing Board – Castro-Santos

At the October governing board meeting a focus of the conversations was regarding decline in membership and approaches to improving it.

b. Fisheries Engineering and Stream Restoration Symposium - Love

The AFS California-Nevada Chapter is going to have a bioengineering related symposium, titled Fisheries Engineering and Stream Restoration. It will be at its Annual Meeting in Redding, CA on March 11th. There is a call for presenters currently open and the contact for the symposium is Margie Caisley, mcaisley@dfg.ca.gov.

ACTION ITEM: Michael will put out an announcement to the members via the listserv.

4. Treasurer's Report

Current balance for the Section is \$18,051.42

Michael discussed the ongoing issue regarding the Sections Taxpayer ID number associated with the Section's bank account and action needed to be taken to resolve it. The other item was to get Ted authorized as a signer for the account. Doug plans to go to a local Virginia bank branch to take care of it. At this time, no resolution is required by the ExCom.

5. Old Business

a. Networking with Estuaries and Habitat Sections –Castro-Santos

Ted wrote head of the habitat section, and wrote the estuary section. He proposed doing a symposium together on the topic of ocean energy.

b. Telemetry Standards Update – Castro-Santos

Ted described the objective of developing a code set that is free and open to everyone. A motivation is to encourage competition. Ted is trying to establish a web page that could be used to share code sets (share tools and concept behind it). Ted has spoken with some members. Cam Grant was going to write out a recommendation of what a website might look like and function. There is still interest in maintaining the subcommittee. If it remains inactive for long, it should be retired. There is interest by members to keep it going at this point.

c. Emerging Technology Committee – Reese/Dixon

Next Wed is the committee's quarterly meeting. Jon Black and Doug will host the meeting with a presentation on fish protection technologies for cooling water intakes. It will be a webcast. The committee has evolved into giving presentations quarterly on emergent technologies. At this point, its just the committee that is invited to the webcast.

Ted - What is a webcast like. Doug - Combining a conference call with a PowerPoint presentation given online. They will use MS LiveMeeting. Participant can email questions, or they can ask questions on the conference call.

Michael supports allowing the whole section membership to participate in the webcast once the bugs are worked out. Such events provide real value to the membership and provide for good outreach and relevance. Ted seconded the idea of opening up the webcast to the membership and asked if he could join the upcoming one to see how it works.

d. Web site

A. New Developments

Ted talked to Michael about the site. Ted updated the networking page and eliminated dead links; that was about half of the links. Some of the remaining links are not the best quality.

Ted now plans to put a note out to the listserv asking for additions and recommendations. Links should focus on quality and value to members. Would like to include links to fisheries related laws. There is a direct website for 316B that the EPA has; there is no website on 316A.

DOD and their hydropower emerging technologies should be a link.

Adding, the fish passage curriculum. Fish passage restoration. Do we need curriculum. Do we want to expand into this. Mike Ted- at min bring that field into the fold a bit, min posting

ACTION ITEM: Ted will post request for additional links to listserve.

e. Curricula: Fish Passage and River Restoration - Love

The section should get its products posted on the website, including the curriculum developed several years ago. None of the ExCom members knew exactly what the curricula covered, nor had a copy. Michael said he will contact Margaret Lang, one of the developers of the curriculum to get a copy and see where things stand.

ACTION ITEM: Michael to contact Margaret Lang regarding Section developed curriculum.

f. Continuing Education Committee (Dixon)

The committee members are Chuck Coutant, Marcin Whitman, Alex Haro, Margaret Lang, and Doug Dixon. The committee is proposing to hold a course on downstream fish passage at the 2010 AFS Annual Meeting. The proposal is due to the Parent Society shortly after the New Year. They are not repeating the upstream passage course. However, Margaret Lang is thinking about putting together a proposal for a half-day section on fish passage at culverts.

Ted suggested having a long term schedule/plan on what topics will be the focus of the Section sponsored course for each year.

g. Newsletter (Haro)

Alex was not able to make the meeting. Ted discussed the current model the Section for news. The newsletter model that the Section uses creates a lot of work pulling together the content and it only goes out once a year, making it have a lot of old news. Ted suggested looking at an alternative model for getting out news. The Section should routinely send out messages to the members.

Doug pointed out as an example, the latest North American Journal and there are several papers relevant to bioengineering. One approach is to have the newsletter editor's job change to sending out current and relevant information in a timely manner rather than waiting until a newsletter is completed.

Ted supports this approach. We could use the website for what the newsletter does now. Ted suggested waiting until Alex could attend the ExCom to talk more about it. This will go onto the agenda for next time.

Action Item: Doug will post to the list server about the recent journal articles and then one about the upcoming continuing education course for Pittsburg.

h. Archiving Section Records (Love)

Mike is still working on organizing electronic files to put onto the BES server.

6. New Business

a. Student Paper/Design award (Franklin)

Not able to attend. She sent Ted something that he will share with the ExCom.

7. Adjourn

Date of next meeting: Tentative 1/5/10 at 11:30 AM EST.

Adjourn at 12:40 AM EST.