

Board for Private Sector Meteorologists (BPSM) Conference Call Summary

Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 12:00-12:40 p.m. EST

- Telecon Participants: Kyle Beatty, Ken Carey, Steve Harned, Erik Noble, Gary Rasmussen, Bob Rose, and Kathy Strebe
- Opening Remarks: Board chair K. Carey thanked each of the board members for their selfless contributions, participation and support, and affirmed their positive impact on our constituents in the private sector, AMS, and for students interested in the private sector. He also welcomed Bob Rose to our board, after which Bob and the board members exchanged brief introductions
- Review of November BPSM Meeting Summary and Approved Terms of Reference (TOR): We briefly reviewed the summaries of our November 13 BPSM meeting and approved BPSM TOR. No additional feedback was discussed. Both of these are already posted on our BPSM web site
- Discussion on the BPSM Web Pages: The November board meeting and TOR have been added to our web site. A request for pictures of “private sector people in action” was sent out by the AMS, per K. Carey’s draft request. K. Carey has received several pictures and requested feedback as to how they might be displayed. The consensus was that, (1) we should try to tie pictures to our goals and objectives, if at all possible, and (2) display the pictures in a way that is attractive and not distracting to the rest of the web information. We might also see if these pictures can be archived into areas of private sectors work K. Carey asked board members to continue to critically review our web site, and let him know if they thought any changes need to be considered.

ACTION: Provide to Ken pictures of private sector people in action (e.g., on-air broadcasting, providing forecasting services for clients, mentoring activities, a CCM providing legal testimony, etc.) (All)

- BPSM Objective for 2008: We discussed our board objectives for next year. K. Carey requested each board member consider taking a lead role in one of these important activities

(1) Raise awareness of the benefits of working in the private sector by publishing periodic articles on our web site highlighting private sector individuals

BPSM LEAD: TBD

K. Carey requested that each board member continue to consider how we can educate and promote to our colleagues and those we interact in our spheres of influence the value of the work and of working in the private sector is, over and above what we should be able to accomplish through our other board initiatives.

(2) Support the professional development of private sector members, to include working with the AMS to enhance the AMS Corporate and CCM Directories as career development resources, using survey to identify other means of support for private sector individuals, and reaching out to AMS local chapters to raise their awareness of resources available to members of the private sector

BPSM LEAD: S. Harned

No tangible progress to report and little progress is expected until after the AMS Annual Meeting and February 2008. S. Harned will be taking this over from J. Block. Private sector offerings will expand in the near future through our joint efforts and support from the AMS. K. Carey will invite the AMS to discuss the current status and next steps.

ACTION: Invite C. Kazarosian to our BPSM meeting to discuss the status of the AMS Corporate and CCM directories (K. Carey)

ACTION: Advise the board of the status and progress of this effort at our next telecon (S. Harned)

(3) Expand the private sector mentor program and support growth of the professional network of private sector mentors and students, to include program promotion such as publication of testimonials and marketing information

BPSM LEAD: K. Beatty

K. Beatty, K. Carey, J. Block, B. Thomas and K. Strebe continue to meet monthly to prepare for a restart of the mentoring program. K. Beatty reported that we have received 35 mentee applications. The major focus is currently to agree on the mentor-mentee pairings and associated documents, balancing the areas of interest along with an eye to a regional closeness.

- K. Beatty has all the letters out and is just waiting to hear back from all the student mentees (exams, etc.)
- Contrary to last year, when there was just a small group of mentors/mentees and each of us committee members facilitated the initial contact between each pairing, K. Beatty and K. Strebe propose we send out an email to the mentors to let them know

they can now take the initiative to contact their mentee (by phone, in-person, etc.), since there are so many pairings this season, and, if they have any questions or concerns, they could certainly ask one of us committee members for help. How does that sound?

- K. Beatty has asked whether the mentors are planning to attend the AMS Annual meeting itself. That might help us decide who and how many to invite to our BPSM meeting that Wednesday. K, Carey and K. Beatty agreed we limit the number we invite to our meeting, since there is a room/space limitation.
- Once K. Beatty has an answer from those mentors he asked to take on more than one mentee, he will send out the notices to the students who don't get assigned a mentor this go-round, and encourage them to apply for the fall 2008 session.

ACTION: Lead a discussion at our January 2008 board meeting on the status of mentor program. Ensure a select group of mentors and students are invited to our board meeting in New Orleans. Coordinate hand off of responsibilities for contacting mentor program members. (Kyle)

(4) Support the AMS awards process by promoting and encouraging nominations from the private sector for the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Applied Meteorology

BPSM LEAD: R. Coleman

J. Paul Dallavalle was confirmed as the 2008 award winner, per our board recommendation. K. Carey has updated the board web site listing of award winners, and posted a new section with Paul's photo and a short article.

ACTION: Provide the board a written assessment of this year's award selection process, and present recommendations to improve the 2008 award selection process. (Rip)

(5) Encourage private sector members to complete CCM certification.

BPSM LEAD: S. Harned

Since the CCM is the "highest level of accreditation for meteorologists in our profession", we want to promote the CCM certification. S. Harned has invited S. Marsh to make a presentation or staff a booth promoting CCM certification at the NWA Annual Meeting in Reno in October 2007.

ACTION: Continue to work with the CCM Board, and report progress at our next meeting. (Steve)

S. Harned is also serving as the BPSM liaison for the planning for the First

Colloquium on Industrial Meteorology and Certified Consulting Meteorologists, working with G. Mulvey, chair of this colloquium, and will be chairing a session at this colloquium. The first Industrial Meteorologist/CCM conference will occur between 9:00 a.m.- noon, Wed, Jan 23rd. S. Harned will be chairing the session addressing Industrial Meteorologists in Forensic Meteorology and will be joined on the panel by CCMs Jan Null, Golden Gate Weather Services and Steve Wistar, AccuWeather, Inc. Professional Affairs Commissioner John Toohey-Morales will also participate on the severe weather panel.

ACTION: Continue to work with the colloquium organizers, and let us know at our board meeting in New Orleans how things went. (Steve)

(6) Follow-through on the proposed implementation plan to meet the AMS strategic goals.

BPSM LEAD: E. Noble

Our board successfully created and submitted an implementation plan to meet the new AMS strategic goals. We now need to actively work to implement the goals we established.

ACTION: Review our submission on our BPSM implementation of the AMS strategic goals and propose ways we can implement our proposals. (Erik)

- **THM Collaboration with the BOGM:**

The AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists (BOGM), BPSM and Weather Analysis and Forecasting (WAF) committee are collaborating on a Town Hall Meeting (THM) at the 2008 AMS Annual Meeting. The topic is, "Joining Researchers, Forecasters, and Users to Tackle Challenges in Tropical Cyclone Prediction". R. Coleman and K. Carey are serving as board liaisons for this initiative.

K. Carey is continuing to participate in the conference calls with BOGM, WAF and AMS staff members over the summer. We have secured a sponsor (Midland Radio Corporation) and need to coordinate the THM details with the guest speakers.

- **Other Business:**

(1) K. Strebe is serving as a co-chair for the 7th AMS Student Conference. E. Noble has continued to serve as out student liaison to the conference planning committee. This is a great opportunity to promote the private sector to potential future employees. In addition, by launching the BPSM mentorship program, students became more aware of the private

sector. We plan to continue to raise awareness of the BPSM mentorship program at the January 2008 student conference. K. Carey will be speaking as part of the “Conversations with Professionals” and will be discussing mentoring at the student conference.

ACTION: Continue to support the 7th Student Conference planning, and let the board know how we can help provide and support private sector participation. (Kathy/Erik)

- Upcoming Board Meetings: Board meeting in New Orleans: Wed, Jan 23, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (CST), Steering Room, Hilton Riverside Hotel