

AMS Board on Enterprise Communication 2005 Activities Report

Submitted by

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Matt Parker accepted the Chairmanship of the Board on Enterprise Communication (BEC) which resides in the Weather and Climate Enterprise Commission (WCEC) chaired by George Frederick.

Spring – Summer 2005

BEC Chair Parker played a minor role in the organization of the “Boulder Workshop” on the future of weather prediction in the US.

Summer – Fall 2005

Efforts were focused on the recruitment of members for the BEC. A list of six candidates were submitted to Commissioner Frederick on November 17, 2005 and all candidates were approved by the AMS hierarchy. These initial members are (in particular order):

Academic Sector

Dr. Rebecca Morss of UCAR/NCAR, Boulder, CO
Dr. Greg Hakim of the University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Government Sector

Ron Jones of NWS/NOAA, Washington, DC
Tom Bellinger, CCM of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, Springfield, IL

Private / Commercial Sector

Veronica Johnson (Weems) of NBC4, Washington, DC
Jay Titlow of Weatherflow, Inc., Poquoson, VA

Members from the user community and other additional members from the three main categories within the AMS will be selected over time. It should be noted that these BEC positions were filled 14 months ahead of the original schedule.

Fall 2005

November 11, 2005

A conference call was held with members of the Weather Coalition (Cindy Schmidt, Ray Ban, John Snow), AMS staff (Keith Seitter, Gary Rasmussen), and WCEC (Frederick, Parker) to discuss appropriate ways in which the two organizations can work together. This call was deemed desirable in lieu of the success of the working relationship during the summer's "Boulder Meeting."

During the call, the differences between the AMS' Charter and the Weather Coalition's activities were identified. Common causes were also identified and include the ideal that, at times, it is very appropriate for the whole of meteorology to speak with one voice. Weather Coalition members indicated that the need to have a means of monitoring the latest activities within the enterprise, and AMS members cited the emergence of the new AMS website forum for the WCEC. Ideally, this new forum could take on this role although occasional conference calls amongst the many players within the enterprise may be useful as well. The Weather Coalition would also like to see a procedure by which the WCEC can be contacted when appropriate. Both the AMS staff and WCEC members are available for this purpose and then ideas would be funneled to the WCEC Steering Committee.

December 16, 2005

Within the last year, members of NOAA have contacted the AMS to investigate the way in which the AMS can facilitate enterprise discussions related to the future of NOAA's climate services. A conference call was held between members of NOAA (Mary Glackin, Rick Rosen, Chet Koblinsky), the AMS staff (Seitter, Rasmussen, Hooke), and the WCEC (Frederick, Bill Mahoney, Parker) to discuss this issue further.

NOAA would like to see the AMS hold "workshops" where a sustained dialogue with the weather and climate enterprise could take place on an ongoing basis. NOAA would be exercising their new partnerships policy through the assistance of the AMS. Ideally, goals for the future of NOAA's climate services products (i.e. "anything that is not a daily forecast") would be discussed and developed. A good starting point would be to use the recent National Academies report, A Climate Services Vision: First Steps Toward the Future. The AMS staff would likely handle the logistics of the initial workshop to be held, probably, in Summer 2006. The WCEC would handle the organization of the meeting including topic development, etc. Obviously, NOAA would offer key input during this process, but NOAA does not want to dictate the direction of the dialogue. NOAA would like to see the AMS "take the bull by the horns" here. Also, NOAA would expect the AMS to develop a proposal to be submitted for sponsorship funding approval, but it is very likely that a registration fee would be used for the workshop. Other funding sources can and should be found, if possible.

These are new concepts and ones that need to be developed further. A second, face-to-face meeting will be scheduled for the AMS Annual Meeting in Atlanta. In the meantime, WCEC members will be discussing the path forward from an organizational standpoint. It is likely that the BEC will be the lead Board for this effort but members from the other WCEC Boards will be involved as well.

December 20, 2005

(end)