



American Meteorological Society (AMS) Board on Enterprise Communication (BEC)

Terms of Reference (TOR) May 4, 2006

Purpose: The goal of the BEC is to facilitate communication on issues of interest to the broad community represented by the AMS and beyond including user groups. These issues will normally be short-term in nature and require relatively quick action (in less than a year). The BEC, in conjunction with the AMS staff, will provide, as appropriate, venues of differing formats including workshops, special symposia, or conference sessions. Typically, a summary report will be issued for major events, and an annual report on BEC activities will be provided to the Steering Committee of the Climate and Weather Enterprise Commission (CWEC). As appropriate, the BEC will also utilize and/or enhance or assist in enhancing a variety of other communication mechanisms used by the AMS such as email distributions or interactive web pages.

It is anticipated that, on occasion, a topic of interest may garner sufficient additional attention such that an “ad hoc” committee will be formed as a subset of the BEC. In such cases, a representative of the BEC membership would be expected to be an active participant in the ad hoc committee (likely as a chair or co-chair). If necessary, an ad hoc committee may be recommended for permanent status through the normal CWEC and AMS hierarchal process.

BEC Structure:

The members of the BEC should, to the practical extent possible, represent the three main sectors of the AMS membership: academic, government, and private sector. Also, members from the broad user community should be considered for membership. Consideration should be given to women and minority members of the AMS and user communities. Consideration should also be given to ensuring broad geographic representation. Members will generally serve three year terms, and members will be nominated by the BEC Chair through the normal CWEC and AMS hierarchal process. In some cases, a one or two-year extension may be granted to a member to ensure that sufficient continuity of the BEC is maintained between successive years.

One BEC member will serve as the BEC Chair, as appointed by the CWEC Commissioner, and the BEC Chair will be a member of the CWEC Steering Committee. Non-BEC member chairpersons of any ad hoc committees will become ex officio members of the BEC.