

Meeting Notes
AMS Committee on Environmental Responsibility
Conference Call -- Thursday April 12, 3:00-4:00 EDT

Attending: Caroline Normile, Chris Alex, Dian Seidel, Emerson LaJoie, Eugene Cordero, Jon Malay, Kathy Schreiber, Rebecca Haacker-Santos, Richard Clark, Tom Hamill

Unable to attend: Claudia Gorski, Marge Huntington, Jen Alexander

1. Rebecca took notes.
2. Introduction of Jon Malay, who joined the committee and will serve as AMS Exec. Comm. liaison to CER. Jon reviewed the decision of not having an AMS-sponsored service activity in at the 2012 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. To support the local business community, the AMS chose to schedule fewer events and give conference attendees time to explore New Orleans. Jon expressed his excitement and support for a service activity at the 2013 AMS Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. The CER's current charter will expire in January 2013. Jon will bring this to the Exec. Comm.'s attention and will support the committee if it decides to request a renewal. **Action item for Dian: prepare report for Exec. Comm. and request renewal.**
3. Status Reports and Discussion of Selected Work Plan Activities
 - a. Plans for 93rd AMS Annual Meeting
 - i. Keep Austin Beautiful activity (Jen). Jen was unable to attend conference call. **Action item for Dian: check if she needs help.**
 - ii. WeatherFest (Eugene, Rebecca). Activity at the 2012 event was well received and should be repeated in 2013. Eugene and Rebecca have enough students to staff the booth. Need to think about possible different activities. Committee would like to feature its work at the booth. **Action item for Rebecca: reserve booth at Weatherfest.**
 - iii. Carbon offset recommendation for registration (Caroline, Marge). Caroline presented recommendations for the registration website: AMS could offer several carbon-offset options and information on how they were chosen and vetted. It would be good to provide as much information as possible to members, possibly including the article entitled "The inconvenient truth about carbon-off-sets" (Nature. Vol. 484, issue 7392). Eugene suggested including non-purchase offset options, e.g. things members can do themselves to offset some of their carbon output; use Austin's public transport, car pool, etc.

iv. Remote access for committee meetings and short courses, including de-brief on usage at 92nd Annual Meeting in New Orleans (Marge). Marge was unable to attend conference call. Members who participated remotely during the meeting in New Orleans gave positive feedback. In general it is a good option for those who can't travel to the meeting, but sound and image quality would have to improve.

b. Committee web site issues (Emerson)

i. Posting of work plans, minutes, etc. AMS Website is being re-worked. In the future, posting to the committee website should get easier. All meeting notes and committee work plans are now posted.

ii. Soliciting ideas for green meetings through this site. Committee agreed to collect suggestions from members about green meetings and display them on our website. We decided to move ahead on this and not wait until the website's redesign is completed. **Action item for Emerson: work with AMS staff to open email accounts that can receive two kinds of suggestions: (1) suggestions to AMS Meetings Dept. regarding AMS meetings, and (2) suggestions on all sorts of meetings, to eventually share with everyone. Emerson agreed to monitor the second group of suggestions.**

c. Energy audit at 44 and 45 Beacon Street (Kathy). No updates. Action item for Jon: follow up with Keith Seitter.

d. BAMS "45 Beacon" series (Dian). Dian informed us that we can publish brief information items about the committee's work in the 45 Beacon section of BAMS. We have topics for the April and May issues: April issue – Introducing CER (w/Eugene) and May issue – Green meetings (w/Claudia). Possible topics for the next five issues are: 93rd Annual Meeting in Austin (w/Claudia or Marge), Enhancing energy efficiency in AMS office buildings (w/Kathy), Environmentally responsible investment strategies for the AMS portfolio (w/Rich), Greening AMS publications (w/Tom or Chris), Call for new CER members (w/Jon). Committee decided to focus on investment strategies for the June issue and the annual meeting for the August issue.

4. New idea: Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (Chris). Chris is interested exploring how this EPA tool could help the AMS and its membership to evaluate electronics purchases (<http://www.epeat.net/>). It could potentially link with AMS

publications. Action item for Chris: research more about the tool and its applicability and share with committee.

5. Adjourned at 4:15pm