

AMS Committee on Environmental Responsibility Conference Call

9:00-10:30 am MDT 19 April, 2013

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Rebecca Haacker-Santos, Ana Ordonez, Dian Seidel, Rick Clark, Caroline Normile, Chris Alex, Claudia Gorski, Marge Huntington, Eugene Cordero, Laura Allen

Note taker Laura Allen

1. March 2013 report to the Executive Committee was submitted (Rebecca). The Executive Committee recently met, no feedback has been received yet. Updates will be provided to the committee when received.

2. Discussion of 2013 Work plan

Activity A: Volunteer activity AMS 2014

No separate CER activity is needed. CER will coordinate and support AMS' community service activity that's already being planned. Current AMS President Marshal Shepherd is at the University of Georgia, and has been very involved in organizing a volunteer activity at the 2014 AMS Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Activity will be focused on bringing science of weather into local classrooms, and most likely will take place the Friday before the student conference and annual meeting. Rich pointed out that if schools and programs knew well in advance they could have their students arrive on Friday and participate in the teaching event.

Action Item: **Claudia** will inform CER about what activities are planned and how we can get involved.

Activity B: Volunteer activity AMS 2015

Ana has identified a local Phoenix organization, "Keep Phoenix Beautiful" as a group CER could get involved with for the 2015 Annual Meeting. CER needs clarification if volunteer activities will continue to fall into this committee's responsibility or if they become a standard activity of the annual meeting and be led by the conference organizers (as in 2014). Possibly in the future AMS members can pick from a menu of volunteer activities as part of the meeting (reach out to local school, greening effort, etc.). Claudia suggests that a collaboration between the CER and the co-chairs is the most likely scenario for future meetings.

Action items: **Claudia** will provide an update to the CER regarding the theme of the 2015 meeting and provide the CER with contact info of the co-chairs. **Rebecca and Ana** will meet with Wendy Abshire, UCAR (advisor to the 2015 meeting) in Boulder next month to discuss ideas.

Activity C: CER Town Hall 2014

Dian reported that she may not be the best person to lead this activity because she may not attend the 2014 AMS meeting. Submission deadline for a town hall is November 1st. The CER discussed that carbon offsets could be a possible theme for the town hall and would garner a lot of interest. Other possible topics are the report on AMS Carbon Audit, and solicitation of future projects of the CER.

Action item: **Dian will follow up with Dominic** who couldn't be on the call, and will inform the CER if they will propose the town hall and if Dominic could take the lead. (**Rich and Caroline** may be able to lend support to this effort).

Activity D: CER presence in Exhibit Hall at the 2014 Annual Meeting

Rebecca reported great interests in CER activities at WeatherFest (which reaches out mostly to the public), but observed that fewer AMS members were aware of CER. Claudia was asked if CER can get a presence at the annual meeting's Resource Center to promote its mission and projects. It was discussed that a panel with information about CER would be a good option because it doesn't need to be staffed. The Resource Center is staffed by AMS. It may be nice to have committee members help staff the Resource Center during the Exhibit Hall opening and coffee breaks.

Action items: Rebecca will get the panel specs from Brenda Ward, write a description for the panel, and then present to the committee for feedback. Also, CER can provide information to be included in binders for AMS staff and student volunteers serving in the information desk and resource center (needs to be done by December). This effort would be coordinated with Marge and Brenda.

Activity E: Lowering the carbon footprint of the Banquet 2014

CER discussed how to lower the carbon footprint of the awards banquet. Options are: provide a non-meat option as the default on the registration, discuss with catering how to provide a less meat-centric dish and also incorporates locally sourced food.

Action items: Marge will discuss meal options with catering. Once the dish is chosen, Eugene will provide an approximate calculation of the impact to be advertised at the banquet, either by a speaker or by having something printed in the award book.

Activity F: Student engagement in greening the AMS

Rich and Eugene both reported on their student chapter activities which have included recycling events and environmental education at public outreach events. The committee agreed to pursue the idea of a friendly green competition between student chapters with recognition of all chapters having done some greening activities (recycling, carbon footprint educations, etc.). No activities will be prescribed, but all chapters will be invited to create their own greening activities. All activities would be displayed during the chapter awards, be formally acknowledged and create awareness of what others are doing thus inspiring action.

Action item: Rich, Eugene and Caroline will discuss ideas and connect with Kelly Savoie regarding communication with local chapters and the use of social media.

Activity G: CER award for green exhibitors

This activity was tabled and won't be part of the work plan for 2013. Concerns were how to measure and judge which exhibitor did the best greening effort. This process of establishing guidelines would be too work intensive

3. **Website updates** – It was noted that the updates to the CER website have been slower than usual. AMS IT staff has been busy with modifications to the publications pages.
Action item: Rebecca will follow up with Claudia to get January and April meeting notes posted.
4. **Discussion of article on the ethics of Carbon Offsets and its implication for the AMS.** Dian led a good discussion on the topic of carbon offsets. Committee members offered their thoughts on the pros (taking responsibility) and cons (assuaging guilt) of offsets. Care is needed when offering/discussing offsets to AMS members. The possibility of encouraging remote attendance and the associated

difficulties was discussed. The discussion ended with the idea of offering a town hall with offset experts as panel members for the next meeting. **Action item: Dian and Dominic** will follow up on town hall.

5. Adjourned at 10:30am