

AMS Committee on Environmental Responsibility Meeting

06:45-08:45 Monday, January 7th 2013, Hilton Hotel Room 402,
500 East 4th Street, Austin, TX

Attendees present: Rebecca Haacker-Santos, Eugene Cordero, Ana Ordonez, Claudia Gorksi, Dominic Cammarota, Keith Seitter, Rich Clark, Dian Seidel, Brian Mardirosian (AMS IT)

Attendees participating by phone: Caroline Normile, Chris Alex

Members not present: Jon Malay, Emerson LaJoie, Kathy Schreiber

1. Welcome and review agenda - Rebecca welcomed participants and rearranged the agenda little bit to accommodate Keith's limited time.
2. Dian volunteered to take meeting notes.
3. Keith reported qualitatively on the results of the energy audits of the AMS buildings in Boston and the carbon footprint analysis of AMS operations.
 - a. A written audit report is not yet available. The main area of concern is the leaky windows, but that is very difficult to address because of the national historical landmark status of 45 Beacon St. Renovations to 44 Beacon were done with energy efficiency in mind. A report should be coming soon.
 - b. The main carbon emissions associated with AMS operations are due to travel, both the daily commutes of the staff (most of whom use public transit or footpower) and travel to the annual meeting. Reducing these is challenging. The location of the annual meeting strongly influences the footprint. The group discussed a more formal presentation of these analyses to AMS membership at the 2014 annual meeting, both to disseminate information on methodology and results and to inspire other groups to do similar analyses. One suggestion was to look at carbon emissions associated with AMS member travel to annual meetings, using data on attendee home locations, to determine what cities afford the best opportunities to reduce emissions.
 - c. Keith agreed to work with the committee and meetings department to arrange a town hall for the 2014 meeting.
4. Self introductions – Everyone introduced themselves. New to the committee is student member Ana Ordonez of University of Arizona. Dominic Cammarota, high school teacher from New York City, learned about the CER at Weatherfest on Sunday afternoon. Brian Mardirosian of AMS headquarters reported that this year at least six groups were using remote meeting connections.
5. 2014 Annual Meeting – Claudia lead discussion of CER interests at the 2014 meeting in Atlanta.
 - a. Dian had informally approached AMS President Marshall Shepherd with a proposal to serve mainly vegetarian and locally-source food at the awards banquet. Eugene noted that the food choice is much more important than food origin as a factor in weighing environmental impacts. Claudia reported that the annual meeting organizers were not in favor of a vegetarian menu because they felt it would seem too restrictive to some AMS members. The group developed a proposal to offer banquet attendees menu options

(without a default meat choice, as is now the case) along with an explanation of the environmental impacts of choosing plant-based choices.

- b. Claudia also reported that the 2014 annual meeting organizers have a community service project in mind that would likely match well the goals of the CER, so that the CER would not need to advocate for or organize a project. Rather, it is not too early to consider a project for 2015 in Phoenix. Ana agreed to take responsibility for investigating opportunities in Phoenix, preferably partnering with an established local organization.
 - c. Claudia was asked about the environmental policies of Austin hotels and convention center, and she reported that she was not impressed, particularly with the hotels, especially given Austin's self promotion as an environmentally friendly city.
6. Completed 2012 Work Plan Activities
- a. Dian reported on the completion of a series of six short, informal articles on the work of the CER for the *45 Beacon* section of the *Bulletin of the AMS*, in consecutive issues beginning May 2012.
 - b. Dian reported that Emerson had successfully upgraded the committee's website, but that implementing changes was slow because she needed to request changes be made by AMS staff. Claudia indicated that a new committee website template was being tested and would soon be available to CER, and that it allows committee members to control content and updates, so this work should soon be easier. Dian noted that most of the material we wanted to feature is now there, but that the information on committee history needs to be updated.
 - c. Dian passed out CER "business cards" that offer a succinct description of the CER and have a code to allow easy access to our website. These can be handed out to people interested in learning about the CER, and they were handed out at Weatherfest.
 - d. Dian reported that the CER is now an official standing committee of the Executive Committee, following three-year period in non-permanent status.
7. Reports on CER activity at 93rd Annual meeting, Austin, TX
- a. Eugene and Rebecca reported that about 100 visitors came to the CER booth at Weatherfest (about 700 people came to Weatherfest). They and Dian staffed the booth briefly, but the main staffing was by students from San Jose State University. Two AMS members, Dominic Cammerota and Rene Curry, visited and expressed interest in the work of the CER. The group discussed ways to reach more AMS members, because Weatherfest is mainly geared toward the general public. Ideas included having a booth in the main exhibit hall, at the AMS Resource Center, and holding a town hall meeting at the 2014 annual meeting.
8. Dian reported on Sunday's community service activity with Keep Austin Beautiful. Jen Alexander and Peter Roohr, working with Ken Carey and Kevin (last name?) organized this cleanup along the banks of the Waller Creek and Colorado River. The morning session had 14 signups, of which 5 actually participated, and the afternoon session had 40 signups. In the morning, reporters and camera crews from several local TV stations filmed and interviewed the volunteers.
(<http://www.khou.com/news/texas-news?fid=185817851&fPath=/news/local/&fDomain=10232>.)
9. Status report on ongoing activities
- a. Following up on suggestions from a previous meeting, Dian reported that she would liaise with the Committee to Improve Climate Change Communication at its meeting on Tuesday to offer CER assistance in its work on areas of mutual interest. Update: At the its meeting, the CCCCC discussed its future, which is still to be determined. The offer from CER was appreciated and will be considered once CCCCC determines its path forward.
 - b. Rebecca asked members whose terms will end in 2014 to suggest new members for CER.

10. Agreement on 2013 CER work plan and member responsibilities

	Activity	Notes/ Details	Responsible member
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.	Claudia Gorski, Rebecca H.S.,
B	Volunteer activity AMS 2015	CER will propose a volunteer activity for the 2015 annual meeting in Phoenix.	Ana Ordonez
C	CER Town hall 2014	CER will organize a town hall at the 2014 annual meeting. Possible topics/ goals: Report on AMS Carbon Audit, solicitation of future projects of the CER, invitation to join the committee	Dian Seidel, Dominic
D	CER presence in exhibit hall	CER to provide materials for the AMS booth, orientation for AMS staff, and possible time of committee members. Goal: inform general AMS audience about CER's work	Rebecca H.S., Claudia Gorski,
E	Banquet 2014	Work with AMS on lowering carbon foot print of the awards banquet.	Eugene Cordeo, Claudia Gorski
F	Student engagement	CER will engage local student AMS chapters to involve more students in the greening of the AMS.	Rich Clark, Eugene Cordero
G	CER award	This idea needs more discussion. Goal: to recognize vendors and exhibitors who made an extra effort to lower their carbon footprint (less hand outs, innovative ways to reach out to exhibit hall visitors, etc.)	Rebecca H.-S.

11. Adjourned around 8:45am