

Meeting Minutes
AMS Committee on Environmental Responsibility
Conference Call, 23 May 2011, 11:30 a.m. EST

The following committee members were present on the call: Claudia, Kathy, Eugene, Rebecca, Tom, Caroline, Emerson, Rich, and Dian.

The following committee members were unable to be present during the call: Jen, Chris, and Marge.

Emerson took notes in Jen's absence.

The agenda for the conference call followed the committee's Work Plan, which is organized into 9 activities, and falls into one of two goals, Greening AMS or Outreach. We reviewed progress and updated each activity.

1. AMS Meetings. These tasks are pretty specific for the next Annual Meeting.

Remote participation in meetings/short courses: Claudia spoke with Lee Gordon, AMS's new IT Director, about using Go To Meetings and got positive feedback. Logistically, it was summarized that having an IT professional in situ was an essential component for successful meetings using Go To Meetings and Claudia confirmed that such a person would be available. Remote participation in short courses may be best tried out in small steps. Claudia is continuing her efforts in this task.

Remote delivery of keynote: With respect to having remote delivery of the keynote address, this was discussed at the Annual Meeting Oversight Committee (AMOC) meeting, and they also discussed webcasting the Presidential Forum. The equipment needed for webcasting the Presidential Forum is cost prohibitive at this time. Instead, the Presidential Forum can be recorded and quickly placed on the AMS web site for viewing during the week of the Annual Meeting. Claudia will watch for future opportunities to webcast in real time affordably.

Revisit carbon offset recommendations. AMS online registration system will soon allow attendees to use multiple credit cards to pay personally to offset carbon emissions. It is possible this option can be made available for this year's Annual Meeting. Due to the large number of carbon-offset programs that Caroline found, the committee may use its expertise to reduce the options to a reasonable sample for attendees to choose from. Dian mentioned that in addition to the committee's input, Paul Higgins (AMS Policy Program) might be resourceful in helping to determine offset options.

ACTION ITEM: Caroline will compile a list of potential offset options and coordinate with the committee for feedback.

Survey question: Last year we asked a yes/no question related to carbon offsets on the Annual Meeting follow-up questionnaire. This year, we want to ask a more open-ended question to help us solicit information. There were two open-ended questions discussed in Seattle and they are revised and provided below.

1. Did you notice or make use of any particular efforts to reduce the environmental impact of the meeting?

2. Do you have any suggestions for improving the Annual Meeting to make it "greener"?

2. AMS Buildings. Kathy and Emerson made contact with Keith Seitter and learned the energy audits for 44 and 45 Beacon Street are delayed until the construction on 44 Beacon is further along. It was noted that an audit had been performed about 10 years ago. Keith agreed to keep the committee involved in the process and will provide a copy of the last audit, if it can be located. Kathy and Dian will reconnect about audits for the AAAS building in DC.

3. AMS Publications. Tom spoke with Ken Heideman and Dave Jorgensen of Publications and established himself as a liaison. Limited information exists on greening publications, but Tom and Chris will continue their efforts on this task.

4. AMS Investments. Similar to Publications, Rich established himself as liaison with Paul Try of the Investments Committee. He contends that the Investments Committee is cognizant of environmentally friendly and socially responsible practices when developing recommendations for the AMS investment portfolio. Dian and Rich concur that this task has been fulfilled and will continue on in maintenance mode. Rich offered his help to other committee members on their tasks.

5. Measuring Progress. Is what we're doing having a positive impact on the environment? Determining this is not an easy task, but a very valuable one. Members on this task found several carbon-emission-calculators that could be geared to university or general office applications. Kathy is awaiting a response from the EPA on their standards for calculators and plans to ask them about quantifying emissions on publications, as in item 3 of this workplan. Eugene noted that under the Climate Leaders subsection of the EPA website, organizations are recognized for their leadership in greening-efforts. Members concur that getting the ERC on this list would be beneficial.

ACTION ITEM: Eugene will learn more about getting ERC recognized by the EPA.

ACTION ITEM: Task members will choose carbon-calculators to list on the ERC website.

6. Service Activities. In an effort to organize a service activity for this year's Annual, Claudia learned about the New Orleans Outreach program, which serves schools, from Fred Zeile. However, the Outreach program cannot commit to the committee's presence in the classrooms until 4-6 weeks out from the event and this service activity does not

have an environmental focus, so it is not directly relevant to the ERC. It was concluded that a service activity for this year was no longer feasible in New Orleans and the committee agreed to turn their attention to the 2013 Annual Meeting planned for Austin.

ACTION ITEM: Task members should explore interest and opportunities for Austin 2013 with Troy Kimmel.

ACTION ITEM: Can Jen remain as POC for service activities in Austin 2013?

7. WeatherFest. Rebecca has confirmed space (10 x 12) for WeatherFest in the AMS booth. Eugene has two activities, the Green Ninja and the carbon footprint game. Rebecca has volunteered SOARS students to assist.

8. Committee Website/Secretary. A first draft of the ERC website will be available this week for the committee's feedback. An overall objective of the committee's website is to be informative, resourceful, and transparent about committee tasks and activities. Several new items were discussed as potential links to appear on the site, as well as items that result from tasks discussed above. Members are encouraged to continually submit ideas to flesh out the website. A sample of links discussed follows:

Workplan

AMS Professional Guidance Statement

Meeting minutes

Link to AMS statement on carbon emissions

Carbon calculators

9. Green Meetings Statement. Dian has provided members with the statement. Members are encouraged to disseminate this statement to everyone they know who is organizing or attending conferences, and Keith Seitter will help us disseminate it to other professional societies. Eugene raised the topic of reaching out to AGU, Dian agreed to follow up with Keith Seitter.

ACTION ITEM: All continue to disseminate link.

ACTION ITEM: All teams continue working on your activities—coordinate with each other and move forward. Dian is happy to help with any activities.

Other items. Dian to students Caroline and Emerson: reminder that abstracts are due to AMS by about August 1st. It is advised they begin seeking student-support to attend the New Orleans meeting and to be present for next ERC meeting. Dian offered her assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58pm EDT.