

**Meeting Minutes**  
**AMS Committee on Environmental Responsibility**  
**Conference Call, 11 October 2011, 2:10 p.m. EST**

The following committee members were present on the call: Tom, Eugene, Rebecca, Marge, Emerson, Kathy, Chris, Dian, and Claudia

The following committee members were unable to be present during the call: Caroline, Jen, Rich, and Jon (newest member).

Announcements:

- 1) The AMS Executive Committee reviewed the CER's progress report during the summer. Dian had requested funds to aid student committee members in attending committee meetings at AMS annual meetings but learned no funds were available
- 2) AMS President Jon Malay will be joining the CER as a new member and liaison to the Executive Committee.
- 3) Based on member preferences, the CER will meet at the AMS Annual Meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> (Monday) 6:45am to 9:00am. Committee members unable to attend or tentatively not attending include Tom, Chris, Caroline, and Emerson. Details to follow.

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, each associated with 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 has a room and equipment set for remote participation meetings.

Remote delivery of keynote: Claudia relayed that between an expensive software program and a preference for keynote speakers to be present, the progress on remote deliveries of a keynote address has slowed. Committee members who may not be able to attend the meeting are interested in participating remotely.

Revisit carbon offset recommendations. Due to the large number of carbon-offset programs, the committee continues to comb through the options and compile a representative sample to offer people who are registering for AMS events. Paul Higgins is suggested as a contact for help in choosing companies that offer off-set options. Option to buy carbon-offsets along with meeting registration is not currently available. Eugene suggested offering a single company for now for registrants.

**ACTION ITEM: Caroline and Marge will coordinate on the effort to compile a list of potential offset options and confer 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. The current projection has the move occurring in November 2011. The issue of energy audits on 44 and 45 Beacon Street will be readdressed during the annual meeting in January. Dian commented that the AAAS building in DC is a LEED certified building already and so likely meets standards the CER committee is hoping to achieve. Further discussion on the issue of energy audits for 44 and 45 Beacon Street will commence at the annual meeting.

3. AMS Publications. Chris shared an idea to visit the NOAA Central Library and learn about their procedures for green publications. Eugene mentioned efforts by Greenpeace to address the issue at the user-end by having the server that hosts the electronic publications identify their power source and the end-user chooses a preferred server and is encouraged to contact local power companies to promote sustainable and renewable sources of energy. Dian commented that conveying such a message to the Publications Commission seemed reasonable and encouraged task members to pursue these ideas

4. AMS Investments. This work plan item is essentially complete. Rich comments he ran into Dan Wilson, Director of Finance and Administration at UCAR, and a member of the AMS Investments Committee. Wilson commented that one green entity in the portfolio is doing extremely well. Rich believes this information will be shared with the AMS Investments Committee.

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 and the EPA carbon-calculator has been selected. 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 the CER 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 AMS, or at least the CER, on this list would be beneficial.

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

**ACTION ITEM:** Task members provide Emerson with the link to the EPA carbon-calculator.

6. Service Activities. Claudia has her efforts focused on outreach activities for the 2013 Annual Meeting in Austin and has a site visit scheduled. Details will follow at the Annual Meeting. Jen will remain the CER committee's point of contact for service activities in Austin 2013 because she serves on the Annual Meeting Program Committee.

7. WeatherFest. Rebecca has confirmed space (10 x 12) for WeatherFest in the AMS booth for January 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday) afternoon going until around 4:00pm. Eugene has two activities, the Green Ninja and the carbon footprint game. Rebecca has volunteered SOARS students to assist. Rebecca invites committee members to join and offers the space for additional uses.

**ACTION ITEM: Committee members please consider ways to get involved with WeatherFest.**

**ACTION ITEM: Rebecca and Eugene will consider ideas for enhancing the PR of our committee during WeatherFest.**

8. Committee Website/Secretary. The website was successfully initiated and has several links including the latest meeting minutes and the AMS Professional Guidance Statement. CER members are encouraged to continue to think of additional content.

**ACTION ITEM: Emerson needs the link to the EPA carbon-calculator.**

**ACTION ITEM: Consider ways to engage in outreach of our committee's website to interested entities.**

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. Rich has made contact with local student chapters and other members echoed their approval of this idea, agreeing to follow in his footsteps. Emerson agreed to be the spokesperson for the CER committee and will ask to make a brief announcement introducing the CER committee during the student meeting at the AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans if she is able to attend.

**ACTION ITEM: Dian to contact Ken Heideman about getting a brief introduction of our new committee in the new electronic newsletter sent by the AMS, News You Can Use.**

**ACTION ITEM: Emerson needs contact information for the student chapter of AMS (this has actually been done).**

**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.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm EDT.