

# **SOUTHEASTERN ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY**

## *Minutes from the SEERS Business Meeting at the Fall 2009 CERF Meeting*

Date: November 3, 2009

Location: Portland, OR

### **1.) CALL TO ORDER – Eric Koepfler**

### **2.) READING OF MINUTES**

- a. From the last SEERS business meeting of March 20, Conway, SC – Eric Koepfler read an abbreviated version of the minutes for Cassandra Thomas, Secretary (Attachment A).
- b. The meeting minutes were approved.

### **3.) TREASURER’S REPORT**

- a. The Treasurer’s financial summary was presented by Joan Sheldon. (Attachment B). Mentioned our thanks to the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories (SAML) for the \$100 contribution toward student travel to attend the CERF meeting.
- b. The Treasurer’s report was approved.

### **4.) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **a. Local Arrangements**

i. Mike Mallin is serving as local program host. Most of the arrangements are being made by BEM. Additional information will be sent out soon. The meeting is March 10-12, 2010 in Wilmington, NC.

#### **b. Nominations Committee**

i. New Nominations - Bob Virnstein indicated his agreement to be nominated at President-Elect. Eric then solicited additional nominations for President-Elect and Program Chair for the 2010-2012 terms.

#### **c. Website Committee**

i. Eric stated a target date of Spring 2010 for launch of the new website. Geno Olmi made a request to the membership to send him any archival SEERS information they may have to help him construct a SEERS history section for the website. Geno, Eric and Denise will meet early 2010 to discuss how this should be done.

#### **c. Student Promotions Committee**

i. Joan presented the winners of the Student Travel Awards with their checks:

1. Lisa Vandiver – University of South Carolina
- Caroline McFarlin – University of Georgia
- Sylvia Schaefer, - University of Georgia
- Wei Yuan – University of Central Florida

#### **e. SEERS Meeting Plans**

i. Future sites were discussed including Fall 2010 in St Augustine, Spring 2011 in Athens.

# **SOUTHEASTERN ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY**

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

**a.** SEERS is working to obtain an EIN and 501-c-3 status from the IRS.

**b.** Increasing meeting attendance and membership was discussed. A recommendation to seek new members was made by soliciting new programs and faculty from the current membership. These programs and faculty could then be targeted with information about the society and membership. In addition, it was discussed to create a list of members and institutions back to the mid-90s so that we could determine programs where we have lost and gained members.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

**a.** A new t-shirt design will be sought for the BEM meeting in the Spring. Will solicit designs from students.

**b.** Bob Virnstein proposed a 333 award be presented to the best poster that could be read 3 feet away and in 3 minutes after 3 drinks. He suggested that the student be presented with \$33.30 prize and they he would present SEERS with \$333.00 to start the program. A good deal of discussion followed with people concerned about making sure the posters stayed high quality scientific posters. The board and Bob will continue to discuss the proposal to insure it is appropriate for the society.

**c.** The St. Augustine Fall meeting dates were requested. It was mentioned that early November is being evaluated.

## **8. MEETING ADJOURNED**

**Submitted as official record**

**Denise Sanger, substituting for SEERS Secretary**

# **SOUTHEASTERN ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY**

## **Attachment A: Abbreviated version of SEERS business meeting minutes (November 14, 2008, Tampa, FL)**

### **1) TREASURER'S REPORT**

- a. *Treasurer's financial summary from Donna Devlin was presented. There was discussion of increasing SEERS Student Travel Awards.*

### **2) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **a. Nominations Committee**

- i. *Eric Koepfler called for Secretary, Treasurer, and Student Representative nominations. Elections will be held by the spring meeting.*
  1. *Katie Tiling (Florida Atlantic University) was nominated for Student Representative*
  2. *Cassandra Thomas (TBE) was nominated for Secretary*
- ii. *Marie DeLorenzo will send out an email to solicit nominations*

#### **b. Student Promotions Committee**

- i. *Eric Koepfler reported that a student event should be a part of future meetings and asked for input regarding what to include in order to have a successful event.*

### **3) SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- i. *Spring 2009 SEERS meeting*
  1. *Carla Curran said that Meryl Alber of UGA may be willing to host spring 2010 and suggested that the University of Northern Florida (UNF) also might wish to host.*
  2. *Courtney Hackey with University of North Florida stated that he might be able to host.*

### **4) OLD BUSINESS**

- a. *Board meeting discussed overhaul of website previously and has not done it due to lack of supporting software that it was created in. Therefore, the Board is debating to hire a firm to do web revision and maintenance in new software. It is likely the total revision will cost \$2000. It will be competitively bid.*
- b. *Multiyear/Lifetime Dues were approved by the Board. Bob Virnstein was provided with the first lifetime membership by former mentee Carla Curran. The reduced rate for multiple years will be in effect for next year. This will include students.*

### **5) NEW BUSINESS**

- a. *Eric Koepfler stated that a SEERS vision and strategy for the next number of years is being discussed by the Board and will be communicated to everyone for their input.*
- b. *Carla Curran presented the first lifetime award to Bob Virnstein and stated that Bob was a great mentor and an inspiration for her.*

*End of Fall Meeting Minutes*

# **SOUTHEASTERN ESTUARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY**

Attachment B. SEERS Treasurer's report (March 19, 2009)