



Central Iowa NWA

September 23, 2015

Agronomy Hall, ISU

Ames, IA

Minutes



Those present introduced themselves to the chapter.

1) Old Business

a. Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference – Brief Review

- Mindy had sent Dave a review of the information we collected on the feedback forms at the end of the conference last year. There were a lot of good comments on what to add to improve the conference. Since Mindy was not at this meeting we will try to get her to present a review of the forms at a future meeting.
- A review of the financials from the conference shows that we made about \$1500 on the conference this year. The year before we lost a small amount of money on the conference.
- Travel was a large cost for the conference as it usually is. We try to share costs of a speaker with the ISU Graduate Meteorology club which is a benefit to both the club (who has the speaker come and talk at ISU) and our chapter. However, this last year this was not done as the ISU Graduate Club did not decide on who to have as a speaker until travel arrangements for the speaker had already been made by the chapter so the Graduate club had to pay change fees and could not help share the costs. This cost the chapter about \$200.

2.) New Business

a. Dues for 2015-2016

- i. Members' dues have been \$10 – Recommendation is that we keep them the same.
- Kelsie motions to keep the dues at \$10 for members. Jaret seconds the motion.
- A vote is held and the motion passes unanimously.
- ii. Dues are due at the meeting for new members, by 1st meeting in January 2016 for existing members.
- Aubry will collect dues at this meeting on behalf of Jim who is not in attendance.
- Ken has offered to pay this year's dues for the new students (freshmen and transfer students) who were in attendance at tonight's meeting. Dave will let Ken know which students at the meeting tonight fall in this category and Ken will give Jim the information.

b. 2015-2016 Chapter Elections

- i. Please send nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

- Our by-laws say that elections are to take place before Oct 1, however in the past several years this has not happened and they have taken place at the October meeting.
 - o We will need to look at amending our by-laws to say the elections will take place at the October meeting instead of by the Oct 1 deadline.
 - o Dave believes it is important to have at least one meeting before the elections, especially for new members.
- Elections will be held at our meeting in October this year.
- A brief overview of the cabinet positions was presented:
 - o *President*: Responsible for running chapter and organizing meetings as well as ultimately responsible for conference.
 - o *Vice President*: Assists president with duties and fills in for president when he/she is unavailable
 - o *Secretary*: Gathers and sends out pre-meeting notes from conference team chairs. Takes notes and attendance at meetings and compiles minutes after the meeting.
 - o *Treasurer*: Responsible for managing chapter funds. Pays bills (hotel, credit card) and reimbursements.
 - o *Student Liaison*: A student cabinet member who gains experience with the way the chapter works. Perfect for students who are interested in running for other cabinet positions in the future. Also works closely with the students to help the chapter schedule meetings and events around student schedules/interests.
- Dave suggests that we may be able to get a new webmaster if anyone is interested this year. He is the current webmaster and mentions that this year we need to start looking at a new host for our website. (More discussion about this can be found in new business.)
- Dave is considering a run for President again and Chris may join him at Vice President. However, do not let this sway you if you are interested in any of the positions.
- Dave suggests this year that the cabinet begin utilizing Skype (or something similar) to meet with each other in-between meetings to help improve accountability and have less work put on the president.
- Send nominations for cabinet positions to Rod Donavon:
Rodney.Donavon@noaa.gov

c. 20th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

- i. March 31st – April 2nd, 2016 – Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny, IA
 - We want to keep the standards high for our conference this year, especially since it's the 20th anniversary of our conference.
 - We have been happy at the Courtyard and have been making money on the conference, but this is the last year for the hotel on our contract
 - o Will need to decide if we renew contract with Courtyard or go elsewhere

- ii. 2015-2016 Conference Committees: Registration, Agenda, Travel, Promotions/Vendor, Electronics, Scholarship/Awards, Radar Workshop, Hotel.
- Conference committee sign up is now. The sign up form went around at the meeting and will go around again at the October meeting. Email Dave if you are interested in a team: flory@iastate.edu
- A brief overview of the teams was presented:
 - o Registration Team:
 - Chair: Mindy
 - One of the main duties is to staff the registration table through the conference
 - It's been improved as we can push audio, and hopefully video this year, from the conference to the desk so you don't have to miss it
 - o Agenda Team:
 - Chair: Bill Gallus
 - Plans who will come in for invited speakers and what topics will be discussed at the conference
 - Team gets rolling early with getting ideas for the conference. A lot of the work for the conference from this team is done "up-front"
 - Some work is done later as agenda items come in and we work on getting the agenda together, though Bill primarily takes the lead on this.
 - This year should be exciting and looking for ideas with the anniversary
 - o Vendor Team:
 - Chair: Chris
 - Wants to attract vendors to the conference or business to have ads that benefit our attendees
 - A lot of the work is done prior to the conference, working with these companies before the conference. The work is spaced out throughout the conference season
 - This team also works with social media before and during the conference
 - o Travel Team:
 - Chair: Aubry
 - Works on getting the invited speakers (decided on by the agenda team) to the conference and home, as well as the Pam Daale scholarship winner
 - Works directly with the invited speakers and the hotel
 - Most of the work begins in late January or February, once speakers have been confirmed and flights are available.
 - o Electronics Team:
 - Chair: Willard
 - Most of the work is done during the conference and the lead up, with very little work during the rest of the year

- Helps in getting electronics set up for the conference and workshop. Extension cords, projectors, sound equipment, getting presentations from speakers before conference etc
 - Very important job. Also helping during the conference, sitting at the electronics table and trouble shooting
 - Have worked on recording the presentations during the conference
- Scholarship/Awards:
 - Chair: Rod
 - Send Pam Daale scholarship information out to those interested, including trying to get added to national NWA page
 - Help narrow down applications to the top few and then send them out to people outside of the chapter who decide the winner
 - Tim Samaras award – team finds judges who will be available through the conference for the awards
 - Team has in the past reached out to Kathy Samaras about the awards
- Radar Workshop:
 - Chair: Kevin
 - The workshop is a three hour long session at the beginning of the conference which allows attendees to issue warnings like the NWS
 - Dave or Bill will be presenting on this at the National AMS conference this year
 - Work is generally in November-December
 - Find a case to use. Most of the work is used to hide the case and transpose it to over Des Moines.
 - Work on a few test runs and doing an over-view of the case
 - During the conference be around to be hands-on to help participants
- Hotel Team:
 - Chair: Rod
 - Focus this year will likely be on selecting a new hotel or renewing the contract with Courtyard
 - Dave would like this team to help address any issues with the hotel for the conference that come up so they do not necessarily have to go through the president.
- Distinguished members:
 - If you want to nominate somebody to be recognized as a distinguished member of the chapter, email your nomination to Chris: cmaiers@gmail.com
 - If you're interested in being on the team to help select this year's distinguished members, email Chris: cmaiers@gmail.com
 - We try to recognize a diverse group of past/present members.

- Last year the awards went to John McLaughlin (founding member), Karl Jungbluth and Brenda Brock.

d. Website relocation

- Our current host, Freese-Notis, is asking us to find a new home for our website. Our website has been with them for a very long time
- If anyone has ideas, or is an expert in hosting websites, please talk with Dave
 - Dave doesn't think that ISU would allow us to use their hosts
- Ben S built our current website and the database to take registrations as it is right now. Collecting registrations through our website may be the biggest challenge when finding a new host.
 - We may be able change how we do registration, but we need to decide by the end of this year so that we don't have to rush last-min.
 - Google might be an option
 - We may want to look at including PayPal and Google Checkout as well
- When looking at a host, we need to consider up-time of the site. We don't want it to be down close to the conference or for a big registration push.

e. Meeting ideas, locations, and activities for the future

i. Survey results

- Meeting Locations/Ideas:
 - Zombie Burger
 - Two locations now, downtown Des Moines and Jordan Creek Mall
 - PECAN presentation
 - Bill was part of a team working on this research project this summer and can present on his experience.
 - Center Grove Orchard Pumpkin Patch (Cambridge)
 - The AMS club is likely planning on having a meeting here, and we could possibly use this as a joint AMS meeting
 - We have done this in the past, there were only a handful of attendees but they all agreed it was one of the better meetings
 - SkyZone in Grimes
 - Bowling/Laser Tag
 - Perfect Games in Ames
 - High Trestle Bridge
 - We had our last meeting here in April. It might be a better spring meeting location (getting cool and dark early now)
 - Brenton Ice Skating Plaza
 - Downtown Des Moines
 - Dave says it's ok if you hold onto the rail the whole way around
 - Lake City Tornado Presentation (May 10, 2015)

- Willard has offered to give a presentation. He was chasing the tornado this day.
 - “Brinner” meeting – Breakfast for dinner
 - Chapter provides breakfast food during meeting (pancakes, bacon, etc.)
- 20th Anniversary of Conference Ides:
- Ideas to help increase attendance at the conference this year as well as build excitement for people to come back in future years.
 - Look backs/recps/history presentations
 - Cooler T-shirts
 - NWA polos
 - Bring Karl back for a Jordan IA tornado
 - This is the 40th anniversary year
 - he did a presentation for the 30th anniversary
 - Pad-folios
 - Special scholarships or a one-time increase in current scholarships
 - Presentation on the April 1991 Outbreak
 - “Andover” outbreak
 - There was also an F3 near Denison
 - Could we get a DOW or other piece of equipment to be present at the conference?
 - A severe weather trivia match with prizes
 - Door prizes
- If you have other ideas share with Bill and the agenda team: wgallus@iastate.edu
- General Suggestions:
- Most of the suggestions for conference improvement. Most suggestions were positive about the conference.
 - Hosting a late-day (evening?) session about taking better storm chasing pictures and video
 - This may be able to replace the storm chasing video sharing, since storm videos are now so easy to find online
 - A chasing workshop
 - The AMS puts on a chaser workshop:
 - After an intro to GR, they run through a simulation of an event, with participants selecting which storms to chase and where to go next as the event unfolds.
 - Some concerns that we don’t want this to compete with the radar workshop
 - There has been some concerns that GR is too hard to use in the radar workshop for those who are brand new to it. Suggestion to add a GR preview for those who are new to it
 - We have done this in the past, but most people are familiar with GR and we got feedback that it was a waste
 - We do put out information before hand on how to use GR for those unfamiliar with it

- ISU students will have an opportunity to participate in a GR introduction if it's needed
- If we do put a new session together and bill it as for GR novices, it would need to be closer to 11am or noon, to not conflict with the radar workshop, which might be too early.

3.) Treasurer update

- Current balance is \$24,740.88
 - This is about \$1800 more than last year
 - Dave asks if we have too much money in the bank for our non-profit status. We will need to look into the amount of money we can have on-hand as we may be approaching this amount.
 - If we are close to the number, it could allow us to spend more on the conference this year.

4.) Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 14 (Location to be determined)

Dates, times, and locations of future meetings beyond October are to be determined by new cabinet.

Attendance:

Elizabeth Lennartson
Sean Spratley
Scott Feldman
Kelsie Ferin
Nick Lesser
Sam Gabrielli
Theo Hartman
Cassie Happel
Mitchell Morehead
Kris Tuftedal
Justin Covert
Zane Satre
Henry Gronlund
Lindsay Matthews
Jaret Lansford
Antoinette Serrato
David Newbern
Emily Baalman
Kelly Haberichter
Joey Krastel
Jake Smith
Caitlin Cervac
Ricky McFarland
Ken Harding
Aubry Bhattarai
Mike Fowle
Kevin Skow
Tristan Wade
Lyndee Clark
Bill Gallus
Garrett Starr
Alondra Matos
Hannah Johnsen
Leyton Briol
Brian Squitieri
Emily Marris
Sam Wanzenried
Chris Maiers
Dave Flory

2015 – 2016 Conference Committees

Registration Team

Electronics Team

Scholarship and Awards Team

Agenda Team

Radar Workshop Team

Travel Team

Hotel Team

Promotions/Vendor Team