



## Central Iowa NWA

February 17, 2016

Pizza Ranch

Ankeny, IA

## Minutes

### 1. Old Business

#### a. Website relocation update (Maiers/Flory)

- i. Essentially much done minus a couple of minor hiccups.
- ii. Big thanks to Dave to help work through a lot of it, including the database!
- iii. Big thanks to Mindy for the new registration pages!
- iv. Have an agreement with the domain owner regarding who owns the domain...essentially came to an understanding that the chapter owns the domain name.

#### b. Registration update (Beerends)

- i. Have moved registration pages over to Jotform, which registers and handles payments (Paypal and checks), and is live and has been used.
- ii. It is not entirely free, but only a nominal cost to use, ~\$40 annually.
- iii. For now, Mindy has paid the cost, but group will reimburse/cover it going forward.
- iv. It enters all registration information directly into a spreadsheet, making the process easier than the previous, which included obtaining it from the database and a number of extra steps in general.
- v. Still getting to understand the features, as it has a number of features that have not been explored yet.
- vi. Only drawback is you cannot do group registration and so each individual must be registered separately. Considering some workarounds to help alleviate the issue for groups like ISU (AMS clubs).
- vii. Will also work on alleviating concern about being directed to the Jotform, by making a note that registrants will be directed to Jotform to continue/finish registration and payment.
- viii. **Vote on the idea that officers and conference committee chairs get their conference fees waived for their work with the chapter and/or conference.**
  1. **Motion made (Sharp) to waive registration fees for officers and conference committee chairs, seconded (Cox) , and passed unanimously.**
- ix. **A conference policy document has been created, and needs to be voted on as soon as possible.**
  1. **Open for edits and opinions for the time being.**

#### c. Hotel contract update (Donovan/Beerends/Flory)

- i. Dave meeting 2/18 with Courtyard Marriott about this years conference, regarding existing concerns.

- ii. For future conferences, exploring other options including bids from Hilton Garden Inn (Johnston/Urbandale) and the West Des Moines Marriott (have been there previously).
  - 1. Even more options have been considered (such as Sheraton downtown, Prairie Meadows, etc...), but quoted room rates and set ups do not hold high hopes for them working out with our budget and conference size.
  - 2. Current hotel remains highly interested in keeping us there, so will be getting bids/numbers from them as well.
- iii. Goal is always to have location set by conference time to announce at the conference.

## 2. New Business

- a. **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference updates**
  - i. March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 – Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny, IA
  - ii. Registration now open!
  - iii. Distinguished member announcement
    - 1. Will be doing this annually going forward. Nominations will be taken and be voted on by a select committee.
      - a. Willard Sharp, Rod Donavon and Dr. William Gallus have been selected this year.
  - iv. Team updates
    - 1. Registration Team
      - a. Registration has officially opened.
      - b. Now using a new online registration form, JotForm
        - i. Allows registrant information to be directly compiled into a spreadsheet versus previous way of needing to download a csv from the database.
        - ii. Will also allow registrants to receive a confirmation email for their registration
        - iii. Works with PayPal and check payments
      - c. Lanyards will take 10-15 business days to print and ship and cost ~\$350. Need a vote.
        - i. Motioned (Cox) to purchase flat lanyards for \$350 estimated costs, seconded (Sharp), **passed unanimously.**
      - d. Will work with Jim to get the folders, lanyards and badge holders ordered.
      - e. Would like to have audio and video at the registration table during the conference so that it can be viewed/enjoyed outside of the room. Electronics team notes that it shall be done! :)
      - f. May need to look into new Square credit card scanner for the RFID transition. There appears to be an option to have it

connect directly to a computer/laptop, which would alleviate having to use current android phone setup.

2. Agenda Team

a. Invited speakers...

- i. Jim Gandy from WTLX-TV in Columbia, SC gave notification that he will NOT be coming, but his colleague that he had suggested, Efren Afante, will attend and give the talk instead.
- ii. Finally reached Jim Cantore and he declined, saying his schedule would not allow the trip.
- iii. Mollie Rivas, EM for Garland, TX will come and give an invited talk.
- iv. Have a full schedule of invited speakers, with 10 total invitees!
- v. Estimated cost of all invited speakers will be around \$6k, which is at the low end of the original \$6-8k range!  
:)

b. Abstracts ...

- i. 10 volunteered abstracts so far (all NWS) and 4 posters (student) submitted thus far
  1. Well above average number this far in advance of the deadline.
- ii. Possibly as many as 20+ oral submissions by NWS employees alone expected. May run into issues regarding scheduling everyone in the traditional allotted conference times.
  1. Still considering starting a tad earlier or extending to 4 or 5pm Saturday.
  2. Also considering shortening talks from 20 minutes to 15 minutes, which is the current standard at AMS and AGU conferences now.
- iii. Considering purchasing an actual timer, versus using an ipad, similar to what is used at AMS conferences. Will explore options.
- iv. Hoping to have full agenda finalized within a few days of the deadline, February 27th. So approximately March 1st or so.

- v. Currently considering who will/should sit on the Career Panel.
- 3. Promotions and Vendors Team
  - a. Vendors
    - i. Mike Gibson gets a free ad for all his help/contributions with software.
    - ii. Jeff Pitrowski has registered as a vendor.
    - iii. Corey Hartman, Severe Studios, interested in buying an ad.
    - iv. Some other loose interest from potential vendors, such as Paul Douglas of Aeris Weather.
  - b. PLEASE share chapter posts on Facebook and Twitter as they come out in support of the conference.
    - i. Social media posts will likely be posted every couple of days.
- 4. Electronics Team
  - a. Testing of wireless hardware for radar workshop is complete, with no issues encountered.
  - b. Round up of presentations will start at the beginning of March. Will send out a request to all speakers at that time, including if they need to have presentations be 15 minutes versus traditional 20 minutes.
  - c. Will finalize AV hardware needed for the conference with the electronics group this week so list can be gotten to the hotel by the end of the month.
  - d. Research continues for software that can record presentations and audio. GoToMeeting and Skype for Business are currently being explored, and will also look into SnagIt, which the NWS currently uses.
    - i. Will also be purchasing a good USB microphone to capture the audio. Any recommendations on a microphone will be appreciated, let Willard know.
  - e. Working to get a 23" monitor (or larger) that will sit on the floor in front of the AV table so the presenter can easily see the presentation in front of them. Working through various connection options with the video from the laptop to the projector to the floor monitor.
  - f. Discussing whether to post presentations (presentation + audio) online after the conference. If not, audio becomes a null issue.
    - i. Would also need to consider release forms or something similar to get presenter permission for sharing/posting.
  - g. Will continue to use an NWS and ISU projector versus hotel provided ones.
- 5. Radar Workshop Team
  - a. First test run was completed.

- b. Currently working on QC-ing data and getting other information/details together.
    - c. Working on option to pause mid-way and go over what has occurred, set up, what others are thinking, etc...
  - 6. Scholarships and Awards Team
    - a. General reminder that the Pam Daale Scholarship apps are due on February 29th. Can apply online at <http://www.iowa-nwa.com/conference/files/DaaleScholarship2016.pdf>
    - b. Did not get a reply from WeatherCall this year about contributing to the scholarship, so are assuming that we will not get it this year. Though a big thank you to WeatherCall for contributing the past several years.
    - c. Team is discussing whether or not student presentations with two presenters should be eligible for the Tim Samaras oral and poster presentation awards. Dr. Gallus may expand on this at the meeting if present.
  - 7. Travel Team
    - a. All of the invited speakers have been contacted and their travel is in the process of being arranged
    - b. Hotel reservations have been made for all invited speakers
    - c. Flights have been booked for four of our speakers who are flying. We have six total flying, so two remain to be booked.
    - d. Total cost of travel arrangements so far is \$5,046.87. There are still a lot of costs to be calculated, so this number will continue to increase, somewhat significantly.
    - e. The ISU Graduate Meteorology Club has agreed to share the costs of bringing in Dr. Paul Markowski. We have been able to work out a very fair cost-share with the club. A huge thanks is due to the graduate meteorology club for helping us bring in Dr. Markowski!
  - v. Photography and video session update
    - 1. Coming along nicely with a few field experts willing to pitch in and help/participate.
      - a. Contact Willard for a current list of those helping/participating
  - vi. Continued discussion on potential attendance and presentation discussion
    - 1. Mindy is on the hook for 230-250 total attendees... ;)
- 3. **Treasurer's report**
  - a. Current balance of \$22,853.12 (bank) + \$3,984.92 (Paypal)
  - b. Will fluctuate a lot over the next month or so with various purchases, registrations, etc...

4. **Adjourn**
5. **TRIVIA!!!! hosted by the fabulous Mindy Beerends.**

**Future Meetings:**

- **Tuesday, March 8, Agronomy Hall, Ames: Willard Sharp presentation on Lake City tornado;**
- **April Meeting to coincide with NWS Advanced Spotter Training, Thursday, April 14, Agronomy Hall, Ames.**
- **Joint AMS/NWA ice skating event at Brenton sometime in late February/Early March.**

Mindy Beerends	John Brammeier	Jeff Zogg
Sean Spratley	Derek McKay	David Neubern
Jon Thielen	Mike Cox	Kelsey Angle
Matthew Miksch	Willard Sharp	Ricky McFarland
Sean Stelten	Kevin Skow	Allan Curtis
Zane Satre	Bill Gallus	Dave Flory
Joey Krastel	Chris Maiers	Lyndee Clark
Emily Baalman	Brian Squitieri	

# 2015 – 2016 Conference Committees

## **Registration Team**

Mindy Beerends (Chair)  
Emily Baalman  
Caitlin Cervac  
Allan Curtis  
Kelsie Ferin  
Kelly Haberichter  
Theo Hartman  
Kyle Knight  
Emily Marrs  
Alondra Matos  
Ricky McFarland  
Brady Newkirk  
Jan Ryherd  
Zane Satre  
Tristan Wade

## **Agenda Team**

Bill Gallus (Chair)  
Aubry Bhattarai  
Leyton Briol  
Justin Covert  
Rod Donavon  
Dave Flory  
Mike Fowle  
Henry Gronlund  
Ken Harding  
Chris Maiers  
Brady Newkirk  
Kenny Podrazik  
Jan Ryherd  
Max Rush  
Antoinette Serrato  
Garrett Starr  
Brian Squitieri  
Kris Tuftedal  
Jeff Zogg

## **Travel Team**

Aubry Bhattarai (Chair)  
Mike Fowle  
Brian Squitieri

**Promotions/Vendor Team**

Chris Maiers (Chair)

**Electronics Team**

Willard Sharp (Chair)

Leyton Briol

Mike Cox

Dave Flory

Kevin Skow

Sean Stelton

**Scholarship and Awards Team**

Rod Donavon (Chair)

Aubry Bhattarai

Mike Fowle

Bill Gallus

Kenny Podrazik

Brian Squitieri

Jeff Zogg

**Radar Workshop Team**

Kevin Skow (Chair)

Leyton Briol

Allan Curtis

Joey Krastel

Chris Maiers

Ricky McFarland

Jake Smith

**Hotel Team**

Mindy Beerends

Aubry Bhattarai

Rod Donavon

Dave Flory

Chris Maiers