President Paul Eger, on conference call, convened the 2008 NEC meeting at 9:00 am at the Richmond downtown Marriott.

NEC members present included the following:

Past President: Robert Darmody, University of Illinois (left early for Civil War tour)
Executive Secretary: Richard Barnhisel, University of Kentucky (retired)
President: Paul Eger, MN DNR (by speaker phone)
President Elect: Vern Pfannenstiel, Peabody Investment Corp.
Incoming Pres. Elect: Dennis Neuman, Reclamation Research Group
Delegate: Anne Wagner, Chevron Mining Inc.
Delegate: Claire Dunne, Wholesale Seed at Wind River
Delegate: Kim Vories, Office of Surface Mining
Delegate: Jack Narwot, Mined Land Recl CWRL SIUC; Technical Divisions, representative to NEC

Visitors:

David Lang, Mississippi State University – Incoming delegate to NEC
Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech, 2008 Meeting Chair

“Reclamation Matters” magazine was discussed. We will ask Jeff Skousen, who was not present, if he will kindly continue as editor. Lester Publishing is usually but not always getting our magazine out on time in March and August as we require and is not pursuing advertising, which fear may cause them to drop us unexpectedly. We voted to seek a new publisher, but after consulting with Jeff, rescinded our vote and decided to continue as a twice annual with Jeff Skousen as editor. ASMR owns the name “Reclamation Matters.”

Question?

Future Meetings

2009 joint meeting with Billings Land Reclamation Symposium: Dennis Neuman passed around a nine-page hand out from the General Program
Committee showing they are well on the way and on schedule. First call for papers to be sent out in the very near future.

2010 ASMR annual meeting: David Lang of Mississippi State University reports they have one open pit coal mine, numerous gravel operations, and a bentonite mine. There is a meeting facility in Philadelphia, Mississippi, (travel from Jackson or Birmingham, Alabama is a 2-4 hour drive), and a new convention center in Starkville if completed in time. Entertainment possibilities are southern plantation tours and a petrified forest. Margaret Dunn (Stream Restoration, Inc.) and Lois Uranowski (OSM) are also considering hosting the 2010 meeting in Pittsburgh.

2011 ASMR Annual meeting in Bismarck, ND: Steve Schroeder submitted by mail a complete proposal to host the meeting on June 5-8, 2011. NEC voted to accept Steve’s proposal. We want to thank Suzette Burckhard of SD State University for submitting Rapid City as a venue, and hope she is willing to update the proposal for 2013.

Meeting Guidelines, Accounting:
1. NEC considered whether the annual meeting chair or the ASMR Executive Secretary should have control of finances for the meeting. Dick says the final report to IRS must be in one report, so he will have to reenter all data from the meeting chair; i.e., it would be easier for him to handle most if not all the money. Sharing the registration database, however, is important so the annual meeting chair and his assistants know, for example, how many lunches to order for a field trip or how to resolve on-site registration issues. Dick’s travel time to meetings may make him out of touch for a few critical days before the meeting. NEC voted to ask Dick to post ASMR’s database on a web site, such as a FTP site, for access by the meeting host. NEC asked Dick to append the IRS requirements for Form 990 to the Meeting Guidelines.
2. If the host requests, ASMR will continue to set up a not-for-profit local checking account for small expenditures such as tour lunches, local tour transportation, etc. This seed money has been available to past meeting chairs.
3. NEC voted to ask Dick to update ASMR’s five-year credit history after each annual meeting and forward to each new host to give to the hosting hotel to demonstrate our credit worthiness.
NEC voted to extend Dick Barnhisel’s appointment as Executive Secretary for another three year term until end of the fiscal year October 31, 2011, and to give Dick a raise of $50 per month, with thanks for a job well done. We added to Exec Secretary’s job description the task of listing action items in a separate file and sending around to NEC for quarterly updates to permit each of us to work on our commitments and assignments.

Richard I. and Lela M. Barnhisel Reclamation Researcher of the Year shall be the official name of the new award generously set up by Dick and Lela. The Endowment Memo to establish the endowment fund was voted and accepted. We added to the nomination guidelines that each nominee be a current member of ASMR. As a side note on the other two awards, while the Reclamationist of the Year is usually not a member, the Plass recipient should be, though a copy of the Plass requirements was not at hand to verify that requirement.

Financial Review of ASMR accounts. Dick reported that, with the help of his daughter, a CPA, he has the books well organized, and that an independent audit would cost upwards of $2000. Since the NEC believes the books are in good order and doesn’t want to spend that amount of money for an audit, Carl Zipper will be asked to continue reviewing the books and Claire Dunne volunteered to assist with the internal audit.

Technical Divisions: NEC board members are to split up to canvass the TD meetings to remind them to take minutes and to find out if they have issues to bring up in Wednesday’s meeting. Talking points for TD discussions: What are the seven TDs? Why is each person a member of ASMR? [Opportunity to learn from peers. A wonderful mixture of industry, service providers, regulators and academics. A chance to network. A venue for colleagues to contact for brainstorming solutions to technical problems. Technology transfer opportunity.] What Technical Division(s) are best for each member? What are the benefits of membership? TDs are the grassroots unit of the group, bringing forward the current ideas and issues and topics for the Society to focus on. Professional development and learning what resources are out there. Ideas for research projects that need to be conducted in your area. Grants and cooperative grants may be available. Technology transfer to the people on the ground who can use it. Practitioners are looking for techniques they can take back to work. Chet Skilbreth (Glenrock Coal) is an example of a practitioner who can impart
useful information. We need to encourage more talks by people like Chet; they can just supply an abstract and slides, don’t need to write a paper.

Plenary Session: We will all urge members to attend. Place a winning sticker under one chair (i.e., door prize)?

Financial Year-end Review:
A. Interest Earned during fiscal year: Dick proposes we use interest on profit from national meetings, which is currently $5523, to provide travel grants to encourage young new members such as student scholarship winners or students presenting papers. We should encourage more student clubs to boost the Klimstra account.
B. IRS Report 990
C. Account Balance trend for the last three years
D. Equipment Inventory
E. The Year in Review
F. Accounting for Memorial Scholarship Accounts as of June 10, 2008
G. Interest Earned during 2006-07 Fiscal year

ASMR Membership – State of the Society
1. Membership trend: we dropped about 30 members
2. Items of concern –summary of current status
3. Recruitment activities (Barnhisel)
4. Proposals to increase membership
5. Ask members if they would be interested in paying to be included in a service directory. Tabled.

Meeting adjourned by Paul Eger from airport.
ASMR NEC meeting, Richmond, Wednesday June 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the new president Vern Pfannenstiel at 1 pm in the Richmond Downtown Marriott.
NEC members present included the following:

Executive Secretary: Richard Barnhisel, Univ. of Kentucky (retired)
President: Vern Pfannenstiel, Peabody Western Coal
Pres. Elect: Dennis Neuman, Reclamation Research Group
Delegate: Anne Wagner, Chevron Mining Inc.
Delegate: Claire Dunne, Wholesale Seed at Wind River
Delegate: Kim Vories, Office of Surface Mining
Delegate: Eddie Bearden, HDR Engineering
Delegate: David Lang, Mississippi State University
Delegate: Jack Narwot, Mined Land Recl CWRL SIUC, Technical Divisions, representative to NEC

Visitors:
Robert Darmody, Past President ASMR, University of Illinois

Plass Lifetime Award. The board voted to provide a complimentary room, air travel, and registration which includes meals for the Plass Award recipient. The host needs to know one of the comped rooms will be set aside for the Plass award recipient. Air travel will be considered a meeting expense. We generally get one free room from the hotel per 50 rooms booked.

Reclamationist of the Year Award endowment or honorarium was also proposed by Jerry Schuman, the Awards Committee Chair. Vern will talk with Jerry about raising $20,000 to endow this award, possibly seed money from industry as the basis.

Student Travel Fund: The Board voted to put part of the profit of the Richmond meeting into an account for funding student scholarships. Dick reported we gave out $1600 this year in student awards, generated from the interest off the national meeting account. Money available for 2009 is higher than usual since a CD is maturing; after 2009 the money will be coming from monthly interest generated from the checking account. Since the future of the Society depends on current student involvement, we need to focus on scholarships and travel money for students. We voted to set up
a travel grant process for students, assisted by the scholarship committee, led by Bob Narin. We plan to devise an application based on a draft form provided by Jack Narwot, which shall include these questions: Do you need travel money? Are you presenting a paper? Are you on an assistantship? Are you receiving travel money already? What is your travel budget?

We approved the following Student Travel Grant process: Application to be posted on the ASMR web page, to be filled in when the student submits an abstract. When student submits final paper in April, Dick will generate a list of interested students, whether presenting a paper or not, only if they have paid their registration. A committee of the president, president-elect, and past president shall allocate the money in concert with the executive secretary. Checks will be in the selected students’ registration packet upon arrival. The interest from the national meeting CD shall be one of the sources of the travel grants for students. We feel we can use all the interest, but the travel funds are not to exceed the total of the interest available each year.

We considered a new award for industry, a mining company or a consultant, but decided the mining companies are recognized by OSM or the states and the consultants are eligible for Reclamationist of the Year. Dick will encourage nominations by reprinting the criteria for the award.

Database access for 2009 meeting. Dick and Dennis will work together on the database. Dennis will supply the registration form to Dick who will set up the database and make it available to Dennis on a web site. This will allow both the Executive Secretary and the annual meeting chair to have the most current registration data.

Technical Division meetings attended by NEC members this week: Forestry and Wildlife division: Anne reported they suggest a Forestry TD page on the ASMR website with a link to other related websites, a link to the Billings Land Reclamation Symposium website, and proposing a symposium on Forestry Reclamation for 2010.

Ecology TD: Steve Williams chaired the TD meeting. Vern reported the ten in attendance suggested a panel discussion as part of one of the sessions as a single issue, to bring in controversy, generate excitement and ideas. Invite speakers, maintain focus. Neil Humphreys will send Vern
his ideas for ASMR: we need to always rethink our directions, overall mission, and needs of members. We need to poll members to determine what dates they prefer for the annual meeting. Dick will send an email to members to ask which dates in 2010 will be best, a set date or variable date with a three week range in the first part of June?

Soil and Overburden TD: Darmody reported the 23 in attendance are interested in a topsoil symposium and a reclamation glossary. Lee Daniels in as new TD chair.

Land use TD: Jon Byran Burley as chair and Vories were the only two in attendance. Burley is eager to continue as chair.

Water Management TD: Brent Means and B. T. Thomas cochairs. Their group would like to access some of the back ASMR proceedings, to have a handle on more of the wetland treatments. Dick has posted all abstracts since ASMR went electronic in 2002. Some of the previous years were scanned to CD by OSM, but these are not OCR so are not searchable.

International Tailings TD: Chairman Stu Bensen was not there, but three others attended reported Dennis Neuman. Book is a dead issue. They discussed having a session in Billings on sub-aqueous disposal techniques and phyto-stabilization techniques, with high metal prices, reprocessing tailings. Dennis and committee will choose people for a seminar to create a session in Billings.

Geotechnical TD: one person showed up.

Suggestions for future meetings:
1) Retrospective papers: follow up on old sites, research plots or case studies, which might temper our expectations of reclamation success.
2) Remind attendees that the meeting attendance documentation can be submitted by them for CEUs with various professional organizations doing certifications.
3) Policy committee to devise statement of what ASMR stands for.

Kim Vories says two years as delegate is too short for some who want to stay on and contribute as experienced members. Committee needs to try to maintain experienced board members. Outgoing NEC members are on the nominating committee, and we hope they will nominate themselves.
The budget was reviewed and approved as amended. After the meeting adjourned, Claire and Anne asked Dick to take Lela out to dinner with flowers on behalf of ASMR. Dick replied he would buy Lela two rose bushes for her garden as thanks from ASMR for her dedicated work for ASMR during the year and at the annual meeting.

Minutes submitted by Claire Dunne