MINUTES
American Society of Mining and Reclamation
National Executive Committee
Wednesday August 21, 2013

The National Executive Committee of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation held a quarterly meeting via conference call on August 21, 2013. The meeting started at 10:00 AM CDT.

In attendance on the call were the following:
President: Bob Nairn
Past President: Bruce Buchanan
President Elect: Joe Friedlander
Executive Secretaries: Dick Barnhisel
Robert Darmody
Members: Len Ballek
Michele Coleman
Jennifer Franklin
Jarvis Harper
Bob Dunker

Not in attendance: Barry Stewart

1. Approval of Minutes of the June 2, 2013 and June 6, 2013 NEC meetings
Harper moved, seconded by Dunker to approve revised meeting minutes for the June 2 and June 6, 2013 NEC meetings; unanimously approved.

2. Financial Advisory Committee
Reported that Eddie Beardon sent an email saying the Financial Advisory Committee is moving forward with selection of financial advisor. Darmody said he’s been in contact with Eddie Beardon regarding a potential advisor named Paul Rudie, located in Champaign Ill. This would be very convenient for him. But Rudie is not expressing a lot of interest. Nairn said it’s important that whoever we get be close to Darmody.

3. Scholarship Committee Update
Nairn said he’s been in communication with Barry Stewart. Things are proceeding well. No major items at this time.

4. Major Awards Committee Update
Nairn received an email from Jerry Schuman regarding awards. Work is ongoing to develop the protocol for the industry award and should be done in the next month or so. Nairn expects by the next NEC meeting to have an update on awards status. Buchanan said he’ll see Jerry soon and will visit with him regarding these updates.
5. National Meetings Update

5.1 2013 Laramie Meeting Recap
Barnhisel received and paid the final bill for the Laramie meeting. $167,351.41 income, expenses $90,563.18 – profit equals $76,788.23. The share to WRRC was calculated at 40%, or their part was originally $30,715.29. Because of a hotel overcharge on audio-visual materials, later corrected, the revised amount actually going to WRRC will be $30,356.39. Barnhisel plans to send a check to WRRC today or tomorrow.

Several comments that the Laramie meeting was a good, successful meeting.

5.2 2014 Oklahoma City Meeting
Nairn reported they have had a local planning meeting, and several people have agreed to help out. There are some new contacts with BLM, USFS, which will help. He reported there may be some possible symposia, possibly related to water issues such as TDS and selenium. 2014 will be the 20th anniversary of the Bureau of Mines circular on passive treatment of mine drainage – now may be a good time for an update. There’s also potential for more coverage of aggregate mine reclamation, and oil and gas sites.

Nairn reported he has a list of about 100 contacts for potential sponsorships. He asked Barnhisel about reaching out to past sponsors to ask them to sponsor again. Barnhisel said he sends a flyer out asking previous sponsors to sponsor again (OSM for example). Nairn said he’ll send his list today to Barnhisel and Darmody.

Nairn reported that social event and field tours planning is coming along. He said there is good potential for continuing education credits through the University of Oklahoma Continuing Education office. Also, OU Continuing Education has a conference services unit that can handle all registration (online and at the site) for $15/attendee. Discussion regarding the good value this would bring, with several comments to pursue this option. Nairn said he will continue to follow up on this.

Nairn reported their proposed schedule includes a 1st call for abstracts by early September.

He said overall things are going well. They met with the hotel several times already, and everything seems to be moving along.

5.3 2015 Lexington Meeting
Barnhisel had nothing new to report. ASMR has signed a contract with the hotel.
Nairn said he has on the list to update the national meeting guidance book, still on the radar to work on.

5.4 2016 TBD Meeting
Extensive discussions on potential future sites, led by Darmody. He said we could tie in to the Soil Science Society of America meeting in Phoenix, in late October or November. Dunker said he’s tied up with ASA meetings at that time. Buchanan said he’s not in favor of this. One person said university people have difficulty making some of these.

Barnhisel said he’s received invites from Denver and Park City, Utah hotels as possible sites. We might also consider Bozeman or Billings. He said it’s important to have a local person involved, and, if we were looking at Phoenix, there’s no local ASMR member in Arizona to do that.

Several comments that Park City, Utah would be good. There are many places to look at (salt mining, hard rock mines for example). Barnhisel said we do have some members in Utah but they are mostly recent signups only and not very active. Darmody reiterated the importance of having local people running the meeting.

Friedlander said he had not heard anything back from the National Mining Association regarding a potential meeting in Las Vegas, in coordination with NMA’s 2016 MinExpo. Again, however, Friedlander said we have no local ASMR members to help organize the meeting.

Ballek said Spokane might be a potentially good site. The Northwest Mining Association meets there every other year, and will be in Spokane in 2016. He knows a member that could potentially help on this. Barnhisel said we have a few members in Washington, but not real close to Spokane. We met there once, it was a good place.

Barnhisel said we need to have a location pretty well picked by next June. Ballek and Buchanan said they will pursue options for the cities we discussed, and provide a follow-up status report at the next NEC call.

5.5 Liability insurance
Nairn reported he looked into liability insurance, but this does not include catastrophic financial loss by cancelling a meeting. Barnhisel said liability insurance is important, and it looks like that is going to need to be in place for Oklahoma next spring. He said ASMR also voted a few years ago to set aside money for a catastrophic loss from a failure of a meeting. The fund for this is now about $75,000. He said the money is available for other purposes.
Buchanan recommended we buy the liability insurance for the meeting, which is less than $700/year. There were a couple other comments that we need liability insurance for the meeting.

Nairn said these are two separate issues: 1) liability insurance for the meeting and 2) event cancellation insurance. He said he briefly looked online and the cost is $617 for liability insurance for the Oklahoma event. Darmody said he will research liability insurance, and also the potential for cancellation insurance. Nairn said if we cancel the hotel a year out, we’re liable for 50% of hotel, beverage and food costs, but the penalty increases significantly the closer you get to the event before you cancel.

6. Administrative Account Update
Barnhisel sent out a budget for 2013-2014. This needs to be approved before the fiscal year starts November 1. Nairn said everyone on the NEC should look at the proposed budget closely and be prepared to take action by voting on it in October.

7. Electronic Presence/Society Branding
7.1 Committee
Darmody said Julie Labar, a student at the University of Oklahoma, has volunteered to run this committee.

7.2 Status of Electronic Files, Access to Papers/Presentations, etc.
Darmody said we have huge files from our meetings and could put them in the cloud. Darmody proposes we have a professional drop box account for $800/year, with licenses for 250 people to use. Several details need to be worked out. Darmody said he will pursue this. He said he may get a free 14-day trial and see how it works. He will report back at the next conference call.

Harper said he has used an FTP site, and this could be an option. Franklin and Ballek said they use Sharepoint.

Darmody said he will explore all three options (professional drop box, FTP site and Sharepoint) and provide a report at the next NEC conference call meeting.

7.3 National Meeting PowerPoints online/Camtasia issues
Nairn asked about how many people accessed the Camtasia files. Barnhisel said 150 people looked at previous meetings over the last year, but he said Google does not track exactly where people go. Nairn said the audio files are a lot of work and we don’t know if people are using them. There was discussion whether the audio should remain with the Powerpoint presentations. Barnhisel said we should ask the membership if they use the
Camtasia audio files. Nairn said we’ll survey the membership. Darmody said it took about 2 weeks to edit the files, and this was a lot of work. He said if people use them we’ll continue. If not, then it’s not worth the effort.

Dunker said he’s done this for another meeting, but it was a smaller less complex meeting. He said they had the Powerpoint separately as a pdf.

Nairn said he will send out the survey to NEC members first. Then he’ll get the final survey sent out, with responses requested and compiled in time to make any necessary changes in time for the 2014 meeting.

8. By-laws changes

8.1 Student/Early Career Representatives to NEC

Nairn said we made a motion in Tupelo to add a member, in violation of the by-laws, so it was moot. We now need to update and modify the language in the by-laws.

After amending the by-laws we can elect student and early career representatives.

There was discussion about having an early career and student member. Buchanan asked if we really need these two people on the NEC. He said the idea of an early career person is good. It brings young people in to the society. But the student member is transient and maybe they won’t be as interested. It may not be a high priority to them. He said it was his idea originally, but now he reconsiders it.

Barnhisel said we can get the by-laws approved before the ballots for candidates go out. He agrees on reconsideration of having a student member on the NEC, and we should remove the student representative from proposed by-laws changes. He said students also have a problem with travel.

Coleman said if we’re going to elect a student representative for two years, what happens if they are graduating the first year? So maybe we should not have a student member. But we should definitely have an early career person representative.

Friedlander said he agrees we should not have a student member. Darmody said he also agrees there should be no student member.

Nairn said he wanted consensus on this issue, and it appears we don’t want a student member on the NEC. He also wants help drafting the final proposed by-law changes. Coleman volunteered to help Nairn, and will
coordinate with him directly.

Nairn read a letter sent by Abby Wick to the NEC, expressing disappointment with how the early career member was appointed, rather than elected, to NEC membership. She expressed concern that young professionals that had contributed a lot to ASMR were not considered. Buchanan addressed this, because he brought this up originally with Abby in Tupelo, and she said at the time that she was not ready to serve. Buchanan further briefed the NEC on the situation. Coleman said there may have been a misunderstanding but that it’s time to move forward. Nairn said the issue was that there was an appointment, and Abby felt there should have been an election. He said he’ll call Abby later this week, explain that we are now making by-laws changes to address electing an early career member to the NEC, and he will follow that up with a letter to her.

There was a question on timing of the proposed changes. After much discussion, and review of the current by-laws, Nairn said he will ask NEC members to have all comments on the existing proposed by-laws changes (sent a few days ago to NEC members) sent to him by COB this Friday, August 23. He will work with Coleman, make modifications, and send revised proposed by-laws changes to NEC members by Tuesday, August 27, asking for their comments back to him by COB Thursday, August 29. He will finalize changes and electronically send the final proposed by-laws changes to Barnhisel by COB Friday, August 29.

Barnhisel will send an email to ASMR members, with the proposed by-laws changes as an email attachment, advising them a paper ballot will be coming shortly, and asking them to vote on the proposed by-laws changes. This paper ballot is necessary because the current by-laws (to be changed with these amendments) include reference to vote submittals and postmarked dates. After these by-laws changes are made, any future voting can be conducted electronically.

9. JASMR

Nairn asked if there were any comments on the Journal. There were none.

10. Executive Secretary Transition – effective November 1, 2013 Bob Darmody will become Executive Secretary, and Richard Barnhisel will no longer have that position.

10.1 Contract for Darmody

Nairn suggested we all look at the contract for Bob Darmody to see if there are any problems. Darmody said there is a reference to Appendix A, but there is no Appendix A, so it needs to be deleted.
11. Student Committee
Nairn asked if we want to consider formation of a student committee, something previously suggested. This could possibly be appointed by the NEC. Coleman suggested something a bit more low-key might be considered because students can be intimidated. She said maybe this could be more of an informal meeting, similar to what’s done with young professionals. This may be a way to get more student involvement. Barnhisel said we have 50 student members. Nairn said this committee is something we may want to pursue further.

12. NASLR Meeting
Nairn said he followed up with Jeff Skousen, and plans to go to the NASLR in Arkansas in late September/early October, where he’ll be giving two papers. While there he will discuss NASLR relationships with ASMR.

13. 2013 Elections
Nairn said he will be circulating a list of potential nominees to the NEC compiled by Buchanan. Buchanan will then compile a selected list of nominees based on any input from the NEC and move forward with these.

There being no further business, Buchanan moved, seconded by Coleman, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM CDT.