The National Executive Committee of the American Society of Surface Mining and Reclamation held a bimonthly meeting via conference call on April 9, 2014. The meeting started at 10:00 AM CDT. In attendance were:

**NEC**
- President: Bob Nairn
- Past President: Bruce Buchanan
- President Elect: Joe Friedlander
- Executive Secretary: Robert Darmody
- Members: Len Ballek, Michele Coleman, Jennifer Franklin, Bob Dunker, Barry Stewart

**Invited Guests**
- JASMR Editor-in-Chief: Dick Barnhisel
- Incoming officers: Brenda Schladweiler, Cally Dreissen

**Not Present**
- NEC member Jarvis Harper
- Major Awards Committee Chair Jerry Schuman
- Incoming Officers Chris Johnston and Chris Blake

1. Approval of minutes
   Nairn asked for any comments or changes to the February 12 NEC meeting minutes. None offered. Ballek moved, seconded by Franklin to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

2. Major Awards
   Jerry Schuman could not attend today’s meeting. Nairn said we have awards set up for this year now. He wanted to verify that the NEC approves getting biographies from the winners and putting that in the program. Consensus from NEC that this is correct.

3. Scholarships
   Stewart said nominations just closed on April 7. He has a few letters of recommendation. He has five applications: one undergraduate, two masters, and two PhD candidates. He said decisions will be made by next week to the awards committee, then two weeks to turnaround. This gives Darmody time to make plaques. Nairn said it’s important that all this be turned
around in a timely manner to get plaques made. Nairn wanted to verify also getting biographies for scholarship recipients as well. Stewart said he will send paragraphs to Nairn for further recognition. Nairn said he could put this information on a poster for display at the meeting as well, but he must have the information from Schuman (awards) and Stewart (scholarships) in time to do this. Barnhisel said he'd also put the information on the ASMR web page.

4. Financial Advisor
Darmody said the tax advisor he is working with is overwhelmed with tax preparation work right now. He said the insurance agent he has been working with won't respond to emails regarding the meeting liability insurance. Darmody said he'll call him this morning. Nairn said we're 60 days out, so we need to get this done as soon as possible.

5. Executive Secretary Transition and Nonprofit Status
Darmody said he is still working on the nonprofit status application. There is continuing information that needs to be submitted.

Darmody said OSM told him they were going to donate $7,000 for the annual ASMR meeting and wanted to make sure there was oversight. Darmody confirmed with them that the NEC is the oversight entity for these monies. Now it's been approved and OSM will move ahead with the donation. There are only certain things that OSM will approve for payment. OSM will not pay for any entertainment expenses. Barnhisel said OSM would likely cover liability insurance. He said if everything works well, then we should have a check in July. Barnhisel said it's a wire transfer, not a physical check.

6. Oklahoma City meeting
Nairn provided a status update. There are 125 abstracts: 27 posters, 98 orals, with 111 different presenters. He said he is pretty pleased. That number is partway between the numbers for Tupelo and Laramie.

As of two days ago 22 people had signed up. Obviously this needs to be increased. They have a dozen sponsors, two at gold level, six at bronze level, and four at lesser amounts. Total $20,000 in sponsorships. He is still working on sponsors, especially trying to get bigger ones. Any ideas on sponsors would be appreciated. We can use them. Barnhisel said some people, like contacts at Peabody, need to be called directly. Ballek thought Vern Pfannensteil with Peabody was retiring in May, but wasn’t sure. Schladweiler said she can contact Chris Blake at Peabody if Nairn can't get hold of Vern.

Gold sponsors include OSM and the Center for Restoration of Ecosystems and Watersheds at Oklahoma University where Nairn works. Bronze level sponsors include Blackbird Environmental, BP, Oklahoma Aggregates Association, Oklahoma DEQ, the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board, and the Water Technologies for Emerging Regions Center. Nairn said he's leaning on some other big energy companies.
Darmody said he has nine paid exhibitors now, at $1,000 each. Nairn asked if we had made additional contacts with folks that do not use email, such as Truax. Darmody said he talked with Mr. Truax, but he hasn't come through yet. Nairn said that, just like the sponsorships, they are soliciting people and companies to be exhibitors as well. Nairn said they took all the exhibitors from the last five meetings, and Reclamation Matters, other information, and contacted them around Christmas.

Nairn said the preliminary program is set up now. The Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment, a colonel who previously ran the Tulsa District Office for the COE, will be speaking. There will be other speakers also. There will be two special sessions, with panel discussions, one workshop on fluvial geomorphology, and field tours. There is only one registered tour attendee right now.

For the awards banquet, because it is on Monday, Nairn said they will also recognize others as well, past presidents, spouses, etc. and a brief talk about the other matters. The Oklahoma History Center will be the site for the Wednesday evening social.

Nairn said they are gathering things for the silent auction, used to raise money for students. Wild Women of Reclamation is on the agenda for Monday morning’s breakfast. The running club is also set up for one morning.

Nairn said that at the Wednesday lunch they will announce student oral and poster award winners. Barnhisel said Nairn or Darmody needs to contact Peter Beckett to make sure he's willing to do this. Coleman said she’d do this.

Nairn said he has several students helping, and if there are others that can assist that would be helpful. Barnhisel said to contact the student ASMR chapters, the Wisconsin chapter would be a good contact, he can find contact information and pass that on. He said Hannah Angel is the contact in Kentucky.

Nairn said he plans a conference survey, to get feedback.

Nairn said we need NEC action because of the expense associated with the flash drives - if we buy 1,000 we get a price cut. Barnhisel said he doesn't know if we need NEC approval, OSM likely to support. Nairn asked if we need a motion to buy the flash drives because of the costs involved. Coleman moved, seconded by Schladweiler, to buy 1,000 flash drives for the meeting, along with the multiport hub. Motion approved.

Nairn said he did not schedule a Technical Division chairs meeting, and this needs to be set up. He's coordinating with Franklin. Barnhisel said the TD Chairs are also associate editors, so can be combined. Nairn said we'll schedule that for a Tuesday lunch.

Nairn said in the last NEC meeting that we have the opportunity to release 20% of the room block. He thinks he will do that.
Darmody said Jerry Schuman contacted him and said the NEC gave him student cost for registration in the past because he's retired and also a volunteer, and would we be willing to extend this again. Barnhisel said that's true in the past four or five years. Nairn said that's opening a door to hard feelings and potential problems. He thinks you should pay what's appropriate for your status - this is a Pandora's Box of problems, according to Nairn. If others find out it could be a real problem for others. Darmody said he paid full ride, but this was also offset. Coleman said at some point we're all going to retire, and it's interesting to see how contribution levels change as they retire. We will all be in this boat. There are several that have been in this boat. Maybe there should be a retirees' rate or something like that. Barnhisel said we never gave Jerry Schuman a comp room, but we have given him the student rate for registration in the past. We've had a discussion in the past of having a retiree rate, but that died.

Coleman asked how many members this would include. There was discussion that if there is a retiree rate there would be more people. Nairn said it's too late for this meeting to discuss different rates. Maybe we need to discuss this further, for future retirees.

Schladweiler said there are many questions about how much contribution is necessary for obtaining the reduced retirement rate. Nairn said the Ecological Society of America has different membership structures. For this year, he reiterated it’s too late to have this discussion.

Barnhisel said he doesn't know of any members of committees that are retired. If we change now and don’t give the reduced rate, we may get a new Awards Chair. Buchanan said if we do it again we may be perpetuating a precedent, right or wrong. The amount of work that goes into the committee chair deserves some special consideration. Len said it's unfortunate that it came up at the last minute, but it's too late to consider it right now.

Nairn said that as conference chair no comp rooms are available. Friedlander moved, seconded by Stewart to state that we do not have a structure to provide a reduced rate for retirees and volunteers, but that the NEC is committed to evaluating the rate structure and taking action prior to the next meeting. Discussion. All voted in favor, except Coleman abstained.

Barnhisel reported on the status of the 2015 Lexington meeting. He has a tentative schedule of events. He described tours planned, and a golf outing, exhibitors’ social, plenary sessions with potential speakers, and planned luncheons. There are some workshop suggestions, but none decided.

Ballek said he hasn’t heard from Dustin since mid-February regarding the 2016 meeting planned for Spokane. He said he will follow up soon.

8. Electronic Presence
Nairn asked what we thought of the electronic registration, electronic voting, and electronic renewals – any feedback. Ballek said meeting registration just took minutes and he liked it. We are paying the Oklahoma meeting service for this registration a per-registrant fee. They give us a weekly update, print folders, lanyards, and nametags. They will be at the meeting on Sunday and Monday, at $15/registrant.

Nairn asked for feedback - a few people said that we should continue pursuing voting, registration, membership renewals electronically. Electronic voting costs less than mail-out voting according to Darmody. Darmody said Skydrive isn’t being used as much as he thought it would, but it's there. The NEC has access - it's a place to park things.

Barnhisel said the ASMR Facebook page is not very appropriate - all you can do is say you like it. He has put some comments on this. He said he's a member of four different families, and that works a lot better. We have 19 members that are a member of the ASMR family - if someone posts something it will automatically go to all other members of the ASMR family. He can explore that and send out invitations to ASMR members. Nairn asked Barnhisel to wait until the end of the annual meeting before doing any work on the website. Barnhisel said he's gotten some stats on visits to the web site, and he'll upload that to the Skydrive for NEC viewing.

9. JASMR (Journal of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation)
Barnhisel said there are four papers approved, with other papers in review in different stages. Nairn said he has had inquiries from two conference folks and passed on contact information re Barnhisel for publication.

10. Membership survey
Nairn has not done anything with this - will do it this fall.

11. Outstanding issues
A. Reclamation Matters – Barnhisel said we'd put photos and bios in there, but they'll show up in the one after the meeting
B. NASLR – Nairn said he made an offer to participate, no feedback received
C. Industry – Friedlander said he's reached out to the National Mining Association to get more industry interest.
D. Student "Committee" – Nairn asked if we want to have a signup in Oklahoma City for people to express interest. Nairn said he'd put out a poster to see if people are interested at the Oklahoma City meeting. Barnhisel said this should be at the ASMR booth.
E. Membership Base – Nairn said we’re looking at expanding our base to aggregates, oil/gas people.

12. NEC meeting dates
Nairn asked if we need a whole day for the Sunday meeting prior to the annual meeting. The NEC is a guest of Executive Secretary for lunch. Friedlander suggested we have a half day only. Others made different suggestions, with some flying in on Sunday morning. Bruce Buchanan said that we need to keep control of meetings. There may be a lot of stuff left over to discuss
on Thursday if we shorten the meeting on Sunday. Buchanan said he doesn’t think it can be pulled off in a four-hour meeting, but whatever you want to do, he'll support. Further general discussion on timing and length of the Sunday NEC meeting. Nairn said we'll start at 9:00 AM and be done by lunch.

For the Thursday, June 19 meeting, Friedlander runs this, and can decide if changes need to be made in timing and scheduling.

There being no further business, Friedlander moved, seconded by Schladweiler, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM CDT.