Minutes of the  
American Society of Mining and Reclamation  
National Executive Committee  
Sunday June 15, 2014  
Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel

Attendees  
NEC  
President: Bob Nairn  
Past President: Bruce Buchanan – absent  
Joe Friedlander  
Executive Secretary: Robert Darmody  
Members: Len Ballek – present in afternoon  
Michele Coleman  
Jennifer Franklin  
Jarvis Harper  
Bob Dunker – absent  
Barry Stewart (also Memorial Scholarship Chair)

Invited Guests  
JASMR Editor-in-Chief: Dick Barnhisel  
Major Awards Committee: Jerry Schuman – present to give report  
Financial Advisory Committee: Lee Daniels – present to give report  
Incoming officers: Brenda Schladweiler – present in afternoon  
Chris Johnston – absent  
Chris Blake - absent  
Cally Driessen (also Early Career Chair)

The meeting began at 9:00 AM CDT in the Lee Room at the Renaissance Hotel in Oklahoma City

1. Call to order – President Bob Nairn

2. Approval of April 9, 2014 NEC Meeting Minutes:  
   Barry Stewart moved, seconded by Michele Coleman to approve – meeting minutes approved

3. Oklahoma City Meeting Report  
Bob Nairn gave an update on final arrangements for the meeting. He said the group did everything previously discussed for award winners. There was only one errata sheet for the program and the electronic version of the program is correct.

Nairn said there are 105 total abstracts and about 100 oral presentations. As of last Friday there were 205 attendees registered. There are about 20 sponsors. The meeting received about $50,000 in sponsorships. It cost $1200 to have 250 programs printed up and this was covered by advertising in the program. The workshop is going well. He said we did not get the necessary numbers of registrants so tours got cancelled.
Bob Nairn asked about electronic registration. He said there were no negative comments. He said that the University of Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education gave weekly updates, then daily updates as they got closer to the meeting. The center handled any changes. Bob Darmody said they had to work with exhibitors and vendors separately to address the difference in registration and fees. They wrote separate checks.

Bob Darmody is preparing the program for the Monday awards luncheon. Bob Nairn said he’s included a two-page survey asking about the meeting, and is encouraging people to fill out the survey.

Nairn said he has the summary from registration, and the Center’s numbers match ours for who paid what. The total number is about $60,000. Darmody asked about registration – how do we know if the registrants are members or not. Nairn said that we just trust them. There was nothing in the system to address this. It’s the same with registration as a student.

People took assignments to attend the Technical Division meetings. Darmody said Lee Daniels is going to resign from the Soils and Overburden TD, Coleman agreed to chair this.

**NEC Assignments to Technical Division Meetings:**
- Forestry and Wildlife - Tuesday 0930-1000: Franklin
- Soils and Overburden - Tuesday 1130-1200: Coleman
- Tailings/Geotechnical Engineering - Wednesday 0930-1000: Harper
- Ecology - Wednesday 4:00-4:30, Room 19: Franklin
- Water Management - Wednesday 430-500: Coleman
- Land Use Planning - Wednesday 4:30-5:00: Stewart

4. National Meeting Field Tours Discussion - Bob Nairn (30 minutes)

Nairn said we looked at the numbers from historical trips, and the numbers could not justify the tours, especially the overnight ones, so they were cancelled. Some NEC members say they have value; there is some question about timing, and when to have them. They also conflict with NEC meetings. Nairn said a lot of work went into field trips, so it was embarrassing that there weren’t enough people. He said they got an aggregate company to sponsor a tour, but had so few registrants that he had to call and cancel. There’s a lot of effort for what you get. Discussion followed.

Coleman said this is the only opportunity to get to some of these mine sites. Friedlander said it’s meeting dependent and site dependent. Stewart said if you can get people to a site and back in a few hours it makes a difference. Cally said it’s the middle of the field season so that makes it tough to get away. Barry said graduate students really need to get on these tours. Friedlander said maybe we need to give more consideration to middle of the week tours – again, site specific.

5. Future Meetings

5.1 Lexington, KY 2015 - Dick Barnhisel gave an update for the 2015 meeting. He provided a handout, and described the committee members, tours, contacts for sponsorships, tentative plenary program, and meeting arrangements.

5.2 Spokane, WA 2016 - to be discussed Thursday. Dustin Wasley will be here giving a presentation and proposal.
5.3 2017 meeting ideas – Nairn said it’s not too early to talk about it. Barnhisel said in the past it’s been east one year and west one year, so normally this would be east for 2017. Stewart said Wisconsin frac sands mining is getting big. There was discussion that it’s typically gone to the Executive Secretary to locate sites, so Darmody was asked to look for some sites. Darmody said he will start sniffing around for contacts. He said he gets lots of contacts from companies to have meetings. Barnhisel said he had some interest in Pittsburgh. Darmody said the Soil Science Society of America has some interest in joint meetings, and we could cosponsor something with them.

Regarding meeting registration, Darmody said the University of Illinois may be able to help on this. Nairn said if we can find a single entity that can do this every year then that would be good. Darmody said that maybe the American Society of Agronomy can do it – he said he’d follow up on that.

6. State of the Society
6.1 Membership
Darmody gave a membership update with a summary spreadsheet. He also discussed the transition in finances from Barnhisel to him, and how members pay. Discussion regarding adding the cost onto the membership fee with the credit card, but Darmody said the bank says we have to add the cost on separately. Further discussion on membership renewals. Darmody said we should be able to do it online, and wants to set it up that way, but will have to address the question on the credit card charges. We would have to raise the membership rate to cover the credit card charge. Membership renewal could be rolled into the web page.

Discussion about how many members joined just for the meeting – we don’t have the information from last year’s meeting because we did not have the discount included then for the membership application. But we have that information from this year.

Friedlander said he would get with Darmody to review and evaluate membership characteristics – who has been a long-time member, those that have left, etc. Darmody was asked to compile a report on describing who has joined, who has left (retention rate), and why they left. How many people have dropped membership by category? Nairn said it would be interesting to know if there are students dropping out. Friedlander suggested that company name or employer be added to the membership application.

There was discussion about changes in the industry over the years. We had several hundred members years ago and in some respects a lot of the reclamation questions have been answered. Maybe that’s why people have been leaving. Coleman said she’s heard the same thing – that people say that a lot of the problems have been solved. But there are new issues such as selenium, TDS, etc., gas wells, frac sands, etc.

Membership applications are just paper now. Darmody said he wants to move to electronic. The vast majority of renewals come as paper and a check. He said he can still access help from the University of Illinois with the membership.
Brief discussion on journal papers review. Darmody said he was surprised that there were so few people that were willing to review. We need to encourage people to review. It’s very difficult to get reviewers.

There was discussion of life membership. Today it costs only $500. Possibly we should reconsider this, as this covers 10 years and we could be losing money.

6.2 6.3 Non-profit status & Financial status report
Darmody described the statement balance. He said when he gets a certain amount of money built up in our checking account then he transfers some to our financial investment account. He discussed the status of our investment account with Charles Schwab, administered through our financial advisor. He said he plans to get the checking account down to about $15-20,000.

There was discussion about how the interest is handled from the investment account. Barnhisel said he had separate accounts, depending on the fund (separate CD’s). Darmody said he can separate out the funds within our investment account without having separate physical accounts.

There was discussion about what goes in each account. Barnhisel said there are certain amounts that have been donated for certain purposes, and are committed to those purpose and were donated with the condition that they be kept for their purposes. He provided a list of CD’s, as of last fall, and described which fund each CD was for. There was discussion.

Friedlander said we need an accounting of endowment funds which have been created through donations because these funds are not to be reallocated away from their purpose. He asked Darmody to prepare this accounting. This will include a complete updated record of the status of each CD, including location, who has access, interest rate, maturity date, and interest payments produced by the CD to date, so we know how much goes back into the endowment for each fund.

Barnhisel said he still has a credit card he can use for incidentals associated with the 2015 Lexington meeting. There was discussion about handling credit cards and who should control them. The card Barnhisel has may need to be turned in.

Darmody said he is continuing to work on our nonprofit status in the state of Illinois. He said he needs to check on whether we have a nonprofit status as far as the state is concerned. He said he will follow up.

6.4 6.5 Insurance
Darmody said he bought insurance for the organization, but then was rejected and the check returned because the insurance company thought we were an “international” organization. He said he met with another agent who gave him a very large quote. There was a long discussion of whether we need general liability insurance, officers and directors Insurance or just event insurance. Darmody said he will investigate this some more. Friedlander asked him to get back to the NEC with a recommendation by August 1. Friedlander encouraged others to provide Darmody with any additional information they may have regarding insurance.

Other Society Items:
Electronic voting – Darmody said he did it last year and it worked fine. He plans to do it again.

Darmody said the SkyDrive is now called OneDrive. It’s in-place now. We get 200gb storage in the cloud. He said he went with Microsoft because it’s cheapest, but he likes Google better. We have access to it. Nairn used the OneDrive for the meeting.

Nairn said he put up everything for the meeting on LinkedIn. Nairn said it should have gone out to everyone that’s linked under the ASMR group.

There was no discussion of the 2014-2015 budget.

7. Electronic Presence/Society Branding – no discussion

8. Web page
   Barnhisel passed out a sheet describing the number of hits for the website by the various pages. The biggest hits were for upcoming meetings. He said some things need to be fixed on the web page and he needs to get to them. Cary Bernard, who worked for OSM and designed the web page, is retiring and said she would help if needed.

9. JASMR Status
   Barnhisel said he hoped to get the first issue online by now but hasn’t happened yet. He has some work left but may put it up with what he has. He has 156 pages of text, and would be up to 225 pages text with some more being finished. Since we don’t require written papers for the annual meeting it’s getting harder and harder to get written submissions. Two papers in the journal are being presented at this meeting.

   Lee Daniels needs to be replaced as a co-editor. The TD chairs are the coeditors, so we need a replacement. Darmody said John Bryan Burley told him he’d work on DOI (date of inclusion), so it can be linked long-term. Barnhisel said maybe we could go back 4-5 years preceding the journal to include these. If we were to change servers, then the paper would automatically link to the journal table of contents automatically. Each article has its own unique number. Len Ballek said that would be really important, as it gets the papers out to people that would normally not be able to find it. Barnhisel said he’d like to have that done by now, but just hasn’t gotten it done. Lee Daniels told Barnhisel to send it to him and he’d have an assistant work on it.

   Gerry Schuman asked about whom to send information to for changes on award protocols – Nairn said send to Barnhisel.

10. Committee Reports
    10.1 Scholarship Committee
    Barry Stewart gave a report of scholarships. He said there were five total applications this year (two PhD, two MS, one undergrad). Under our current policy we keep these applications for two years, and he would like to drop this. Students change a lot every year, so he wants to eliminate this as a policy. It’s in the procedures for the scholarship committee. Nairn said to change it and then present the change to the NEC. Stewart said he’d get it done for NEC review and approval.
Stewart said he’s looking for ideas to encourage more people to apply for scholarships. Darmody said he’d work with Stewart to increase the nominations by getting the word out as much as possible.

10.2 Major Awards Committee
Jerry Schuman gave a summary of nominations. We keep nominations for three years. There was a very good nomination for Reclamationist of the Year, but it did not fit the criteria, so we’re giving a special award this year.

All voting was done electronically. Schuman said he had to get an additional person to break a tie vote.

Schuman said he talked with three of the five folks on the awards committee and only Lee Daniels and he could attend this meeting. We changed some things (free registration, etc) to encourage more nominations, but it doesn’t seem like we got any new nominations. The industry award was put on hold after earlier discussion. Schuman asked how we can give an award to a company for just doing what they are supposed to do. And it’s also similar to the OSM award. Schladweiler said the Society for Range Management just eased up their criteria for nomination application. Schuman said we have to be careful that it’s not too simplified, because it makes it difficult for the committee to make a decision. Schuman said there are five people on the committee and the most critical person against it was an industry person that said they are concerned about giving an award for just fulfilling the standard. He said they will still consider it if the NEC says they should pursue it.

Friedlander said they should continue looking at it. He said the nomination must be demonstrated as above and beyond, and recognized by an entity other than just the company (no “self-nominations”). Additional discussion by others - The award nominator has to be a member. Also, has to be recognized by someone other than another company, such as a community group, agency, etc. Discussion about whether they get a free membership for a year – likely they’ll join anyway, so this may not be a good inducement or reward.

There was discussion about a “long term exhibitor” award. Schladweiler said she wondered if there’s a way to document who has exhibited over time. Barnhisel said we don’t have complete information on all that, sometimes we have exhibitors in the program, sometimes not. If there’s no way to tell, then it’s pretty hard to give an award. Barnhisel said he gave them a certificate if he could find them individually at their booth. He reminded Darmody to take pictures of exhibitors and put them in the fall issue of Reclamation Matters. Schuman said SRM only recognizes the exhibitors in the program, except for a special situation, such as Truax, who has donated money to SRM. Schladweiler said we should tally up this information as much as possible. Stewart asked if we can give them a plaque that they can put on their booth. Nairn asked Darmody to compile a list of people who have exhibited in the past.

John Sencendiver is off the Awards Committee and Lee Daniels is now on. Schuman said we have two industry and three academic people on the committee now (Eddie Beardon, George Vance, Scott Belden, Steve Schroeder, and Lee Daniels). The only time Schuman votes is when there’s a tie.
10.3 Financial Advisory Committee
Lee Daniels said there is a Financial Advisory Committee, started in Tupelo. Carl Zipper, Eddie Beardon, and Lee Daniels were selected as members, with staggered terms (Eddie Beardon’s term ends 2014; Carl Zipper’s term ends 2015 and Lee Daniels’ term ends 2016). We need to select a new member. Daniels said the first year we put together a recommendation to the NEC regarding how assets should be transferred, and that assets be coalesced into two accounts (investment and working capital). Last year they put out an RFP for financial manager, and settled on the one we have now. Then in March 2013, associated with this there was a recommended policy set up for a 3-member committee with rotating chairs. We need a replacement for Eddie Beardon. Also, there’s a requirement for quarterly reports and an annual report in coordination with the Executive Director.

Ballek said that it seems like the major financial changes occur after the annual meeting. The idea is to have the monies rolling out of the CD’s and going into the investment funds, and for the Financial Advisory Committee to follow the progress of the rollover. Friedlander said we should just go ahead and have the quarterly report done as described in the policy. The quarterly report to the Financial Advisory Committee would be an accounting of all our assets, including the status of the CD’s. It does not need to be an entire income/expense balance sheet, just an inventory and status of the assets on a quarterly basis, changes since the last report, and investment performance.

Stewart nominated Michele Coleman to serve on the Financial Committee, Friedlander seconded. Carl Zipper is chairman this year, Lee Daniels will be chairman next year, then Michele Coleman the following year. She is leaving the NEC after this meeting. Nomination approved by vote.

10.4 Early Career Committee
Cally Driessen said we have about 50 people signed up for the early career social tomorrow night, pairing young people with veterans. It will be at the Tapwerks Brewery. Any Kentucky recommendations would be appreciated from Barnhisel. Barnhisel said the student club has about 15-20 members, so he will pass on information to Driessen.

Schladweiler said if we figure out why students don’t go for scholarships then that might reveal why we have the same lack of enthusiasm for award nominations. We need to find some way to get people to submit these. One person said everyone is “up to our ears in work” and don’t have time. Stewart said there’s a difference between scholarships and awards – a scholarship is all on the individual applying for himself, vs. someone nominating another for an award. Schladweiler asked “how do you grab people?”. Obviously the money isn’t grabbing them. Barnhisel said he’s never had anyone turn him down that he’s asked for a biography for an award nomination. There are so many things vying for our attention, so it’s difficult to stand out as a priority for people.

11. Membership Survey
Nairn is still working on this survey. He said he will have the survey sent out to the membership before the end of December.

12. Membership Rates
Nairn said there was previously some discussion about adding another category (“retiree or
mentor”). There are people that are still interested in being active in the organization, but are retired. Should we call them “emeritus”? Some other societies have this, but they are much larger in size. Barnhisel said he thought we had a vote a few years ago, and nothing came of it. There was no additional discussion.

13. Conference registration rates
This year 275 registered for an early bird, (nonmember rate is $325, but that buys them a membership), student $125, accompanying person was $100 – this barely covers their food. These rates are pretty similar to the last 5 years. Barnhisel said it fluctuates based on food costs, some cheaper than others.

There was discussion regarding the costs and attendees. Should there be decreased or cut rate registration for retiree’s categories? Would the decreased costs be more than made up for by the increased numbers of retirees attending? We need a list of retirees that serve on committees. Darmody said he will compile a list of committee members and retirees on these committees.

Schladweiler asked if there’s a way to contact retired people, and find out what it would take to get them to come to a meeting. Darmody said the people he talks to that have quit say simply that that part of their life is over – they’re done. Schladweiler said there is a population of people that still want to remain active.

Darmody said he will cull information from membership lists. Nairn said he will cull information from registration.

14. New President Vision and Goals
Joe Friedlander is the incoming new President. He said his basic vision is to grow the visibility of the organization outside the current membership. Also, it’s important that the transition be completed and that all finances are in order.

15. Other Outstanding Issues from Past NEC Meetings - Bob Nairn (10 minutes) 1635-1645
15.1 Reclamation Matters
Someone said Jeff Skousen should be recognized for his work to keep this publication going. Everyone should take the time to thank Jeff.

15.2 NASLR (National Association of State Land Reclamationists) relationship
Nairn visited with them and there was a very small turnout at their Arkansas meeting. NASLR was considering joining with the NAAML (National Association of Abandoned Mined Lands)

15.3 Mining company representation in society – Friedlander said he is still working to expand industry growth and interest.

15.4 Student Committee (sign up at ASMR booth in OKC)
At a former meeting we said we would have a signup sheet available

15.5 Expansion of member base
Nairn said we did our best to get aggregate and oil/gas people in here, and we did for this meeting. BP came in (they were a sponsor last year, and Nairn has a relationship with them). There are talks
on frac sands, aggregates, dam abutment stabilization. It’s hard to convince people that we aren’t just about SMCRA.

There was extensive discussion about what it takes to expand the membership. Schladweiler said Vern Pfanenstiel (previously with Peabody) talked about changing the name to “Society for Reclamation”. There was additional discussion about promotion because there are so few people that know about us. Friedlander said it used to be SMCRA all the time, now it’s more EPA. Schladweiler said to look at mixed industries. She said we need to reach out to others. Coleman suggested setting up a booth at other organization’s meetings.

Nairn said if we drop the name “Mining” we will lose some members that do mine drainage. Schladweiler asked what need is not being met. We need to find out what it is. Friedlander said there is a lack of getting the information out to policy makers, regulators, the general public etc. There was discussion about getting Reclamation Matters magazine out to people to raise awareness among a larger audience. There was a comment that we need to promote the society more in as many ways as possible to get the word out.

Franklin said some organizations have made memoranda of understanding so they could have links to other organizations. Driessen said there are more opportunities to get into the social media realm. We need to get a buzz out there, said Friedlander. Schladweiler said we need to get our name out there 9 times in unique ways. She said there’s a real need out there for very fast information that people can get their hands on real quick.

Barnhisel discussed the ASMR family group on Facebook. We should get this out to others. Franklin said ARRI did this, and put out fact sheets.

Nairn asked if we should consider hiring a PR firm. For example at the University of Oklahoma the Meteorology people always get their information in the paper because they have a full-time PR person. Someone said we should get out on Twitter feed. Schladweiler said they set up a Twitter account just to get news out. Someone said this is all good, but someone has to oversee it. Who is going to do it?

No further action was taken on this issue.

16. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM CDT. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19 at 8:00 AM CDT at the Lee Room of the Renaissance Hotel.