



62nd Annual

**Western
Snow Conference**

April 18-21, 1994

Santa Fe, New Mexico

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE

Sante Fe, New Mexico

April 18-21, 1994

SIXTY SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The 62nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the Western Snow Conference was called to order by General Chairperson Neil Berg at 2:30 pm Monday, April 18, 1994. The meeting began with introductions of the members of the newly-elected Executive Committee and other participants.

The North Pacific Area, chaired by Doug Speers, was also represented by John Lea, and Don Huffman. The South Pacific Area, chaired by Hal Klieforth, was also represented by Gary Freeman, Frank Gehrke, Dick Stein, and Bruce McGurk. The North Continental Area, chaired by Peter Palmer, was also represented by Phyllis Snow, Bob Jairell, and Keith Cooley. The South Continental Area, chaired by Ken Wahl, was also represented by Mark Williams, Jon Werner, Richard Armstrong, and Ken Martin. In attendance also were ex-General Chairpersons Bob Swanson, Bill Lange, Art Crook, and Jack Hannaford, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Hester, General Chairperson-elect Bob Richards, and Gerry Beard, Tom Carroll and Scott Waltemeyer.

Secretary/Treasurer's report: Gary Hester

A financial report for the WSC fiscal year April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1994 was discussed. The balance on hand as of April 1, 1994 was \$8461. This amount is somewhat misleading in that although a major portion of the registration income from the 1994 Conference is included, most of the expenses are not. Known expenses of approximately \$2300 to the Inn at Loretto and \$1000 for transportation for the spouse program and field tour are not included. Also approximately \$5400 is owed to the Eastern Snow Conference for production of the proceedings from the 1993 conference. These expenses approximately equal the balance on hand as of April 1, 1994. To get a more precise balance of end-of-fiscal year balance, Gary advocated consideration of changing the fiscal year end to June rather than March 31. Gary requested that a final vote on acceptance of the financial report be postponed until the Business meeting, when he would have more complete information on income and expenses from the Santa Fe meeting. This suggestion was accepted.

1994 Annual Meeting: Tom Carroll

Tom reported that Scott Waltemeyer and Ken Martin were in charge of local arrangements and that they, and Tom himself, would be available throughout the conference for assistance. The programs had arrived and will be available during registration (scheduled to start at 5 pm).

1995 Annual Meeting: Hal Klieforth

The 63rd annual meeting of the Western Snow Conference will be held in Reno, Nevada, April 17-20, 1995 at John Ascuaga's Nugget. Room rates are expected to be in the \$70 to \$90 range. Session topics will include snow aspects of mountain meteorology, cloud seeding, and environmental hydrology. A field trip to Mt. Rose, Lake Tahoe, and the Central Sierra Snow Laboratory is anticipated. Don Huffman pointed out that current federal per diem for Reno is \$52. Lower priced lodging near the Nugget is available.

1996 Annual Meeting: Doug Speers

The conference will be held near Bend, Oregon during the third week in April at the Inn at the 7th Mountain ski resort. This venue is approximately 150 miles from Portland. Bend can be reached by air. Field tour possibilities include the High Desert Museum and irrigation projects. Lodging costs will be within the federal government per diem rate.

Wilderness Committee report: Jack Hannaford

The WSC's wilderness position paper is available to Congress. Neil Berg relayed Jim Marron's opinion that the current method Jim uses to provide WSC input to upcoming wilderness legislation has problems. In the past Jim relied on the Soil Conservation Service's legislative liaison officer for notification of upcoming legislation. Legislation used to take several months to move through Congress. Now legislation often moves in a matter of days, at a pace that is too fast to allow notification of Jim in a timely manner. Jim suggests that the current procedure involving the SCS legislative liaison be replaced with a "local" approach in which the WSC Area chairs are responsible for keeping updated on upcoming legislation. Jack stated that he would follow up on this suggestion.

Bruce McGurk described a situation in California in which the Forest Service is tightening it's policy on access to snow courses in wilderness areas. Frank Gehrke stated that a national Forest Service policy revision on access to wilderness is the main issue. Jon Werner pointed out that input from a group like the Western Snow Conference can make a difference at the federal level. Art Crook questioned whether an environmental impact statement is needed to decommission snow courses per the National Environmental Policy Act.

The following actions will be undertaken:

- 1) Jack will draft a letter to be sent to the Forest Service's Regional Foresters. Frank and Bruce will review the letter. Arguing points for the letter include the issues of resource and ecosystem management, water supply needs outside the boundaries of both the wilderness areas and Forest Service lands, and the general idea that current policies restrict wise management.
- 2) Frank will draft a letter specifically for the California situation.
- 3) Jack will send a copy of the wilderness policy to Jon Werner and Gerry Beard.

Publications Committee report: Neil Berg

Copies of the 1993 proceedings are in the process of being mailed to foreign and multi-copy addresses. At this point it is unknown whether extra copies will be available. In the absence of Chuck Troendle and Jim Marron it was decided that a list would be kept by Gary Hester of people wanting copies of the 1993 proceedings. If extra copies become available, they will be sold to people on that list.

Richard Armstrong will collect the camera-ready manuscripts and route them to Jim Marron for further processing.

Tom Carroll described a request he received from the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory for copies of proceedings from the last 10 conferences. The copies would be sent to Mongolian land managers who are charged with improving spring forage for animal husbandry needs. Neil Berg will followup with Jim Marron.

Bob Swanson reported that diskettes containing an updated version of the WSC bibliography will be available at the 1995 Conference. The bibliography will be in a Windows accessible format and will be sold at a nominal cost. Bob also plans to present a poster on the bibliography at the 1995 Conference.

Awards Committee report: Jack Hannaford

Jack requested information on the recent retirement or death of WSC members.

Neil Berg reported that the Jame E. Church Award will be given to Katherine Lee, a senior at Reno High School.

Don Huffman offered the opinion of the North Pacific Area committee members that the El Farsante Award is a good Conference tradition and that efforts should be taken to select

the awardee for traditional reasons. Thought should be given throughout the year to mistakes made by El Farsante candidates. The award should not, for instance, routinely be given to someone who has erred in putting on the annual conference. There was general agreement on this and Jack will write a letter for mailing with one of the standard mailings requesting names of El Farsante candidates to be submitted prior to the annual conference, with inclusion of written documentation of the qualifying actions of each candidate.

Neil Berg recommended Honorary membership for a WSC member. After discussion and reading of the Constitution and By-Laws, it was decided that Neil will contact Jim Marron to determine who currently has Honorary membership and whether any Honorary memberships are now available. The Minutes from the 1993 Ex Com meeting should be amended to read that 5 (not 10) Honorary memberships can be current at any one date.

"Health" of the WSC: Neil Berg (for Harold Steppuhn)

In 1992 Harold Steppuhn offered to chair an ad hoc committee charged with assessing the condition of the WSC. He prepared a report that was passed out and discussed. The report identified problems and offered recommendations.

Problems identified included:

- o inflexibility imposed by carrying excessive bylaw baggage
- o decreasing numbers of core members able and/or willing to extend long-term commitments of service and support to the WSC. Consequences of decreasing core membership include losses of money, service and agency support.

Recommendations of the report included:

- o maintain a closer watch and assessment of the number of core members
- o ascertain the willingness of agency managers to support the WSC and to pay for the person-to-person advantage in connection with modern electronic information sharing
- o emphasize and feature the human touch as part of the WSC tradition
- o initiate 2 committees: (1) to investigate the possibilities of initiating a WSC electronic information network; (2) to guard the WSC traditions
- o review the WSC bylaws and rescind those out-of-date or unnecessary
- o consider revising the dues structure such that fees must be paid yearly to retain core-member status
- o tighten bookkeeping; pay someone for the service if necessary
- o do not compete with or join the large, stuffy, business-like associations
- o canvas our membership for ideas and ways to increase the value of the WSC to our supporting agencies while still retaining our core traditions

Comments in response to Harold's report were that the core group may actually be relatively stable. Long-term members recalled fewer participants at annual conferences several decades ago than now. Other comments were that meeting location may contribute to conference attendance; some venues cost more or take longer to get to than others. The North Continental Area probably has the smallest number of members, and some of the problems may be local rather than Conference-wide. More marketing of the each conference is needed; efforts should routinely be made to publicize the conference in the newsletters of professional societies. To increase conference participation, a part of each conference could focus on local issues.

An ad hoc subcommittee comprised of Keith Cooley, Phyllis Snow and Harold Steppuhn will followup.

Documentation of WSC procedures: Neil Berg

At the 1992 meeting, the Ex Com decided that written documentation of WSC procedures is needed to facilitate conference planning and implementation. Writeups have been received from Keith Cooley, Peter Palmer, Tom Carroll and Neil Berg. These will be collated by Neil and routed to the Ex Com for it's review. After finalization, the writeups will be routed to Bob Richards for distribution or action as he sees fit.

Nomination and election of General Chairperson-Elect: Gerry Beard and Neil Berg

Gerry nominated Phyllis Snow as General Chairperson-Elect for the next 2 years. Neil offered this nomination to the Executive Committee and Phyllis was elected unanimously as the first female General Chairperson-Elect of the WSC.

Administrative reorganization: Neil Berg, Gary Hester, Bob Richards

All secretarial and treasury functions now cycle on a 2-year basis, rotating with the rotation of the General Chairperson position. These functions require about 1/2 day per week labor. Although these functions are not intrinsically complicated, the time taken to learn all of the associated details has forced continuing reliance on Jim Marron for guidance and counselling. Although Jim continues to graciously offer that guidance, to increase the continuity and efficiency of selected administrative functions a proposal to assign responsibility for the day-to-day handling of some of the work was offered.

After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed that the General Chairperson would work with the Area Chairpersons to identify bookkeeping and/or associated services that would be contracted out. Up to \$1000 could be spent annually for these services.

In a related action, it was moved, seconded and passed that the annual membership dues for individuals be increased to \$25.

1997 Annual Meeting: Peter Palmer

After discussion about the appropriate location (State or Canadian Province) for the 1997 meeting, it was decided that the 1997 meeting will be held at a site in Canada, probably in Alberta.

BANQUET DOINGS

Bruce King, governor of New Mexico gave a rousing tribute to the state of New Mexico in welcoming participants to the annual banquet and awards presentation.

Awards presented at the banquet included the best oral presentation, to G.W. Kite, for a paper entitled "Using climate data from a GCM for streamflow simulation", and the best poster paper, to L. Dexter, C.C. Avery, and W. Delinger, for a poster entitled "Monitoring snowpack ablation using lysimetry". Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Gary Hester was awarded a special recognition plaque for his outstanding service.

Due partly to the recent federal "buyout", an extraordinarily large number of retired members were honored, including Ron Jones from the South Pacific Area, Earl Helseth and Ken Martin from the South Continental Area, Ken Bird and Ted Gilbert from the North Continental Area, and George Claggett, Dave Johnson, and William Weller from the North Pacific Area. No recently deceased members were identified. Doug Speers received the El Farsante award on the basis of his suggestion that El Farsante should be dis-membered and passed out in pieces to all of the SCS retirees.

Dan Murphy combined his own experiences on the Colorado River with those of John Wesley Powell in the evening's entertainment, "A boatman's look at John Wesley Powell."

Bob Richards was formally installed as General Chairperson. He in turn formally announced the election of Phyllis Snow as General Chairperson-Elect.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The Business meeting of the 62nd Western Snow Conference was called to order by General Chairperson Neil Berg at 4 pm Tuesday, April 19, 1994 at the Inn at Loretto, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Secretary/Treasurer's report: Gary Hester

Gary Hester reported 92 paid registrants at the Santa Fe meeting.

The monetary balance on hand as of April 1, 1994 was \$8461. This amount is somewhat misleading in that although a major portion of the registration income from the 1994 Conference is included, most of the expenses are not. Known expenses of approximately \$2300 to the Inn at Loretto and \$1000 for transportation for the spouse program and field tour are not included. Also approximately \$5400 is owed to the Eastern Snow Conference for production of the proceedings from the 1993 conference. These expenses approximately equal the balance on hand as of April 1, 1994. There is a large inventory of bolo ties which are an asset which will reduce future expenses. This financial report was accepted by voice vote.

1995 Annual Meeting: Hal Klieforth

The 63rd annual meeting of the Western Snow Conference will be held in Reno, Nevada, April 17-20, 1995 at John Ascuaga's Nugget. A field trip to Mt. Rose, Lake Tahoe, Squaw Valley, the Central Sierra Snow Laboratory and possibly Sagehen Creek is anticipated.

1996 Annual Meeting: Doug Speers

The meeting will be held near Bend, Oregon April 16-19 at the Inn at the 7th Mountain ski resort near Mt. Bachelor. This venue is approximately 150 miles from Portland. Bend is reachable by air.

Wilderness Committee report: Jack Hannaford

Jack noted that Bruce McGurk and Frank Gehrke reported that access to snow courses in wilderness areas in California is becoming an issue with the U.S. Forest Service. Jack will take the lead in writing a letter to all Regional Foresters stating the WSC's position on use of wilderness for snow data acquisition.

Awards Committee report: Jack Hannaford

Jack requested information on the recent retirement or death of WSC members. The Best Paper and Best Poster awards will be presented at the banquet, as will the El Farsante award.

Neil Berg reported that the Jame E. Church Award will be given to Katherine Lee, a senior at Reno High School.

Corporate sponsorship: Art Crook

One method of improving the financial status of the WSC is to solicit annual sponsorship funds from corporations. Art offered to develop a list of potential corporate sponsors and to draft a first person solicitation to these firms for Bob Richards' review. This offer was accepted and Dave Johnson volunteered to assist Art. Discussion points were the need to not convey an image of "cheapness" and to potentially combine corporate sponsorship with a free registration and free exhibit space at each conference.

Introduction of the new Executive Committee: Neil Berg

Executive Committee members for the term 1994 through 1996 are listed below, with the chairperson of each Area first:

North Continental	North Pacific	South Continental	South Pacific
Peter Palmer	Doug Speers	Ken Wahl	Hal Klieforth
Keith Cooley	Barbara Sarantitis	Ken Martin	Gary Freeman
Phil Marsh	Jon Lea	Jon Werner	Bruce McGurk
Phyllis Snow	Don Huffman	Richard Armstrong	Frank Gehrke
Bob Jairell	Dave Gluns	Mark Williams	Dick Stein

Introduction of the new General Chairperson-Elect: Neil Berg

Phyllis Snow was introduced as the General Chairperson-Elect of the WSC for the upcoming two years.

Administrative reorganization: Bob Richards

Bob described the decision by the Executive Committee to change the WSC's support structure with the intent of improving the efficiency and continuity of administrative operations. Several actions will be proposed or tested including a specific annual mailing advising members to pay their annual dues. Efforts will be made to reinstitute the annual issuance of membership cards to help members assess their membership status. The General Chairperson, in collaboration with the Area Chairpersons, will experiment with contracting out selected administrative services. Costs will be no more than \$1000 annually. Services to be contracted are bookkeeping, conference registration, and management of the primary bank account. Bob noted that a volunteer has been identified who is willing to commit his time for 5 years to this service. It is anticipated that an agreement will be finalized by the end of this conference.

In an action related to this proposed reorganization, the Executive Committee increased membership dues for individuals to \$25 per year.

1997 Annual Meeting: Peter Palmer

Peter Palmer invited everyone to come to Canada for the the 1997 meeting. As yet, the site is undetermined.

Open discussion

Neil addressed a question from the floor on the status of updating the WSC bibliography by reporting that Bob Swanson plans to sell (at nominal cost) diskettes containing the updated bibliography at the 1995 meeting in Reno.