

74th Annual Meeting
Western Snow Conference

April 17-20, 2006
Las Cruces, New Mexico



**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE**

**LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO
APRIL 17-20, 2006**

SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

**Bob Whaley (General Chair)
USDA-NRCS Retired**

**Randall Osterhuber (Secretary)
Soda Springs, CA 95728**

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Randall Julander and Bruce McGurk – Co-Editors
Al Rango - Program Chair**

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Cover Photos:

**Front: Snowcover at Valles Caldera National Preserve, NM
By Rourke McDermott**

**Back: Zastrugi in sand, White Sands National Monument, NM
By Rick Kattelman**

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2006 WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE**

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Minutes of the Western Snow Conference Executive Committee Meeting
Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA April 17, 2006

In attendance:

Abramovich, Ron	Julander, Randy	Pattee, Scott
Carcoana, Radu	Kattelmann, Rick	Rango, Al
Farnes, Phil	Lea, Jolyne	Whaley, Bob
Gehrke, Frank	Lynch, Frank	
Gillespie, Mike	Martinez, Larry	
Hannaford, Jack	McGurk, Bruce	
Huffman, Don	Osterhuber, Randall	

General Chair Bob Whaley called the meeting to order at 1440.

Minutes of the 2005 Executive Committee Meeting

- ❖ No changes were made to the minutes of the 2005 Executive Committee Meeting as printed in the 2005 Proceedings.

Treasurer's Report

- ❖ Osterhuber submitted a Profit/Loss sheet for FY 2005 and FY 2006 (to date). For FY 2005, the WSC had a net income of -\$214.04. For FY 2006 (to date), the WSC has a net income of +\$4333.68. The WSC bank account approximately one year ago, on April 12, 2005, was \$21,615.71. The WSC bank account on April 12, 2006 was \$21,023.73. The WSC books are open and can be audited by anyone, anytime.

WSC Laptop

- ❖ Osterhuber reported that the WSC computer, a six-year-old IBM ThinkPad, is operating marginally due to its relatively small amount of memory (192 Mb). Gehrke and Lea will look into securing a used (but less dated) laptop for WSC use.

Shipping Costs

- ❖ Osterhuber reported on increases in mailing costs for shipping the WSC Proceedings, both within and out of North America. The WSC currently charges \$5 per copy for shipping and handling regardless of destination. Effective immediately, it was decided to increase Proceedings shipping and handling costs to \$8 per issue in North America and \$15 per issue outside of North America.

Conference Fees

- ❖ It was decided to increase various categories of WSC registration fees starting with WSC 2007. If x is the pre-registration fee, the new student registration fee will be $.3x$; the 1-day registration fee will be $.5x + 10$; the Retired/Life Member fee will be $.3x$; and all late registrations will be assessed an additional \$20 on top of the category fee. All fees will be rounded to the nearest \$5. Exact WSC registration fees will be determined by the WSC Treasurer and Area Chair as part of setting each conference's budget.

Passed WSC Members

- ❖ It was reported that in the past year, three former or current WSC members had died: Doug Powell, Walter Rosenthal, and Don Paulsen. The 2006 WSC Proceedings may include tributes to and/or biographies of these members.

WSC 2005, 2006

- ❖ There was brief discussion about WSC 2005 in Great Falls, Montana. All agreed it was a fine conference and within budget. 76 people attended the conference.
- ❖ Rango gave a rundown on conference logistics and costs for WSC 2006. Again, we seem to be on budget. 18 poster papers and 17 oral papers are on the docket for presentation.

Data Collection in Designated Wilderness

- ❖ Whaley, Pattee, and Gehrke all spoke briefly about hydro/met data collection in Wilderness areas. All three had anecdotal information on local politics, but there's been no significant change in legislation governing in-wilderness data collection.

WSC Proceedings

- ❖ Much discussion—again—about the (prospective) state of digitized versions of the WSC Proceedings. The discussion summary is that the WSC is very close (?) to offering the printed Proceedings in digital form, when and how (CD only?, paper and CD?) is yet to be determined. Julander pointed out the trouble that comes with printing complex full-color graphs and plots in gray scale—a major shortfall in printing the Proceedings in black and white. McGurk will work on getting PDF versions of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 Proceedings onto the WSC website. All agreed that in order not to cut into sales (and WSC income), there should be a one year delay in putting the current year's Proceedings onto the web. The WSC will also further pursue getting the complete historic Proceedings scanned and digitized.

WSC 2007, 2008

- ❖ McGurk reported some specifics and costs for WSC 2007 (April 16-19) which will be held at the Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort, Kona, Hawai'i. The hotel has offered a rate (\$125/night) within the Federal per diem, which will also be available to conference attendees three days before and after the conference. Gehrke reported that Southwest Airlines is just about to start service to Hilo from the western US. Kattelmann suggested special attention in promoting the conference to snow researchers in Japan. Japanese participation could increase conference attendance significantly. Also, to further promote this WSC—the conference's 75th Anniversary—it was agreed to form two committees aimed at securing agency sponsorship and participation. Julander will head the "Federal Agency" committee and Tom Painter (voted to the position in absentia) will head the "University" committee.
- ❖ Pattee reported that WSC 2008 will most likely be held in Hood River, Oregon. He's had some preliminary talks with hotels there and will report further at WSC 2007.

Awards

- ❖ Hannaford gave a history of the WSC awards and the Awards Committee. Jolyne Lea will help out with the committee.

Other Discussion Items

- ❖ Julander will pursue a WSC logo design that will lend some standardization to the WSC "brand." Start with a snowflake...
- ❖ Scott Pattee was unanimously voted Sergeant-at-Arms, and will police the WSC "dress code" at future WSC banquets.
- ❖ Lea reported that there will be an agency (NRCS) and public 100-year celebration of JE Church's snow survey work, May 2, 2006, at the Mt. Rose (Nevada) SNOTEL site and the University of Nevada, Reno.
- ❖ Carcoana proposed Fargo, North Dakota (and possibly North Dakota State University) as a future WSC meeting city. The Area Chair for WSC 2009 or 2010 will take this into consideration.
- ❖ Randy Julander will be the next General Chair of the Western Snow Conference, and Bruce McGurk the next General Chair Elect.

Meeting adjourned at 1715.

Minutes of the Western Snow Conference Business Meeting

Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA

April 19, 2006

Approximately 30 WSC members in attendance.

General Chair Bob Whaley called the meeting to order at 1515.

Treasurer's Report

- ❖ Osterhuber gave a brief financial report as per the Executive Committee Meeting, pointing out the WSC's relatively constant bank balance of between \$21K and \$22K. This is indicative of the WSC operating at a near \$0 profit/loss.

WSC 2007

- ❖ Some further discussion on the merits and disadvantages of holding WSC 2007 in Hawai'i. The vast majority of Executive Committee members and general members are in support of Hawai'i as next year's meeting location.

WSC Historic Proceedings

- ❖ Charlie Ester, from the Salt River Project (SRP) in Phoenix, volunteered to spearhead the scanning and digitizing of the historic WSC Proceedings. The SRP has a relatively complete collection of the Proceedings, and any they don't have will be obtained from other members' collections. There will be further discussion via email on how best to organize the digital files.

WSC Brochure

- ❖ Scott Pattee volunteered to produce a printed and web-based version of a WSC brochure that will give a history and description of what the WSC is and does.

WSC Website

- ❖ Having logos and links on the WSC web page is included in WSC product vendor sponsorship. Either WSC vendors are unaware of this or not taking advantage of it since few links are listed. More effort will be made to inform vendors of this option.

Meeting adjourned at 1610.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Osterhuber
Secretary/Treasurer, Western Snow Conference
May 8, 2006

74th Annual Meeting of the Western Snow Conference - Attendees
Las Cruces, New Mexico April 17-20, 2006

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