

IASNR Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2010
Corpus Christi, TX

Attendees: Rich Stedman, Courtney Flint, Rick Krannich, Joan Brehm, Kathy Halvorsen, Troy Hall, Tom Beckley, Angela Mertig, Naomi Krogman, Don Field, Al Luloff, Jim Finley, Gene Theodori, Joan Brehm, Cheryl Hudec, Naomi Krogman, and Jean Mangun

The minutes from the last meeting of the IASNR (July 9, 2009) were approved. In a like manner, the treasurer's report was also approved. Motions to accept were made by Rich Stedman and Kathy Halvorsen.

Status of Social Ecology Press (SEP): The purchase was made to preserve the press and the books. As a result, SEP has become our third cost center, making it necessary to have accounts for IASNR, ISSRM, and SEP. The purchase price and sales agreement were reviewed. Copies of the current titles were on display near the registration desk. There are a limited number of the *Summary of Knowledge* books, distributed at the 2004 Keystone, Colorado ISSRM meeting, currently available. Paulus Mau has developed a link on the IASNR website for on-line ordering from SEP. All transactions will go through IASNR's PayPal account; this is a necessary 501.c.3 requirement.

There was no formal executive director's report.

Editor search: Tom Beckley and Troy Hall, Co-editors of *Society and Natural Resources* have agreed to continue their service for 6 months past the end of commitment (July 2011) – i.e., they will remain in place until early 2012. The journal budget and terms for editors are not in line with our financial year and this will bring these into line.

A request was made for volunteers to serve on the Editor Search Committee. Joan Brehm volunteered and Matt Carol was volunteered. An advertisement will run in the *Journal* and be posted on the web. There are examples of these ads in the KIT and Rick Krannich will share them with Joan and Matt and others who are interested.

Election results: Angela Mertig, Naomi Krogman, Steve Selin, Tom Fish and Chris Raymond (student) were elected to Council. Letters will be sent. The number of members voting was low.

Site selections for 2013 and 2014: We need to solicit sites and have a selection committee. Kathy Halvorsen and Angela Mertig volunteered for 2013. They were asked to find several others, including one or more students. Tom Beckley, Tom Fish, and Jean Mangun volunteered to help with the 2014 site selection.

Treasurer's Report: There was a question about IASNR's maximum membership. It was just after Vancouver, at about 1000. Membership ties to registration for the ISSRMs. There were 398 total paying participants, students in Vienna and 968 in Vancouver. Of those attending the meeting in Vienna, 73 were North Americans. Membership changes with venues. This suggests that site selection is critical. Should we have more control over meeting venues? Should we

work with a convention group? Could we work with a recruitment and volunteer process? Our most successful meetings have been on campuses. Al Luloff commented on the site committee's efforts to obtain the lowest room rates at the current meeting. He advocated for good campus locations. Volunteers to take on the meetings may become more difficult. Could we get campuses to work with convention bureaus? Do most campuses have summer program offices? We could do some kind of a hybrid.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$200,882.78 in the combined IASNR and ISSRM. Al argued we should build all budgets for ISSRM around 400 participants. It was agreed we are in financially good shape.

Journal Report: Taylor and Francis, the publisher, believes things are in pretty good shape (200 additional pages in 2011 and IASNR could purchase an additional 100 to 200 pages and 200 in 2012 and continuing after that). This is part of the plan to deal with and the acceptance backlog. There has been an agreement to initiate IFirst, which should address the existing backlog over the next six months. Submissions went from 180 to nearly 300 last year; however, submissions are down about 20 to 25% this year. There will be an announcement in the Journal about the acceptance rate and IFirst. The co-editors will monitor and track submissions to assure we continue to address the backlog. This is a great problem to have, but we don't want to push people away from the Journal. We did succeed in expanding international submissions. Our decision time has increased with Review Central; however, there are issues finding reviewers (sometimes 10 or more people refuse to review). The co-editors asked people to sign up to review submissions, especially international papers. A question was raised about the last appeal to the membership about volunteering. There was a suggestion that anyone submitting a paper, even international, be added to the reviewer list.

We need to communicate more frequently with our members. Maybe we should be doing a quarterly newsletter. Take some of our funds to do this. Could we set up a social interaction network with the membership? Would a listserve work?

Tom indicated Patricia received a well-deserved raise for all of the work she does for the Journal.

2010 Meeting: Gene Theodori indicated it had been an honor and privilege to host this meeting on behalf of Sam Houston. The meeting could have been held on campus in Huntsville, but lodging was an issue. Gene offered the following advice: This year, people could create an account, submit an abstract, and have it accepted all before paying registration fees. A number of people did this but never withdrew their abstract when they decided not to attend the meeting. When people do not pay, they should be removed from the program.

IASNR had signed a contract for this site and had an agreement on the number of beds. Some people have now moved onto the site to help fill the block. This meeting was budgeted at 500 attendees. Vienna also showed a deficit, but not as bad as the organizers thought. Before the current meeting it was possible to cut the "bed" guarantee from 1,200 rooms to 900+ on April 1 - a 23% reduction. As well, food and beverage costs were reduced and people have been happy with what has been provided. Cheryl was thanked for working with Omni Hotel to reduce food

costs. Naomi Krogman has met the host location in Edmonton, the location for ISSRM 2012, about blocking rooms – attendance is dropping and the release date is important and to do this may mean higher room rates.

2011 Meeting: Response from the Malaysian host has been problematic. They are slow to respond. Initially, they were offsetting costs for others against North Americans. This was a potential issue in Vienna as well, but was resolved. When the ISSRM is international, memberships decline – the sustaining members don't participate. Al had communicated with Malaysia about the potential for cancelling the meeting scheduled for 2011 in Malaysia with agreement from the Executive Committee.

However, there is evidence that some Australians and Asians continue to believe Malaysia will be a good venue and have demonstrated this by offering the hosts some support funds. Moreover, IASNR made a commitment and would need a very good reason for cancelling. It was felt that some current members of the IASNR would be unhappy with a decision to cancel and Council would need a good rationale for changing venues at this late stage. In addition, Council would need to have a plan in place for dealing with this type of situation in the future. Clearly the global economic situation is having an effect on the willingness of members to attend conferences, particularly those held in international venues. While our financial situation is stable right now, another significant meeting financial failure would create a major problem as reflected in a very small sustaining membership.

To address the Malaysia issue, three options were advanced: (1) change the venue in 2011 and not entertain another proposal from Malaysia; (2) change the venue and entertain another Malaysian proposal in the future; and (3) have two ISSRM meetings in the same year (Malaysia and somewhere else). A proposed alternative location was Madison, Wisconsin. This is not firm, but Don Field is willing to host the meeting. There are recently renovated buildings and facilities on the Madison campus. We could recoup some of our losses from the Corpus meetings in Madison if we were to meet there. There is a Malaysian representative at the 2010 meeting. A suggestion was made to explore venues in Hawaii, a place in between. Given our timeframe, this was considered unrealistic. About 150 Australians have committed to attend the Malaysian ISSRM.

The idea of sponsoring two meetings – this year, one in North America and one in Malaysia; – generated support and discussion. Ideas were offered about how they could be made concurrent with video conferencing links. The two meetings could run nearly concurrently, maybe overlapping. However, if we were to do this, it would greatly reduce the number of North Americans who would attend the international venue.

For 2011, the proposed dates are June 13 to 17th for Malaysia and June 6 through the 10th in Wisconsin – where we anticipate being able to attract 500 to 600 attendees. Malaysia would likely draw 200 to 300. We have had meetings in two locations on three occasions. Two meetings in 2011 would reduce the effort for Malaysia and lower cost with smaller numbers.

Rich Stedman called the question on the meeting location. The vote was to have two meetings in 2011.

2012 Meeting in Alberta, Canada: Naomi Krogman has an organizational committee of three people. She has about 12 others willing to help on campus. Parks Canada originally put in \$40,000, but has for now withdrawn this offer. No other sponsors have been identified. She will work with Paulus Mau to create a web site. She has rooms booked on campus.

Student Awards: Had 12 papers submitted (5 PhD and 7 masters). Some were really top shelf and good quality. The winners receive \$300 and can send back a certificate to receive Taylor and Francis products. IASNR awards a plaque and Jean Mangun had a plaque made as well.

Students: Eric is the outgoing student committee member. The student forum was very successful this year. There were 50 signed up and about 40 attended the event. The quiz bowl worked with the attendees. A budget for student committee was presented requesting \$5,300. It would cover the quiz bowl and improve student participation. The student committee has three to five conference calls annually with the focus on increasing student participation. Don Field asked for a student forum agenda from this year to prepare for next year. There was no field trip this year as part of the student forum. Don offered this could occur next year and it would be useful for folks.

Member committee: Kathy Halvorsen has linked up eight mentors with students this year. She has had difficulty enrolling members in this program. There was a recommendation that we drop the mentor program, but in the end it was decided we should try again. It was suggested we email a mentor enrollment form to each member. If there are other ideas, pass them on to Kathy.

Policy on International Sites: A proposal was made to discuss this in a council meeting call this year.

New Business: Should we do a new State of Knowledge book in 2011 or update the 2004 book? No decision was made.

Bylaws and Constitution: Need volunteers. Rich Stedman and Angela Mertig volunteered.

A question was raised about the student paper competition: Would it occur at two sites next year? Jean Mangun was asked to put together a team to deal with this question.

Having no further business and having run out of time, the meeting adjourned.