

**Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
North Atlantic Chapter**

Minutes of September 6, 2005 Board Members Call

Call convened at 12:30 pm. Participating were:

Janet Robinson
Jim Hauri
Brian Robinson
Meg McCardle
Diane Nacci
Sylvain DeGuise

Agenda items discussed were as follows. Action items have been updated to reflect activities completed since the call.

1. Download from June Chapter Meeting

Janet provided a brief overview of the June meeting. Attendance was good, and generally in accord with previous years; we had 52 people (including 11 students) attend the sessions, and 17 were in the short course. Venue *generally* worked well, and the conference center credited us for the loss of internet access on the main session day. Better turnout of students this year, possibly because of the location close to the University of Vermont.

2. Biotic Ligand Model Short Course Status

Update:

Sylvain gave an update of the room situation. The reserved space is the Konover Auditorium at the Dodd Center at UCONN, which is a nice space that will not overwhelm a small group. Holds 120, but is comfortable for 30-40. We have it for free from 8 am to 5 pm, but pay \$10/hour after that. Room comes with all AV equipment. Sylvain has arranged for two coffee breaks and lunch, which will consist of “nicer” cold cut platters. He sent directions,

Sylvain will be on hand the day of the course to deal with AV and room issues. Meg McCurdle volunteered to attend the course to represent NAC. and to help with registrations. Dodi will make up nametags and handle registrations. She put the registration form upon the webpage in August.

Publicity:

Publicity is a priority at this point. Here’s what’s going on to date:

Meg volunteered to coordinate with SRA (Society of Risk Analysts) and see if they would advertise the course. She did this, and SRA put the course on their webpage, and also will advertise it in their next newsletter. She will also connect with the LSPA, since she is on the education committee.

Sylvain will contact universities.

On September 8 Janet sent a notice to all members (paid and unpaid) currently listed on our member list, which was provided by Dodi.

Diane volunteered to spread the word to her contacts in EPA and local colleges (Rhode Island, Roger Williams, Brown). She will also send notices to individuals and state regulators that she knows.

NOTE: in addition to these formal activities, Board members are also encouraged to spread the word about the course to colleagues and others they think might be interested. This is a very relevant topic, and the course is a great deal, being offered here at HALF the cost of the taking it at the National conference!

3. Evaluation Form Update

Cheryl Montgomery had volunteered to work with Walter Berry on updating the evaluation form for posters and papers. She did this, and recommended that we use the forms used by National, for both the sake of consistency and because they are good forms, providing very specific feedback. Board members concurred with this approach. Next step is for Dodi to make a link to the forms on the NAC webpage.

We also discussed briefly the option of changing the name and focus of our Best First-Time Presenter award. We currently give awards for Best Student and Best First Time presenter, and at the last meeting there was some discussion about the difference between the two. Meanwhile, SETAC National is currently starting an outreach program to a group they call Early Career Professionals, which is loosely defined as people in the first two or three years of their career. Since this group appears to overlap somewhat with our Best First Time Presenter target audience, the idea was floated by Janet of changing the name of our Best FT Presenter to Best Early Career Professional award. The topic was raised at this point for general notification only; full discussion will wait until Janet gets more information about the history and intent of the Best FT Presenter award. Cheryl Montgomery, who funds these awards, will be involved in these discussions. Note that this would be an entirely optional change; we can keep the situation the way it is, with perhaps a bit of clarification of intent.

4. Joint NAC/Hudson Delaware Chapter Meeting

At the Board meeting following the Chapter meeting in June, Board members expressed interest in finding out more about the idea of a Joint meeting with the Hudson Delaware Chapter. Originally this was to focus on PAHs. Janet conveyed our general interest for more information to Susan Kane-Driscoll, who will contact them and get back to us.

5. Session Topics for 2006 Chapter Meeting

As decided at the June 2005 chapter meeting, the 2006 chapter meeting will be held in Portland, Maine.

The timing of the meeting was discussed: April vs. June. Decision was made to retain June meeting time. Dates for 2006 meeting will thus be **June 7 (short course), 8, and 9.**

Session topics were discussed. So far we have:

NRDA Injury and Assessments (John Weir offered to take the lead)

Innovative Approaches (open bag, similar to this year)

Environmental Toxicology (broad topics covering bioaccumulation and toxicology)

Short Course: Innovative Sampling Techniques

Diane suggested a session on **molecular genetic approaches to risk assessment**, that would focus on showing how molecular genetics can be applied in risk assessment. She will look into this one and get back to us. She will chair this if it goes forward.

Diane (a fountain of energy) also suggested **Spatial ecology and GIS approaches**. We had a GIS focus a few years ago, and she will review the agenda from that year to see about overlap.

Duane also suggested scouring for local talent that would fit into our existing sessions; e.g. Gulf of Maine issues as they relate to existing sessions. That way we get to highlight local expertise without having a purely local-based session, which may not hold interest for a broader audience.

Next Call: Thursday October 6 at NOON. Please let me know if this time DOES NOT work for you.

Major agenda for next call:

Registration count for BLM course; final arrangements

RESOLVE SESSIONS AND IDENTIFY SESSION CHAIRS. Please be thinking about this one.