

## COMA of AAG Annual Business Meeting

### Minutes

8:30-9:45pm, Tampa, April 9, 2014

1. Welcome. Approximately forty members attended the annual business meeting this year, a stronger showing than we have had in recent years. There was some consensus that the early-mid-meeting schedule (Wed.) was preferred to Friday evening business mtg. Several past officers and chairs of the group were in attendance, and the refreshments were quickly consumed.
2. Minutes of the 2013 annual business meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Chair's report. Allen reported summary statistics for the meeting and notes from the Specialty Group Chair's meeting held earlier Wed.
  - a. COMA sponsored or co-sponsored 26 sessions (up from 21 in 2013; and 104 presentations vs. 111 last year)
  - b. COMA FaceBook page has attracted 115 followers (up to 120 at the close of the mtg.)
  - c. Our FB page averages 2-3 posts per week led by Rahn and various past/present board members and officers.
  - d. The COMA knowledge community list run by AAG has 218 members, with an average 4-5 posts per month outside of the seasonal meeting preparations/calls for papers. The group membership reflects paid members and approximately 50/50 faculty vs. student/professional members. New steps to increase membership and retention of student members, in particular, were encouraged by the group.
  - e. The Chair reminded members and officers that annual reports for COMA are posted to the AAG knowledge community group "library" page.
  - f. COMA's budget remains stable at \$2800-3,000. The amount does not reflect any outstanding meeting expenses/awards (Pputy, Illustrated Paper, or Russell awards). The Secretary-Treasurer's report evoked prolonged discussion on spending down funds primarily on students. Dues remain at \$5/faculty-professional and \$1/student per year.
4. The COMA-sponsored field trip to Cedar and Seahorse Key was reported to have been a huge success, attracting full occupancy and luckily fair weather. Led by Heidi Lannon with Jennifer Rahn and help from Christy Swann and Joann Mossa, numerous pictures are posted on the COMA AAG FaceBook page. The Chair and board allocated \$100 honoraria each for the interpretive guide and boat caption. Musings about a field trip for Chicago have begun, perhaps targeting nearby Indiana Dunes and the assistance of a local geographer or ranger.
5. Awards
  - a. The Student Illustrated Paper session attracted strong participation at all levels of students, with 8 actively judged papers from undergrads to masters and doctoral students.
    - i. The prize was award to Donna Selch (Florida Atlantic U. geosciences doctoral student) for her paper, "*Investigating the effectiveness of stream restoration strategies in urban tributaries using Ultrasonic Stage-height Datalogger (USD)*."

- ii. An honorable mention was noted for Sharika Gibson (U. Michigan – Dearborn) for her paper, *“Investigating the effectiveness of stream restoration strategies in urban tributaries using Ultrasonic Stage-height Datalogger (USD).”*
  - b. The Psuty Student Paper Merit Award had not been completed by the time of the business meeting.
    - i. Subsequently, judging concluded on Saturday and Ms. Christy Swann (TAMU) was selected as the winner for her paper, *“Defining the Threshold of Motion for Wind-blown Sand.”*
    - ii. There were only 3 Psuty papers this year, and while of high quality, the members discussed numerous initiatives to possibly increase participation to the level of recent years when we held multiple dedicated sessions.
  - c. The R.J. Russell Award was presented to Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman of Florida International U. Dr. Leatherman spoke for some time reflecting on his diverse experiences through his career. He was later recognized in the Tampa newspaper and also led a field trip to Fort DeSoto.
- 6. Elections
  - a. Tom Allen completed his third year as Chair of COMA and the office is succeeded by Harry Williams (unanimous vote, ascending as well by acclamation.)
  - b. Karsten Shein of NOAA NCDC was absent agreed to return to the Vice-Chair role and resume activity with a unanimous vote pending his agreement.
  - c. Tom Crawford will continue as Secretary-Treasurer of COMA for one more year.
  - d. Board members completing their terms this meeting were Keqi Zhang, Eugene Farrell , and Kate Renken (student rep.)
  - e. New board members elected were: Andrew Bennett (Barton College, Wilson, NC), Heidi Lannon (Sante Fe College, Gainesville, FL) and Robbie Munroe (doctoral student rep., ECU Coastal Resources Mgt. program.)
  - f. Offices to be filled next year in Chicago: One board member (Brian Marks’ term concluding), Secretary-Treasurer, and PhD student rep.
  - g. The continued contribution of Rich Daniels as the de facto officer/web editor was gratefully acknowledged.
- 7. Paper of the Year Award discussion
  - a. Proposed last year and tabled at the meeting, this idea was discussed by the members again and referred to the Board for further consideration. The notion of the award was well received, but some members suggest a more contemporary coastal-marine scholarly figure be recognized in the name of the award (vs. the historical figure, Mathew Fontaine Maury)
  - b. Text for the draft award will be referred to the new board and officers for reconsideration and proposed adoption at next year’s mtg.
- 8. New business
  - a. Proposed new incentive funds for Psuty Merit Award participation. Given only three students participating this year, the membership was in strong consensus about taking steps to incentivize greater participation. The members voted unanimously to spend

\$50 per student for up to \$500 from the treasury for participation support in the Psuty competition. The vote included the tasking of the board to craft text and amend the by-laws accordingly. The participation stipend would be awarded after the presentation. (Funds donated to COMA could be earmarked for this expense beyond the \$500.)

- b. Members discussed revisiting the coastal landscape photo set from the past that had been used as a way to raise revenue. No action was taken. There was also discussion about the possibility of a COMA Facebook site photo competition.
- c. Jennifer Rahm encouraged members to contribute with posts to the Facebook site. Currently, Jennifer is largely the sole contributor.
- d. Paul Gares reminded the group of opportunities to participate in a special issue of Physical Geography that is linked to the state hosting the AAG Annual Meeting. Perhaps there could be coastal-related research in Chicago or the Great Lakes relevant.
- e. Field trip ideas for the Chicago meeting were also briefly discussed, with requests for coastal-related specialists from the area sought or the possibility of a trip to nearby Indiana Dunes park and seashore.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm

---

Minutes provided by:

Dr. Tom Allen

Dept. of Geography, Planning, & Environment East Carolina University Greenville, NC 27858

Tel. (252) 328-6624