

– MINUTES –

**NCB-ESA Opening Session and Preliminary Business Meeting**

Best Western Ramkota Hotel – Rapid City, SD

Monday June 17, 2013

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – Lincoln Rm.

**I. Opening Session**

**A. Welcome: NCB-ESA President Billy Fuller**

1. President Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He acknowledged the collaborative effort by SDSU, NDSU, and USDA-ARS personnel in organizing this year's NCB-ESA meeting. He extended a special welcome to ESA President Rob Wiedenmann and Executive Director David Gammel.
2. Registration to date looks fairly good, and additional onsite registrants are expected during the next couple of days.
3. There was a slight problem with onsite meeting check-in and registration. The courier company failed to ship ESA Central's equipment/supply trunks to Rapid City ahead of time as planned. All of that has been resolved, and things are now running smoothly.
4. The pine beetle symposium held on Sunday was a nice addition to our program. It had excellent attendance numbers, and was a great way to start our conference in the Black Hills setting.

**B. Reports to Membership:**

1. **ESA** (Rob Wiedenmann, ESA President)  
President Wiedenmann deferred to Executive Director David Gammel for the report from ESA.
2. **ESA Central** (David Gammel, Executive Director)
  - a. Financial standing – ESA is in excellent shape
    - i. Total assets were at about \$6.2 million at the end of 2012 calendar year.
    - ii. Investments were at about \$5.1 million.
    - iii. Investments have been performing fairly well in Q1 of 2013.
  - b. 2012 annual meeting – Knoxville, TN
    - i. Very successful: 3rd-largest ESA meeting in history
    - ii. The ESA meeting has generally been growing during past several years.
  - c. 2013 annual meeting – Austin, TX
    - i. Early indicators suggest that it will also be a success.
    - ii. Submission rates are high at this time.
    - iii. Student submissions are up by about 4% in comparison to last year.
    - iv. Just about everything in Austin one would need during the conference is within walking distance of the convention center (CC). Also, all of the cooperating hotels are within about three blocks from the CC.
  - d. Governing Board's recently adopted strategic principles (being used as a guide on how ESA should focus its efforts for coming years)
    - i. Social – our leadership has a responsibility to develop our members

- A new “volunteer database” has been established. Please consider volunteering, and encourage your students and other young colleagues to get involved (enrollment is done via an online form).
  - Awards Review Committee - they are reviewing the current policy and procedures for all ESA and Entomology Foundation awards to determine the following:
    - Do some awards need revision?
    - Are there new areas that should have awards established
    - Are there some awards that are no longer relevant?
    - Should some be revised to avoid or reduce the potential for implicit/structural bias that could be limiting nomination/submission rates?
  - Student and Young Professionals committee – this is a presidential committee; it was reactivated this year to maintain and improve our engagement with students and young professionals associated with entomology (they are the fastest growing segment of our membership). Efforts are centered on increasing their attendance of and involvement in ESA and our annual meeting.
  - President Wiedenmann has been active with outreach and recruitment activities by reaching out to institutions and programs that do not traditionally send people to the ESA annual meeting, but are within easy reach of Austin. His aim has been to encourage their involvement in our Society and our annual meeting.
- ii. Global – the science of entomology is global, therefore ESA is global
- Last year, ESA won a bid to host ICE 2016.
    - The Congress will be held in Orlando, FL, and it will be merged with the ESA annual meeting.
    - Presentation submissions for ICE 2016 will open in 2014.
    - The planning committee is hoping for around 6,000 total attendees.
  - Outreach efforts: Pilot programs are being pursued in relation to group membership for students of other entomological organizations (e.g., the South Korean Entomological Society and the Entomological Society of Japan). The idea is that they could pay a nominal fee to their home society which, in-turn, would pay a group fee to ESA. The hope is that some of these young scientists would join ESA in the future.
  - ESA’s International Branch held its first annual meeting outside North America last year in South Korea, and another was held in Chile (co-located with a biocontrol meeting).
  - The Governing Board’s SYP (Student and Young Professionals) committee made \$65,000 available to young ESA members to provide partial support for their attendance of the 2012 ICE in South Korea.
- iii. Influence – to reach our full potential, ESA must increase its influence
- Feedback from our membership has suggested that our discipline of entomology has not had a strong voice or presence at the federal level where decisions on science policy and research funding are being made. The Governing Board has authorized ESA Central to begin developing a “science policy” program to address this issue.
  - The Science Policy Committee, a one-year presidential committee being chaired by Bob Peterson, is developing a set of proposed policy agenda (i.e., priorities) for ESA to pursue. The committee will report their recommendations to the

Governing Board, who will discuss and vote on approving the agenda during their summer meeting.

ESA has partnered with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) on the Congressional Visits program that will occur this August. The program enables individual scientists to arrange a visit with one or more members of the congressional delegation from their home district. They can take them to the field or show them their laboratories, and discuss various aspects of their research and why it is important. An orientation program will be provided to help scientists prepare for their visits.

- Mark Whalon is ESA's new EPA liaison. He regularly provides reports on his activities (e.g., meetings with EPA) on the ESA website. This program has been very productive. The liaison program has provided a lot of knowledge to EPA, and ESA has gained a lot of trust and credibility with them.
- ESA moved in to the new headquarters building in Annapolis in late-May. The new site will be great for staff productivity, and it will allow for small meetings and visits from ESA members and leadership.
- A new ESA website, entitled "Entomology Today" is going to be launched this year (most likely in July). Its key functions are 1) to allow ESA members and staff to post news content associated with entomology; and 2) to provide our membership and others interested in entomology an online source of information on what is happening out there in relation to our discipline.
- ESA is joining with some coalitions in support of travel by federal employees to attend professional society meetings. This is in response to recent (i.e., 2010 and beyond) cuts in travel budgets and associated difficulties for federal employees to obtain approvals for such travel.

### 3. **P-IE Section** (Paula Davis, P-IE Governing Council Rep.)

- a. P-IE accounts for over 40% of ESA's membership
  - i. Officers:
    - Gary Thompson, President
    - John Adamczyk, Vice President
    - Sujaya Rao, Vice President-elect
    - Bonnie Pendleton, Immediate Past President
    - Paula Davis, Treasurer
    - Melissa Willrich Siebert, Secretary
    - Alton Sparks, Jr., Governing Board Representative
  - ii. There are several openings on standing committees and ESA editorial boards. P-IE encourages members to get involved by serving in one of these roles. This also includes student members, as all ESA committees include student representation.
- b. Communications
  - i. Monthly teleconferences are held by P-IE leadership.
  - ii. A regularly published P-IE newsletter is sent out to all Section members.
  - iii. Updates and other items of interest are published on the P-IE section of the ESA website.
- c. External relations
  - i. P-IE strongly supports the Subject Matter Expert (EPA Liaison) program.
  - ii. P-IE pays for about 50% of the expenses relating to this activity.
  - iii. The section also provides funding support to the Plant Management Network.
- d. Student relations/involvement

The P-IE section funds awards at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Awards are used to support attendance and participation at the annual ESA meeting (includes a requirement to present a paper or poster at the ESA meeting).

- e. Volunteers are needed for the 2013 annual meeting.

A total of 105 volunteers were needed in 2012, so at least as many will be needed in 2013

**4. ESA Governing Board (John Obrycki, NCB Governing Board Rep.)**

- a. A motion during last year's NCB-ESA meeting directed Governing Board Representative Obrycki to investigate how having multiple branch or section memberships applies to elections and award nominations (i.e., can someone having dual branch or section membership be nominated in more than one branch or section?).  
ESA policy has been accordingly revised, and the verbiage regarding awards and elections has now been modified to clearly state that nominees are only eligible in their primary branch/section.
- b. An email was sent out to all NCB members to ask if there were specific issues or concerns that should be brought before the Governing Board.
- i. One concern was raised about how the decision was made to change the ESA logo; however, the individual said that if this was not a concern of more people, it may not need to be pursued further.
  - ii. A question was raised regarding activities of the Subject Matter Expert/EPA Liaison. The individual was directed to Mark Whalon's reports on the ESA website.
  - iii. A request was made for ESA Central to make the Science Policy Committee's findings (i.e., solicited commentary) available to the membership via posting on the ESA website. This was brought up with President Wiedenmann and Executive Director Gammel, and the information will likely be posted.

**II. Preliminary NCB Business Meeting:**

**A. Call to Order**

President Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

**B. Approval of 2012 Final Business Meeting minutes.**

President Fuller noted that Secretary-Treasurer Boetel had posted the 2012 minutes on the ESA website for review and had notified the membership of their posting. MOTION (Linda Mason) SECONDED (Shripat Kamble) to approve the minutes as posted. No discussion followed, and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

**C. Recognition of 2013 NCB-ESA leaders:**

**1. President Fuller introduced the following NCB-ESA Executive Committee members:**

- Sue Blodgett (ISU), President-Elect
- Fred Baxendale (UNL), Immediate Past President
- Mark Boetel (NDSU), Secretary-Treasurer
- John Obrycki (KY), ESA Governing Board Representative
- Eileen Cullen (WI), At-large member (2013): unable to attend
- Erin Hodgson (ISU), At-large member (2014)
- Linda Mason (Purdue), At-large member(2015)
- Mitchell Stamm (UNL), Student Representative

## **2. Recognition of NCB Committee Chairs & Co-chairs**

- Numerous people helped with organizing the meeting and selecting award winners.
- President Fuller urged all attendees to visit the “Hall of Honors” (located in breezeway outside the meeting rooms) which showcases our branch award winners, committee chairs, meeting organizers, and other branch leaders.

## **D. Introduction of Newly Elected officers:**

1. Matt O’Neal chaired the Nominations Committee during the past year, and they developed an excellent slate of candidates for the 2013 elections.

### **2. Results:**

- President-Elect – Paula Davis, DuPont Pioneer
- At-large member of the NCB Executive Committee – Robert Wright (UNL)

## **E. NCB Reports:**

1. Reports from Local Arrangements and Program Committees were given during the Executive Committee meeting. In the interest of concluding the Opening Business meeting on time, President Fuller decided to dispense with these reports; however, he acknowledged the excellent service and hard work carried out by these committees, and gave special thanks to the Chairs and Co-chairs of these important committees.

- Local Arrangements Co-chairs: Janet Knodel (NDSU), Louis Hesler (USDA-ARS, Brookings, SD)
- Program Chair: Kelley Tilmon (SDSU)

### **2. Treasurer’s report: Mark Boetel**

- a. Revenue from meeting registration is currently at \$29,100, but we expect a modest amount of additional income from onsite registration during the first couple of days during the conference.
- b. Sponsorship income for the meeting was fairly strong, totaling \$12,500. All but \$2,500 of pledged contributions have been received.
- c. The brokerage account, comprised of six mutual funds, has tended to perform fairly well during the past few years. It is not overly aggressive or conservative. It has mostly resulted in increased reserve funds for the Branch; however, there are no guarantees on how the funds within this account will perform in the future.
- d. This year’s NCB-ESA meeting budget is projected to approach break-even status, but most likely run a deficit of about \$425.
- e. The projected total NCB-ESA assets, after all bills are paid, are projected to be at around \$81,000. This includes brokerage, checking, and savings account balances and, as such, cannot be more accurately projected, largely due to the volatility associated with the mutual funds within the brokerage account.
- f. The minor deficit budget expected for this year’s meeting is well within the bounds of the recent Executive Committee decisions to modestly spend down some of our reserves. The Branch is now covered by ESA’s “meeting failure” insurance policy and, as such, we no longer need to maintain reserves to cover such a budgetary catastrophe. “Spend-down” initiatives during the past few years have included the following:

- i. Modest increases in student competition prize amounts and awarding prizes to first, second, and third place.
  - ii. Increasing travel stipends for the Linnaean Games winning and runner-up teams to \$2,500 for each team.
  - iii. Offering up to 20 NCB-ESA student travel scholarships to support students' travel to the Branch meeting.
  - iv. Increased Comstock and Graduate Student Scholarship awards from \$500 to \$1,000 each.
- g. These investments clearly demonstrate the interest in and support for student involvement in our Branch activities.
  - h. Continuing all of these spending initiatives and this overall "spend-down" philosophy cannot be sustainable for the long term, but the investments are in line with what was decided by our Branch leadership in recent years.

**F. Other Business:**

- 1. NCB Hall of Honors:  
The Hall of Honors display at this year's meeting was developed to acknowledge the excellence of our award winners.
- 2. Update on next Branch meeting:  
We will be returning to a March NCB meeting cycle for 2014. The plan is to hold the meeting March 9-12 in Des Moines, IA. Sue Blodgett, NCB President-elect, will present a more complete 2014 meeting update during the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday.
- 3. Necrology report (recognition of deceased NCB members):
  - a. Albin "Andy" W. Anderson, Research and Extension Entomologist, North Dakota State University
  - b. Robert J. Walstrom, Entomologist & former Dept. Head, South Dakota State University
  - c. Donald E. Mock, Medical & Veterinary Entomologist, Kansas State University

**G. Future Branch meetings:**

- 1. Sites for the 2015 and 2016 NCB-ESA meetings have not been identified.
- 2. States that have not hosted our Branch meeting in recent years include CO, MI, WI, KS, IN, IL.
- 3. Some initial inquiries have been made about potential hosts, but nothing has been decided. This will need to be discussed further during the Final Executive Committee and Final Business Meetings.

**H. NCB Student Travel Scholarships:**

- a. This program has been very popular with students.
- b. Funding of the program must be decided annually by the NCB President and the Executive Committee.
- c. Awarding of these scholarships is currently manageable, given the NCB-ESA's strong financial position.
- d. If the Executive Committee is forced to make budget cuts in the future, the Travel Scholarship program would be one elective expense that may need to be reconsidered.

**I. Additional New Business:**

- a. Nothing further was offered from the floor
- b. President Fuller made a few concluding remarks, acknowledging and thanking the following individuals for playing key roles in planning this year's NCB meeting:
  - i. Janet Knodel and Louis Hesler (Local Arrangements Co-chairs)
  - ii. Kelley Tilmon (Program Chair)
  - iii. Mark Boetel (Secretary-Treasurer and assistance with Local Arrangements)
  - iv. Fred Baxendale (Immediate Past-president) for significant advice
  - v. David Gammel, Neil Willoughby, Chris Stelzig, Richard Levine, and Alexis Lyons from ESA Central
- c. It was also noted that special acknowledgement of several people (e.g., committees and committee chairs) who served the Branch throughout the year appears on pages 6 to 8 of the program booklet.

- J. Adjournment:** MOTION (J. McPherson) SECONDED (G. Brewer) to adjourn the meeting. No discussion followed, and the motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Boetel  
NCB-ESA Secretary-Treasurer