

## **2009 Mid-Year Tidewater Chapter EXCOM Meeting Minutes**

### **Call to Order**

Fred Scharf called the meeting to order at 10:00 am on 11/20/2009.

### **Attendance**

Fred Scharf, Johnny Moore, Kevin Spanik, Bob Murphy, Stephanie McInerny, Michael Luisi, Ron Klauda, Sara Mirabilio, and Kevin Spanik

### **Welcome/Introductions**

**Fred Scharf** welcomed everyone to the meeting and did a quick overview of the agenda items.

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Stephanie McInerny** reported that the current checking account balance for the Tidewater Chapter was \$7,393.98. This balance includes a \$500.00 deposit for the 2010 poster social in Maryland.

**Stephanie** also reported that the Tidewater Chapter Mutual fund is currently valued at \$936.64 which has been on the rise since March. **Stephanie** recapped the mutual fund value as below \$600 in March, around \$800 in June, and currently above \$900. She also reiterated to the EXCOM that the money should not be pulled out of the stock market while we are at a loss.

**Stephanie** also reported that the 2009 taxes have been filed and that the 2010 taxes will be filed around April. The subunits do not need to file a tax return because they do not have their own Tax Identification Number or Employee Identification Number. They are considered part of the Chapter's income. If they get a TIN for themselves, they will need to file a separate return.

It was also mentioned that 2010 dues have increased from \$7.00 to \$10.00 and a lifetime membership is being offered for \$150.

**Fred** mentioned that the dues amount has not been changed on the Parent Society website or registration form. **Stephanie** assured the EXCOM that she would contact Gail Goldberg to get this resolved. **Mike Luisi** mentioned that he would like a list of members that have paid through the Parent Society to be compiled before the meeting to double check for those who have paid dues before the annual meeting. Anyone who has paid \$7.00 already will need to pay an additional \$3.00. This can be collected at the annual meeting. **Stephanie** mentioned that she will bring that list and a cash bank to be used to give change at the meeting for those paying dues.

## **2010 Annual Meeting Update**

**Mike** reported that the 2010 annual meeting will be held in Annapolis, Maryland from March 18-20. He was able to find a great deal on the Loews Annapolis Hotel which is located in downtown Annapolis, and has a 30-40 room contract set up for around \$99/night. The venues for the socials have been determined.

The poster social will be at the Navy Academy Football Stadium and TWC members will have open access to the field. The poster social will consist of an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. The Friday night social will be at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and will be a BBQ cookout with live band.

The talks will be held at the hotel and all fees for using the hotel facilities have been waived. Dates are set for Thursday through Saturday. **Fred** sent Mike a budget from last year and volunteered to help if needed. **Stephanie** warned about award monies and other hidden fees when planning the budget for the meeting.

**Bob Murphy** mentioned that John Kramer, director of Maryland Sea Grant, would like to help fund the meeting but wants the money to go to students. So this could help fund the student awards and possibly other awards.

**Mike** mentioned they have a deal with the print shop for programs. To cut costs, **Fred** mentioned last year's programs had a list of talks but had a list of abstracts available online to be downloaded separately if desired.

## **Scholarship and Awards Committee**

**-Ron Klauda** (chair) reported that 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards for student poster and oral presentations produced an annual cost of \$350. The outgoing president certificate costs about \$25 so at every meeting a total of \$375 is needed for awards. Also the other Tidewater Chapter awards; Meritorious, Conservation, and Excellence in Fisheries, could require an additional \$50 each for an engraved plaque. In addition, the Eileen Setler-Hamilton Award is a \$250 cash scholarship award that can be offered to students. However, this award has a somewhat complicated application process. Lastly, special presidential awards can also be given to a person or persons if the president so chooses, which could result in another \$50 each.

**Fred** mentioned the timing and content of the newsletters so that a solicitation for nominations can be included. Also officer solicitations need to go out before the meeting as well. **Sara** mentioned that award solicitations came out in the August newsletter to give plenty of time for nominations. **Fred** will send out an email for officer nominations for president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and for members at large. **Sara** mentioned that the bios need to run in the next newsletter so there can be a vote before the annual meeting. **Fred** will send out an email to ask officers to remain in their current position. If a position becomes vacant, nominations will be needed. If multiple nominations per position, then a vote is required.

**Fred** asked about the deadline for the next newsletter. **Sara** said it needs to go out at least 6 weeks before the next annual meeting so by February 1<sup>st</sup>. **Mike** mentioned that the call for papers would go out before the newsletter but **Stephanie** mentioned it should also definitely be in the newsletter.

**Sara** told Mike that Chad Smith has a placeholder on the website for annual meeting news so **Mike** can send the information to Chad to get it put on the site.

**Stephanie** mentioned that Roger Rulifson sent a list of email addresses from the listserv to her and **Fred** suggested that Chad could tackle updating this list. **Mike** said that he would like to take on this responsibility and he will coordinate with Chad and Roger about cleaning it up.

**Fred** confirmed that he will send out an email to the listserv for officers in early December and awards in early January.

A question was brought up about how to vote for any incoming nominations. **Sara** mentioned discussing this previously and suggested either by ballot in the newsletter to be mailed in, electronic ballot through email, or possibly through a online survey service like Survey Monkey. **Fred** volunteered to tally the votes and mentioned he will ask Scott Baker for help because he has experience doing these types of surveys.

**Ron** will also solicit for 6 student award judges; 3 for posters and 3 for orals. He commented that it was easier on the judges when only have to do posters or presentations and also mentioned that he doesn't want to have professors as judges if they have students who are presenting.

**Ron** also asked whether the next president-elect will be someone from Virginia or will it go back to Delaware. **Fred** commented that Dewayne is up for hosting another meeting but maybe Delaware should only be in every other cycle because Dewayne will be only one hosting from Delaware. Therefore, VA will have the 2011 candidate. Need to ask Kevin Spanik for input.

### **Student Subunit Dues**

**Fred** discussed that currently there are several student subunits in the Chapter. Originally, if the student was a member of the subunit then they were automatically members of the Chapter and did not have to pay Chapter dues. Since the Chapter is not charging students, there could be an option to charge the subunit dues of around \$50 per year. **Fred** asked for opinions on this.

**Stephanie** mentioned that this was historically like this because there was only one subunit. It was discussed that the students benefit by going to meetings, getting awards, and presenting papers. **Fred** thinks charging subunits for dues is reasonable. **Sara** discussed that some students are under the impression that they are responsible for paying chapter and subunit dues so things are getting confusing. It was suggested that the dues

structure be explained and the fees defined to the students and the subunit presidents and then try to vote on it at the annual meeting in March.

### **Suggestions or Comments on Website/Newsletter**

**Fred** asked Ron to send a list of previous award winners to Chad to be put on the website. **Kevin** made a suggestion of having minutes from previous meetings on the website. **Stephanie** confirmed that she is working on that.

It was mentioned that solicitation for judges could be placed on the website and **Stephanie** suggested putting the judging forms on the website so students would know what requirements the judges are looking for.

### **Other Business**

Ron mentioned that John Cooper's dad had passed away and asked if the Chapter would mention him in the newsletter since John's dad used to be very active in the Chapter.

Kevin asked about his responsibilities as a member at large. His duties consist of submitting to the newsletter, posting newsletters on bulletin boards, trying to increase membership in your state, helping with meeting when in your state, advertising student and other awards for the Chapter. Ron stated that the member at large should be the point person for the state. Kevin established that he was doing these things.

Bob mentioned that John Olney is quite ill and is getting hospice at home. Sara mentioned that his family is not taking phone calls or checking emails but she can send out their mailing address if people are interested.

### **Adjournment**

**Fred Scharf** motioned to adjourn the meeting at **11:10 am**.

Minutes submitted by: Stephanie McInerny