



## 2014 ENV Section Business Meeting

July 27, 2014

Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN

### MEETING NOTES

Present: Kathleen Bell, Xiang Bi, Kevin Boyle, Jerome Dumortier, Matthew Freeman, Cloe Garnache, Ben Gramig, Leah Harris, Dan Hellerstein, Matt Interis, Jingze Jiang, Robert Johnston, Luba Kurkalova, Gi-Zu Lee, John Loomis, Elizabeth Marshall, Glenn Schaible, Christopher Paul Steiner, John Stoll, Scott Swinton, Adriana Valcu, Jeremy Weber

#### I. Section Workshop

Presenter: Kevin Boyle

Discussion: Attendees discussed the possibility of a Section workshop outside of the regularly scheduled AAEA meetings. It was suggested that NIFA Conference money is relatively easy to obtain because there are few applicants. AAEA is also in the process of allocating funds towards \$5K awards to help sections start workshops. The AAEA also provides support in the form of handling the hotel, food, collecting fees, etc. A suggested target number of workshop attendees was about 50 people and there was also the suggestion of partnering with another group. We want to find a niche topic for the workshop that doesn't overlap with what AAEA is doing. Workshop topics were elicited from those present. Dan Hellerstein suggested discussing the future of valuation policy, noting that the ERS doesn't really use it any more. Other suggestions were the integration of economics into "black box" decision tools, and carbon permits.

Conclusions: Dan Hellerstein and Elizabeth Marshall volunteered to be on a committee with section Chair-elect Ben Gramig to develop the workshop.

Action items: Gramig, Hellerstein and Marshall will work together to explore funding possibilities, workshop topics/location, etc.

#### II. ENV Track Sessions

Presenter: Ben Gramig

Discussion: AAEA determines the number of sessions allocated to our section based on attendance at ENV sessions from previous years. It was suggested that sessions should ideally consist of invited speakers who are bigger names in the field to generate strong interest in the section sessions. Those present suggested some topics for the 2015 meetings including: big data, soil conservation & erosion, extreme weather events/climate change, permits trading, renewable energy, environment, and health.

Conclusions: It was decided that, to allow members not present to provide input, there would be an online call for suggested topics and speakers in the coming year for the sessions at the 2015 meetings.

Action items: Kathleen Bell and Matt Freeman volunteered to be on a committee with incoming Chair-elect Matt Interis to organize the sessions for 2015.

### III. Section Dues

Presenter: Rob Johnston

Discussion: The use of section membership dues for awards was proposed. Secretary/Treasurer Rob Johnston would lead a committee to discuss and propose section awards.

Conclusions: No change in dues amount for 2015-2016

Action items: None

### IV. 2014 Section Leader Meeting report

Presenter: Scott Swinton

Discussion: Scott Swinton, the (unofficial) section liaison to the AAEA Board discussed AAEA's vision for sections. The AAEA considers sections to be the "core" and to provide leadership and innovation in terms of the direction the AAEA takes in the future. The AAEA is currently focused on three main areas of investment: communication with a broader audience (CFARE, CHOICES, media relations, etc.), building the mentoring process, and cultural engagement (e.g. section meetings outside the annual meetings). A newly-hired media specialist will push emerging researchers and interesting papers and presentations into the media, much as is done in other scientific fields.

Conclusions: Section will continue to participate in CFARE activities/panels and work to organize a workshop/section meeting outside of the annual meeting, as was discussed in Agenda Item I.

Action items: None