

ANREP Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM EDT

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Erika Lyon (President), Kevin Zobrist (President-Elect), Bill Warren (Past-President), Chad Cook (Treasurer), Andrea Lazzari (Secretary), Dean Solomon (Executive Secretary), Carrie Stevenson (Southern Region), Danielle Rhea (Northeast Region), Daniel Stark (Western Region), Leslie Boby (PILD Representative)

Guests: None

Not Attending: Georgia Peterson (North Central Region)

1. Roll Call/Introductions/Guests

- Called to order at 3:01 PM

2. Additions to Agenda

- 2026 ANREP Conference Location

3. Assignment of Minute Proofreaders

- Bill Warren & Danielle Rhea

4. Update Reports – Outside Groups & Initiatives

- NREEF – Dean & Bill
 - Dean shared that two new trustees (from MD and NY) were recently welcomed to the group. Recent meeting highlights included the group wanting to support 2024 ANREP conference, perhaps through bringing back the poster contest and/or silent auction. Bill Warren shared that a Vice President was elected and they are working on recruiting a President.
- NEWFI - None
- JCEP –
 - Annual ELC will be held February 14-15 in Tampa, FL. Erika requested that regional reps make one last reminder to their regions about the upcoming conference.

5. Approve Minutes

- Dan moved to approve as written. Bill seconded motion. No discussion – motion passed unopposed.

6. President's Report - Erika

- Erika is settling into her new role and will be checking in with each committee over the next few months to help determine direction and workplans for each committee and their role in implementing the strategic plan.
- She reached out to University of Georgia about resubmitting proposal for Jekyll Island for 2026 conference.
- Other recent tasks include routine correspondence, invoice approval, and discussion with Bill about the ANR Communications textbook sponsorship request

7. Treasurer's Report – Chad

- Account Balances as of 12/31/2023
 - Checking (7411): \$121,819.25
 - Conference Checking (5982): \$33,267.05
 - Escrow Savings (5995): \$25,840.01
 - CD (2150): \$20,092.72
 - Total Assets: \$201,019.03
 - Previous Total: \$200,457.06
- Balance Activity
 - Withdrawals: payment to Google Workspace, Vieth Consulting, payment to Executive Secretary, payment to NREEF for outgoing Past-President gift
 - Deposits: membership dues
- Chad noted that there has been a recent uptick in membership renewals and that the 2024 budget has been updated and is available on the ANREP file archive.

8. Executive Secretary's Report - Dean

- Updated the ANREP website with new Executive Committee members, portal permissions, and Google Drive mailing list. Sent information to Carrie about creating regional emails and to Andrea about posting minutes to the portal.
- Activated 2024 awards nomination form and sent an email announcement to members. Updated the website awards page with current nomination information. 15 members are currently registered for the awards information webinar on January 23rd.
- Located the 2012 conference poster contest judging guidelines and process based on the conference committee's interest to revive the contest. The contest is an ANREP responsibility to organize and conduct, not the conference committee.
- Updated the P&P manual to include revised Executive Secretary roles and responsibilities list and posted to the website. Also updated the Executive Secretary contract to reflect the changes and increased compensation. Sent to Erika for review and signature.
- As of January 14, 194 members have renewed or joined for 2024 (20 new members to date). Total membership is 439, including life members. About 30 member renewals ahead of this time last year. Will send some follow up 'we-want-'you-back' emails in coming weeks to members who were dropped at end of last year because of 2023 dues non-payment.
- Ohio now has 60 members (now the 2nd highest enrollment following FL)

9. Regional Representative Updates

- Northeast – Danielle Rhea – nothing to report
- North Central – Georgia Peterson – not present
- Southern – Carrie Stevenson – nothing to report
- Western – Dan Stark – The 15th Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources is being hosted virtually by Oregon State University College of Forestry. They are now accepting abstracts and registration will be opening soon.

10. Committee Reports

- Professional Development Committee – Georgia Peterson
 - Georgia could not make the meeting but sent an update via email to share that the committee met last week and is making plans for a webinar series this coming fall.

They may need more volunteers to serve on the committee and details will be forthcoming.

- Scholarship – Chad Cook
 - The committee is currently reviewing the criteria from the previous year and working on updates for this year's application.
- ELC/PILD – Leslie Boby –
 - Leslie is the new representative for this committee.
 - She shared a reminder that PILD is coming in April. Erika suggested that regional reps remind their regions about PILD.
- 2024 Conference Planning Committee – Danielle (on behalf of Jen)
 - Danielle shared that final website updates are being made and abstracts have been judged and ranked. They are working on putting together a schedule and will be notifying people by January 22nd (hopefully). Trying to schedule some morning refreshers. Took a tour of the Hershey Lodge – seems very accommodating and easy to work with and great amenities.
 - NREEF Poster Contest Sponsorship – the general consensus of the group was that this support would be great and that it would allow NREEF to be represented more prominently at the national ANREP conference. Carrie made the motion to allow NREEF to sponsor and judge the poster contest contingent on them finding a volunteer to spearhead this project and Chad seconded – motion passed unopposed.

11. Old Business

- None

12. New Business

- ANR Communications Textbook Chapter Sponsorship Request
 - Erika and Bill received an email from a UF faculty member requesting sponsorship of a chapter of an ANR Communications textbook. There was some general confusion and concern about the request due to lack of information and context. Board members reached out to contacts at their respective universities who were listed as authors of the textbook and were able to confirm the legitimacy of the project though no additional information on the sponsorship request was able to be given.
 - Discussion followed about whether the board felt that chapter sponsorship was a good fit for ANREP. Some concerns that were shared included a lack of professionalism in the sponsorship request, lack of detail, inability to access the textbook (though it is accessible online now), lack of a pilot program or soft launch of the textbook for feedback, lack of content rigor and citations, no funds being allocated within the current budget for this request, and a stronger agriculture focus of the textbook versus natural resources.
 - Ultimately, the group decided that chapter sponsorship would not be of benefit to our membership and therefore, not a good use of membership dues. Erika will reach out to decline the request.

13. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:41 PM.