

Minutes of the ASA Section on Environment and Technology Business Meeting

August 17, 2003, Atlanta

Approximately 40 people attended. The meeting was called to order by Chair-elect, Phil Brown. Since Chair Loren Lutzenhiser could not be present, Phil Brown took over as Chair in that absence. He provided an overview of this year's sections sessions and events, and thanked Brian Mayer and Rebecca Gasior for organizing Roundtables.

The Chair announced that David Naguib Pellow had won the C. Wright Mills Award from SSP for Garbage Wars.

Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Gould reported on the Section's budget. He reported estimated annual expenditures of \$2,850, from projected revenues totaling \$2,948 resulting in a \$98 surplus. The Treasurer noted that revenues are dependent on membership numbers that determine dues income as well as ASA allocations to the section. He mentioned that Council was considering moving to an electronic newsletter that would reduce costs, but also potentially reduce ASA allocations, noting that the newsletter was the section's primary annual expense. The Section awarded \$200.00 to the winner of the Olsen Student Paper.

The Chair announced that the new Chair-Elect is Stella Capek and the new Secretary/Treasurer is Bob Brulle. New Council members are Steve Zavestoki and Dana Fisher. New Student Council Representative is Marcia Hill Gossard. Phil thanked Loren Lutzenhiser and Ken Gould for their service to the section.

Susan Roschke, outgoing Editor of the section's newsletter, noted that she needed a replacement and requested contributions for the newsletter.

J. Timmons Roberts noted that the transition to the new section listserv had resolved many of the problems with the old listserv, and noted that the section needs a new list manager.

The Chair indicated that Robert Gardner, a grad student at Colorado, would take over from Rik Scarce as Webmaster. Andrew Van Alstyne, a grad student at Michigan, will take over as new list manager.

Two awards were presented at the meeting. Ken Gould presented the Distinguished Contribution Award to Craig Humphrey of Pennsylvania State University. Phil Brown presented the Olsen Student Paper Award to Kari Norgard of the University of Oregon.

Steve Zavestoski, Chair of the Membership Committee, reported that we have 350 members, and need to reach 400 for our usual session allocations. The possibility of accepting the reality that we are actually a smaller section was briefly discussed yet again.

The Chair noted plans for the 2004 meetings in San Francisco, including the rediscovery of the obligation for a combined session with the section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements. The Chair indicated that a Council suggestion of a session on environment and the 2004 elections might be appropriate for the co-sponsored session. The Chair also indicated that Council suggested a

session on world conflicts and resources, as well as a session on labor and the environment. The Chair reminded section members that the section is participating in a special ASA session on environmental justice and environmental health movements marking the 25th (or 26th) anniversary of Love Canal. Lois Gibbs, Bob Bullard and Ted Smith (Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition) will be featured speakers at the special session. The Chair thanked David Pellow and Bob Brulle for organizing the special session, and noted that the Council is seeking external funding from publishers, Bay Area universities, environmental organizations, and foundations to cover the estimated \$3,000 that airfare for Lois Gibbs and the reception will require.

The Chair requested self-nominations for the committee to provide input on EPA and NSF requests to NRC/NAS for a study on “Social and Behavioral Science Research Priorities for Environmental Decision Making” hopefully to be headed by Gene Rosa, if he accepts.

The Chair then addressed the proposal for restructuring the section offices and responsibilities intended to streamline and clarify a division of labor within the section. The proposal was briefly reviewed. The Chair noted that the Council concluded that all section office terms should be two years in length except for that of Secretary/Treasurer so as to provide continuity in the transition from Chair-Elect to Chair. He indicated that Council had made some minor changes to the initial proposal, including the inclusion of the Olsen and Distinguished Contribution Awards within the Policy and Research Committee. He also noted that the Publications Committee would produce a new brochure for the section. The By-Laws of the section can only be revised by special ballot, and the Chair indicated that the special ballot would be sent out prior to the spring section elections. Bill Freudenburg asked if the Council had approved the restructuring proposal. The Chair and Secretary/Treasurer responded that the process had been consensual and the approval unanimous.

The Chair then announced the time, location and address of the section reception.

The meeting ended with several members making announcements including: Lori Hunter encouraged submissions to the Journal of Rural Sociology. A special issue of the Journal of World Systems Research focusing on globalization and environment was announced. Bill Freudenburg noted that Rural Sociology is very amenable to environmental articles, even his own. Job openings at the University of Oregon were announced. The formation of a new ASA section on Consumption and Consumerism was announced, and received dispiriting jeers. The Chair noted that we still need committee volunteers, and received volunteers. Combined with volunteers from the Council meeting, the following committee assignments are tentatively arranged (if the restructuring proposal passes, some of these committees will have newly elected chairs, with the existing members and chairs hopefully staying on).

The new Policy and Research Committee will include Dana Fisher and Bill Freudenburg, and hopefully Gene Rosa.

The Outstanding Publication Committee will be chaired by Craig Humphrey and will include Scott Frickle and Tammy Lewis.

The Olsen Student paper Award Committee will be chaired by Maggie Alario and will include Karen O’Neill and John Bellamy Foster.

The Nominations Committee will be chaired by David Naguib Pellow, if he accepts, and Steve Kroll-Smith and Lori Hunter will be members. Otherwise Steve Kroll-Smith will chair it, and one other member will be appointed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth A. Gould,
Secretary-Treasurer