

Minutes of the ASA Environment and Technology Business Meeting
August 16, 2005
Philadelphia, PA

The Chair, Phil Brown, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. The chair acknowledged the excellent ceremony for Fred Buttel and thanked all of those responsible. He also briefly highlighted his written report.

Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Brulle, reported on the Section's budget, and noted that we should have a net worth of approximately \$7,500 by next years meeting.

Phil Brown then welcomed the new members to the Section Council, and noted the need for 5 new officers for the section this coming year: (1) Secretary/treasurer, (2) Policy and Research Committee Chair, (3) Nominations Committee Chair, (4) Student representative, and (5) Council member at large.

Beth Caniglia summarized the Membership Committee report, and discussed the possibility to conducting a survey of members on ways to increase membership.

Richard York summarized the Publications Committee report, and stated that a membership survey will be conducted to determine the key publications in the area of Environmental Sociology. Stephen Scholz discussed the newsletter and established that it will be issued on a quarterly basis. He also solicited submissions from members.

Maurie Cohen summarized the Policy and Research Committee report, and commented on the excellent turnout for the special symposium on the Death of Environmentalism. He then discussed developing responses to policy issues by the E & T section, and the development of liaisons with other groups in the environmental social sciences. Phil Brown summarized the response to the incident with Willy Fonteneau, and the need for the section to participate in these types of issues. There was an extended discussion of the award fro the "Outstanding Publication Award" and the comparison of papers vs. books for the award. It was the consensus of the membership that the awards cycle between books and papers on a yearly basis, and that both papers and books be eligible for the award for a 3 year time period.

Stella Capek, chair-elect, discussed the 2006 ASA meeting in Montreal. She plans to have an "Author meets Critics" session as well as both a thematic and open session. She is also looking into the possibility of co-sponsored sessions with the Urban and Community Section. She then mentioned that there was a need to consider the length of the term of office for the chair (4 years - 2 as chair-elect, and 2 as chair), and how this serves as a deterrent to being section chair. She also urged members to submit papers to the sections, and asked for assistance in planning the meeting.

Bob Brulle then discussed the requirements for the Distinguished Contribution Award. He noted that it requires a 2 - 2½ page letter, and a vita of the proposed recipient. He actively solicited nominations for this award.

The presentation of awards for 2005 was then conducted. The Outstanding Publication Award was awarded in abstentia to Dara O'Rourke, and Honorable Mention for the Outstanding Publication Award was awarded to Scott Frickel by Maurie Cohen. The Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism was presented in abstentia to William James Smith Jr. The Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award was presented by Bill Freudenberg to Lee Clarke.

Jeffrey Broadbent made a brief presentation about the value of an off-site event for increasing membership in the section, and the plans for visiting the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation in conjunction with the next ASA convention in Montreal were discussed.

A number of announcements regarding upcoming job openings and publication opportunities were then made. The meeting concluded with the assumption of the office of Section chair by Stella Capek.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert J. Brulle
Secretary-Treasurer