

Minutes of the ASA Environment and Technology Council Meeting
August 15, 2005
Philadelphia, PA

Present: Phil Brown, Robert Brulle, Laurie Hunter, Beth Caniglia, Steve Scholz, Stella Capek, John Foster, Maurie Cohen, Timmons Roberts, Richard York

The Chair, Phil Brown, called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM. The chair submitted his report. In his remarks, he summarized the written report, and noted the special ASA session on the Death of Environmentalism organized by Maurie Cohen went very well. He also discussed the turnover of the section chairship to Stella Capek, and the need for all officers to provide the newly incoming officer with detailed information on the duties of the office.

Stella Capek submitted the report of the chair-elect. She then discussed the need to have both an open and thematic session for the E & T section at ASA. She also plans to look into both an "Author meets Critics" session, and cosponsoring sessions with the Urban and Community Section at the 2006 ASA convention. She also reported on the efforts to "Green" the ASA. Finally, there was concern expressed by the Chair-elect, and the incoming Chair-elect - Timmons Roberts, about the 4 year term (2 as chair-elect and 2 as chair) involved in the office of section chair.

Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Brulle, submitted and summarized the report on the Section's budget.

Bob Edwards was unable to attend the session, and submitted the Nominations Committee report in writing (attached). In his absence, Phil Brown welcomed the new officers, and discussed the elections to be held for 2006. Five officers will need to be elected, including a (1) new secretary/treasurer, chairs of the (2) Policy and Research Committee, (3) Nominations Committee, (4) a student representative, and (5) a council member at large.

Beth Caniglia submitted the Membership Committee Report. She reported that we have 356 members, and plans to conduct a survey of members regarding ways to increase section membership.

Richard York submitted the Publications Committee report. He discussed the new section brochure. He also discussed conducting a membership survey to determine what the key journals are in the area of Environmental Sociology. Steve Scholz reported on the newsletter, and discussed the reissuing of the previous edition, with corrections, and the development of a schedule of quarterly issues of the newsletter. There was much discussion regarding the distribution of a printed vs. electronic version of the newsletter. In the end, the majority of the council thought that the current electronic version should be retained to save section funds for other uses.

Maurie Cohen submitted the report of the Policy and Research Committee. He discussed the successful symposium on the Death of Environmentalism, and discussed some further plans to continue this type of activity. There was also an extended discussion of the award of the Outstanding Publication Award, and the incomparability of articles vs. books in the award. It was tentatively decided to alternate between books and papers in the yearly award of this award, subject to the approval of the general membership of the section.

Jeffrey Broadbent and Michiro Umino, President of the Japanese Association of Environmental Sociology, then made a presentation regarding the field trips of the JAES, and how this has served to increase membership in the Association. After some discussion, the council decided to start small with field trips, and will explore the possibility of holding a one day field trip associated with the ASA meeting in Montreal to the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation, followed by a panel discussion. Stella Capek will work with Ken Gould to plan this event. The council adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert J. Brulle
Secretary-Treasurer