



Organization of Biological Field Stations

Supporting environmental research, education, and public understanding

Founded
1966

Annual Report 2016-2017

OBFS GOVERNANCE

Email address and duties available on the OBFS website

Elected Positions (Executive Committee) (all terms are for 2 years and begin on April 1st. Only the Secretary and Treasurer may run for consecutive terms)

President	Paul Foster	2016-2018
Past President	Sarah Oktay	2016-2018
Vice President	Chris Lorentz	2017-2019
Secretary	Stacy McNulty	2016-2018
Treasurer	Philippe Cohen	2017-2019
At-Large (1)	Sylvia Torti	2017-2019
At-Large (2)	Jennifer Seavey	2016-2018
At-Large (Early Career)	Anne Kelly	2016-2018

Board Selected Officer Positions (terms are for 2 years, beginning on April 1st, and may be renewed)

Editor	David White	2016-2018
Network Coordinator	Jason Tallant	2016-2018

Organizational Standing Committee Chairs. The business of OBFS is conducted through committees. Committee Chairs are appointed by the Executive Committee for 1 year with terms beginning January 1st and may be renewed. Chairs assume seats on the Board of Directors.

Annual Meeting	Chris Lorentz	2017-2019
Human Diversity	Amy Whipple	2017
International	Carlos de la Rosa	2017
Governance	Eric Nagy	2017
- Sub Finance	Peter Conners	n.a.
- Sub Nominating	Sarah Oktay	2016-2018
Org Development	Brian Kloeppel	2016
Outreach	Chris Lorentz	2016
Historian	Mary Hufty	2016

The *Annual Report* is produced at the Hancock Biological Station and posted as a public document on the website (www.obfs.org) as a PDF file. This edition, along with previous *Annual Reports*, is publically available. All inquiries should be addressed to editor@obfs.org.

The OBFS *Annual Report* contains results of elections, standing committee reports, minutes of the annual meeting, and other business of the organization. This report covers OBFS activities for the period of 9/1/2016 through 8/31/2017.

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2016-2017 Presidents' Report

Paul Foster

It has been an exciting and fruitful year for OBFS. We celebrated our 50th anniversary at the 2016 meeting hosted by the Sitka Sound Science Center. At the meeting we awarded Peter Connors the Friend of OBFS award for his years of service to OBFS in several roles including leading the Finance Committee and head auctioneer. Peter declared the 2016 meeting his last and we will miss his presence, guidance, and humor as we continue on into the future.

An article summarizing the history of OBFS over its first 50 years has been submitted to the Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America and should be published in October.

OBFS was asked to collaborate with other scientific societies on several letters to policy makers. These usually were initiated by AIBS and included topics such as climate change and policies towards science from the Presidential candidates. Copies of the letters are available at the end of this report. Signing the letters usually was decided by the board.

We had a very successful Development event in New York, City in October. More than 80 guests gathered to hear Dr. Gene Likens receive the OBFS Award for Distinguished Service to Field Science. Gene's remarks were followed by a short talk by the actor, Mark Ruffalo. Mark will receive the Friend of OBFS award at the 2017 meeting at Lake Itasca.

Social media continue to improve communication between the organization, OBFS members and those who want to use OBFS field stations. Our Facebook page increased to 1,233

Total Likes and 1,215 Total Follows. We also maintain a Twitter account to publicize events including congressional visits and our annual meeting. The webpage continues to be our main portal for communication on the web. Our webmaster, Jason Talent seamlessly migrated the website to an updated version of MemberClicks.

In April we welcomed two new members to the Board: Anne Kelly is serving in the early career member at large position. Sylvia Torti joined the board in April having been elected to one of the member at large positions. Damon Gamon left the board having served his term as Vice-President and organizing the past two annual meetings, among other duties. He was replaced by Chris Lorentz who was elected in December. Reid Bertone-Johnson's term as Member at Large also ended in April.

We expect an equally successful 2017-2018 with participation from more member representatives and the work of the organization spread to more volunteers. A recent membership survey identified several priority areas for OBFS (see Page 41). Our 2018 meeting will be in Maine at the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park. I would be happy to elaborate on any these points or more about OBFS with you when we gather in a few weeks in Lake Itasca or via email.

Sincerely,
Paul Foster
pfoster@bijagual.org

2016 Elections

The 2016 election of officers took place in late November through early December. Offices open were Vice President, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large (1). Anne Kelley agreed to fill the vacant position of Early Career Member-at-Large, and her position will be up for election in 2017. Because she is filling a vacancy, she will be eligible to run for that office in 2017.

Chris Lorentz was elected Vice-President; Philippe Cohen was reelected Treasurer; Sylvia Torti was elected Director at Large (1). OBFS greatly appreciates **Grant MacNeil, Michael Stevens, Bret Biebuyck, Jennifer Tisthammer, Lauren Bell, Michelle Lawing, and Elizabeth Long** for their willingness to serve as Board members and stand for office!

The ballot also contained a rewording of one section of the Bylaws. The change passed. A full copy of the OBFS Bylaws is available at https://obfst.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/obfs_bylaws_v.08jan2016.pdf

Electronic ballots

Year	No of voters
2016	100
2015	85



Paper ballots

Year	No of voters
2014	99
2013	83

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2012	83	2006	66
2011	77	2005	52
2010	66	2004	41
2009	47	2003	54
2008	55	2002	38
2007	67	2001	59

Meet your Board of Directors for 2017



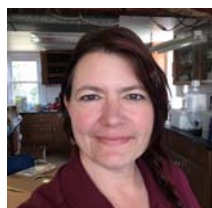
Paul Foster – OBFS President

I am the director of the Bijagual Ecological Reserve located in northern Costa Rica. My role as President of OBFS is to preside at board meetings and run the annual meeting. I also oversee the functioning of board committees and in general, supervise the affairs of the organization. I can be reached at president@OBFS.org.



Chris Lorentz – Outreach & Outreach Committee Chair

I am the Director of the Thomas More College Biology Field Station and Professor of Biology. In my role as Chair of the Outreach & New Member Committee, I organize the welcome reception at the annual meeting, assist in the overall scheduling of the meetings, and help communicate information about OBFS to new members and the general public, at large. I can be reached at lorentc@thomasmore.edu.



Sarah Oktay – Past President

I am Director of Institutional Advancement at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Crested Butte, Colorado. Previously I was executive director of the Nantucket Field Station. I oversee procedures for nominations for officers and board members and also perform other duties assigned by the Board of Directors. I can be reached at past-president@OBFS.org.



Stacy McNulty – OBFS Secretary

I am the Associate Director of the Adirondack Ecological Center, a field station of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry located in Newcomb, NY. I am responsible for taking the minutes during the annual meetings and for all Board of Directors conference call meetings. I am custodian of the corporate records and keep a register of the mailing address of each voting member as provided by such member. I can be reached at secretary@OBFS.org.



Philippe Cohen – OBFS Treasurer

I am the recently retired Executive Director of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve located near Stanford University's campus in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. I am responsible for the financial affairs of the corporation and coordinate with the secretary to prepare a register of current voting and non-voting members. I also am the primary contact related to renewing or joining OBFS. I can be reached at treasurer@OBFS.org.

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Sylvia Torti – OBFS Director at large

Currently, I am dean of the Honors College at the University of Utah and Associate Director of Mapping Meaning (www.mappingmeaning.org). I am responsible for duties as defined by the Board or Directors. I can be reached atsylvia.torti@utah.edu



Jennifer Seavey – OBFS Director at Large

I am the Executive Director of Shoals Marine Laboratory, a joint field facility of the University of New Hampshire and Cornell University located on Appledore Island, Maine. I am responsible for duties as defined by the Board or Directors. I can be reached at jrs583@cornell.edu



Anne Kelly – Member at Large - Early Career

I presently am a new director of two field stations managed by UC Merced in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. I am responsible for duties as defined by the Board or Directors. I can be reached at akelly5@ucmerced.edu



David White – OBFS Editor

I am the director of Murray State University's Hancock Biological Station located on Kentucky Lake in the far western part of Kentucky. In my role as OBFS Editor, I produce the Annual Reports that can be found on this site under Public Documents. I also am responsible for managing the annual elections and other member votes. I can be reached at editor@OBFS.org



Jason Tallant – Network Coordinator

I am the Data Manager for the University of Michigan Biological Station. My role as OBFS web site manager is to ensure that the features, user interface, and operation of the website meet management and outreach needs of the organization. I can be reached at webmaster@obfs.org.



Brian Kloeppel – Organizational Development Committee Chair

I am the Dean of the Graduate School and Research at Western Carolina University and collaborate with Highlands Biological Station in Highlands, North Carolina. In my role as OBFS Development Chair, I organize and coordinate OBFS Development events with help from several others of our OBFS Board of Directors and station members. I can be reached at bkloeppel@wcu.edu

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David Maneli – International Committee Co-Chair

I am the science and communication manager at Gault Nature Reserve of McGill University located in Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada. I am responsible for recruiting international station members and for facilitating and enhancing international participation in OBFS. I can be reached at david.maneli@mcgill.ca



Carlos de la Rosa – International Committee Co-Chair

I am the Director of the La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. I am responsible for recruiting international station members and for facilitating and enhancing international participation in OBFS. I can be reached at carlos.delarosa@tropicalstudies.org



Eric Nagy – OBFS Governance Committee Chair

I am Associate Director of the Mountain Lake Biological Station, University of Virginia. I am responsible for working with the finance and nomination subcommittees and making sure the Bylaws are adhered to. I can be reached at esn8n@virginia.edu



Mary Hufty – OBFS Historian

I am responsible for maintaining historical records of OBFS activities: Newsletters, correspondence, photographs, etc. I can be reached at hufty@mac.com



Amy Whipple – Human Diversity Committee Chair

I am an Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and the Director of the Merriam-Powell Research Station at Northern Arizona University. My duties include chairing the selection committee that determines the recipient of the annual Human Diversity Award. I can be reached at Amy.Whipple@nau.edu

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach/New Welcome Committee Report - Chris Lorentz

Each year at the annual meeting, the Outreach/New Welcome Committee hosts a reception for new member stations. This past year at the Sitka meetings, over 25 individuals attended and expressed much interest in getting more involved with OBFS. Information on governance, committees and the BESC Congressional Visits Day was presented.

In April of 2017, a survey was distributed to the members via Survey Monkey, containing 15 questions that covered a wide variety of topics related to membership, annual meetings, committees and priorities for OBFS. Sixty-six responses were received. A summary

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of the survey results appears on Page 41 of this annual report. The data were analyzed in May, and a report on the survey results was distributed via the member listserv. The responses were taken into consideration when planning the 2017 annual meeting, and in particular, the 12 topics for the concurrent sessions were based off of interests expressed by the members in the survey.

At the 2018 annual meeting at Lake Itasca, a greater emphasis will be placed on committees and getting more members to join them.

BESC Congressional Visits Day - Chris Lorentz

Each year, the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC), a group co-chaired by AIBS, hosts a Congressional Visits Day in Washington, DC. This event is an opportunity for scientists to meet with their members of Congress about the importance of federal support for biological research and education. Event participants advocate for federal investments in biological sciences research, with a primary focus on the National Science Foundation, as well as other agencies (https://www.aibs.org/public-policy/congressional_visits_day.html).

This year's event was held on April 25-26, 2017 in Washington, DC. Four OBFS members took part: 1) Brian Kloeppel (Western Carolina University), 2) Matt Norwood (Chincoteague Bay Field Station), 3) Jennifer Seavey (Shoals Marine Laboratory), 4) John Valentine (Dauphin Island Sea Lab), and 5) Brianna Zuber (Mendocino College). The first day of the event was a training program that prepared participants for meetings with congressional offices. It included presentations on the federal budget and effective communication with policymakers. The second day was spent on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress and their staff.



2016 Friend of OBFS Recognition

In 2016, Dr. Peter Connors, former Reserve Director of the Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory in California, was awarded the Friend of OBFS Award at the Sitka Science Center meeting for his long-time service to OBFS and his leadership and promotion of field stations.

2015 Mary Hufty Local Hero Award

In 2016 at Sitka Sound Science Center the [Mary Hufty] Local Hero Award was presented to Drs. David and Margaret Steward who grew up in the culture of science in and around field stations. Norton's and Steward's fathers worked in field stations in China and the western US, respectively.

OBFS Human Diversity Award

The award recognizes unique activities, program, or approaches (funded or unfunded) that increase the involvement, engagement, and sustainability of underrepresented groups in field science. The Award includes a permanent plaque for the winning station; a second traveling OBFS plaque recording current and previous winners to be housed at the facility for one year; an official announcement at the annual meeting in September; and recognition on the OBFS website. The award may include a travel reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for awardees to attend the annual OBFS meeting if their travel funds are limiting.



The 2016 Human Diversity Award went to Santa Rosa Island Research Station of California State University. Strong positive attributes include a deeply-connected and integrated research, education, and public resource stewardship program that spans academic levels and socio-economic groups creating a lasting community connected to the station.

International Committee Report - Carlos Luis de la Rosa

This year we made attempts to attract several international stations to become OBFS members. These included The Monte Mojino Reserve stations, in Sonora, Mexico; the E. O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory, in the Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique; and the OTS' Skukuza Research Station, at Kruger National Park, South Africa. We offered to find sponsors for their membership and the opportunity to apply for Travel Assistance for the Itasca meeting. Unfortunately, the managers of these stations have been extremely busy this year and may not be able to attend the meeting (none requested travel assistance).

For the Itasca meeting, we received one request for travel assistance from Kalamos Island Field Station, in Kalamos, Western Greece. Ted Karfakis, the director, will join us in Itasca.



2016 Organizing committee with Mark Ruffalo and Gene Likens



Featured guest, actor Mark Ruffalo, addresses the event

Development and Friend-Raising

Organization of Biological Field Stations holds events to share the assets of and excitement about field stations with a broader cross section of society and to stimulate private funding investment in OBFS. Attendees learn about the role of OBFS member stations in education and research.



Mark Ruffalo meets with graduate students.

On October 6, 2016, nearly a hundred people attended an OBFS friend-raising event at the New York Academy of Sciences. The reception was held on the 40th Floor of 7 World Trade Center overlooking an incredible view of Manhattan. Approximately 80 invited guests attended including supporters of OBFS field stations and New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences Risk Econ Lab who co-sponsored the event

The featured guest was actor Mark Ruffalo who is a passionate activist for clean water and renewable energy. Ruffalo advised that scientists needed to engage people directly to be effective. He encouraged scientists to “drop the fear—be bold” and to “speak out” and “engage” because we are at a crisis point in history and good science is paramount.

OBFS Award for Distinguished Service to Field Science



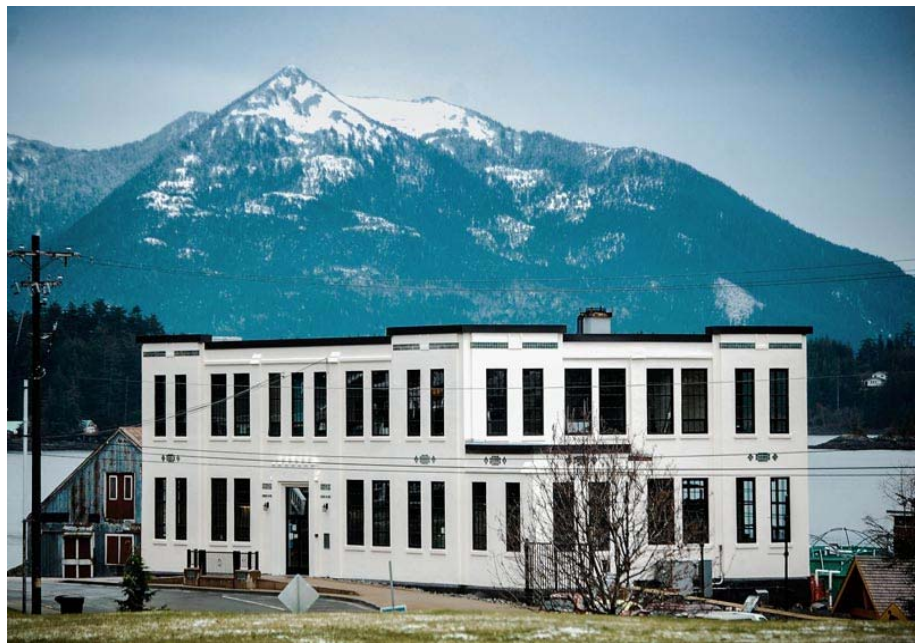
Bill Schuster (left, OBFS Board Member) and Paul Foster (right, OBFS President) present the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Gene Likens (center).

At that friend-raising event, Dr. Gene Likens of the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies received the first OBFS Award for Distinguished Service to Field Science. Research by Likens and colleagues led to the characterization of acid rain, ultimately resulting in improvements in national air and water quality via landmark policy via amendments to the U.S. Clean Air Act of 1990. In his acceptance speech, Likens emphasized that field stations ignite a lifelong spark of discovery in young people. . Dr. Gene Likens celebrated the role of biological field stations and encouraged us to “keep doing the good work” that leads to science and discovery.

Photographs by Garrett Ewald ©



ANNUAL OBFS MEETING AT THE SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER



Happy birthday to us!



Pictures at the Exhibition

CELEBRATING THE END OF OUR
50TH YEAR AT THE SITKA SOUND
SCIENCE CENTER, SITKA, ALASKA

Photo credits: D. White, P. Cohen, and S. Oktay. Picture of SSSC building from their website.

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016

Board members present: David White, Eric Nagy, Paul Foster, Jason Tallant, Philippe Cohen, Reid Bertone-Johnson, Stacy McNulty, Sarah Oktay, Bill Schuster, Damon Gannon, Jenn Seavey.

Additional participants: Marie Ann de la Fuente, Francie Schuster.

To do:

1. Stacy include Art's statement about Tom Callahan as an attachment
2. Stacy will include budget Q&A as an attachment
3. Paul will send the budget formatting suggestions to the whole board

Meeting started 6:46 PM Alaska time

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of August 18, 2016 meeting minutes (Paul, Stacy)
 - a. Paul motioned to accept as corrected, and Philippe seconded. Passed unanimously.
2. OBFS Meeting Opening (Tom Callahan) Rules
 - a. Philippe read Art McKee's statement reflecting on the rules and being sensitive to a diversity of opinions and transition to a larger meeting where the cultural memory is different.
 - b. Philippe moved we no longer read Callahan's rules and be open to an alternative statement in the future. Eric wants NOT to adapt the rules. Stacy suggests OBFS draft a resolution in honor of Tom's contributions to OBFS. Damon seconds. Motion carries unanimously.
3. Final items for 2016 annual meeting (Sarah and Damon)
 - a. Nominating Committee – on Friday morning, Sarah will mention nominations and Eric will provide a governance overview along with the open committee chairs. Nominations are open till the end of the annual members' meeting on Sunday.
 - i. David will collect nominee names and emails.
 - b. Other announcements about auction will be made on Friday morning as well.
 - i. Email any announcements to Paul Foster.
4. Treasurer Reports (Philippe)
 - a. Stacy will attach the questions about the budget at the end of these meeting notes.
 - b. We under spent by ~35% of budgeted costs. Part of this is due to assuming no revenue from development events, but in 2017 Philippe will start including event revenue.
 - i. See Paul's suggestions for formatting the lines, e.g., auction, general revenue, IRS reporting requirements on value of goods and services donated in auction
 1. Paul will send the suggestions to the whole board
 - ii. For the development event in 2017, we need a higher estimated cost in the budget so the Dev. committee can move forward with contracting a venue, etc.
 - iii. We also need a statement to share with potential donors who want to know our financial position and the reasons for fundraising.
 1. Development Committee will report to board at next meeting
 2. Philippe – the board needs to revisit the OBFS Business Plan for the goals statement and rationale. We want members (and donors) to be clear about what goes into the restricted fund and where revenues are going generally.
 3. Philippe will ask Lisa Busch to print ten copies of the budget projections so members can review it prior to the business meeting
 - iv. Funds will be moved from Sentinel to Vanguard fund manager. We can then diversify investments more easily as well as save on fees.
 1. Need two or three other owners of the account for security. We will have to update it annually. Sara makes a motion that the in addition to the Treasurer, the OBFS President, Secretary and Chair or representative of Finance Committee be signatories. The VP audits the accounts, so that person cannot be one of the owners. Jenn seconds. Motion carries unanimously.
 - v. Security of bank account online in the event there is a problem – Mint software lets one see the account but not make changes, so it's not a full solution. Perhaps Bank of the West will permit another board member to go to a branch to sign the paperwork in person as required. Philippe will check into this.
5. Status of sustaining memberships (Philippe)

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- a. We decided to ask the membership for feedback on this idea - see March 2016 meeting minutes. Stacy: Invite feedback in the business meeting; also invite members via the listserv with perhaps a week comment period.
- b. Jason: the updated Memberclicks may be able to handle a sliding scale for invoicing annual dues. We could set a sliding scale based on station annual budgets. Reid: this is a self-reporting system for a station where stations may be willing and able to pay more than the minimum dues.
- c. Question about sustainability: 2 of the 5 sustaining members in the past year have changed station affiliations or retired.
6. 2017 Budget – tabled
7. IRS Compliance (Paul)
Donation forms are available for tax purposes. Auction policy and reports are available during meeting.
8. Sustaining Biological Infrastructure pre-meeting workshop in 2017 (Paul for Hilary Swain)
ESA (Cliff Davis, Vice President of Science) would like to have a shortened, 1-day pre-meeting SBI workshop at Itasca in 2017. Annual meeting committee will announce to membership when we have confirmation (grant may be pending renewal).
9. Annual Meeting 2018 – need to announce to membership to plan for hosting 150 people. Do we solicit international stations to host
 - a. Jason: consider a joint meeting again with an international organization (e.g., GLEON)
10. Governance (Eric)
 - a. Goal - to operate by consensus. Guidelines on when to solicit motions for whole board; time period for discussion before voting.
 - i. Committees are charged with executing activities and spending their budget with the approval of the board, so chairs of committees need to ensure they are communicating to the board who in effect is endorsing those actions.
 - ii. Amending the budget requires approval of the board.
11. Committee Reports
 - a. Eric and Sarah, Nominations – need nominations for Human Diversity chair and International Diversity co-chair as well as Member-at-Large (1) and Early Career Rep.
12. New Business
 - a. COIs – please sign and return to Stacy
 - b. Secretary report – Stacy will draft and send to board for review by Friday
 - c. Member contact database: Jason and Paul
 - i. Search engine on OBFS membership website is not working well, so Paul and Jason are going to directly solicit members to update during the meeting. There are ways to collect more metrics on member stations
 1. Board should review the options stations should be required before October/November. Jason will supply the current field list to the board for review in Google Docs.
 2. David points out the voting is in November so any changes need to be made earlier.
 - ii. Jason: a UMBS advisory member wants to survey OBFS members for metrics like # publications, etc. Board suggests looking at the recent NAS, NSF-funded reports for data first before creating another survey.

Meeting adjourned 8:13 am Alaska Time

Attachment 1: Budget Clarifications emails from Board Members to Treasurer, Sept. 2016

A. Suggestions from President Paul Foster and answers from Treasurer Philippe Cohen:

1. *Breakdown Donations to separate proceeds from Development Events and donations that come over the transom or through the website. (Line 10). Brian may have some input on this.*

Deficit spending and budget rationale — I view this as a process issue more than an issue on the budget itself, per se. The budget invariably reflects only the possible expenses that the Board approves. We do need a better way to vet and approve budget items to better reflect what our likely annual expenditures are going to be, but it is not clear to me what that process should look like, especially given the timing: i.e., we try and approve a budget after the fiscal year has actually begun. I think one way to avoid this is to consider going through a 2-year budgeting cycle and then amend it annually. Otherwise, we end up approving items less because we think that is the best way to spend the money than it is to make sure we have the necessary authority to access the resources should we need them during the fiscal year. I'm sure there is more we can discuss about this, but I don't think that addressing it is as straightforward as might seem on initial inspection.

2. *Consolidate the Development activities into one category (Perhaps include line 68 under the line 48 heading). The past budgets have never comingled donations with development revenue, though the latter has never been quite as explicitly identified. I will do that with the FY17 budget (which should be evident in the one I sent last night) and moving forward.*

3. *Separate tax preparation from tax fees (Line 44). Are we expecting to pay taxes on the capital gains and or dividends from this year?* I will separate [sic] tax fees from tax preparations per your request. To date we have not had to pay taxes on capital gains and dividends as a 501(c)3. I am not sure if that is a function of our current size (revenue and assets) vs. a continuing condition of our status as a nonprofit. I will look into it, but I think it is related to the latter.

4. *Eliminate NEON dues (Line 19).* NEON dues already were eliminated from the FY2017 budget.

B. Questions from Secretary Stacy McNulty and answers from Treasurer Philippe Cohen:

1. *How do you figure the operating budget - is it a percent of total revenue, or is it based on certain line items?* The operating budget is determined from programmatic requests during the annual meetings and board discussions/decisions and from previous year budgets.
2. *What is EM&S?* Expendable materials and supplies.
3. *What is OB support from reserves?* This ostensibly is the amount of reserves spent to cover projected shortfalls, but in every year we have approved a budget that is greater than revenue, we have yet to do so.
4. *Line 35: what is Non-board travel? Is that for the annual meeting? There's an amount for annual mtg travel on line 72 so I'm unclear on the difference.* In several past years there have been unexpected events where a member of the board (usually the president, but sometimes Eric or the VP) needs to travel for some event or meeting. So this is a contingency [sic] so that there doesn't need to be formal board approval should such a travel need come up during the year.
5. *We had \$18K in donations (line 10) last year, but only budgeted \$5K this year - please remind me why?* So this is the conservative fiscal manager in me. The development events and other sources are expected to generate some donations/revenue, but it is hard to predict what that amount will be, so I feel it is better to underestimate rather than overestimate that amount.
6. *Would it help to have a note in the lines 98-99 that the # of members are totals, not additive across quarters? I assume everyone knows this, but...* OK, will try and make that clearer in future budgets. The numbers refer to actively paid members during that quarter.

Attachment 2: Obituary, Tom Callahan – from the Ecological Society of America newsletter

James Thomas (Tom) Callahan

29 December 1945 to 10 September 1999

Art McKee, Oregon State University

William Michener, National Science Foundation

Michael Bowers, University of Virginia

Tom Callahan, a staunch advocate for ecology, lost a courageous battle with cancer this past September. He worked right up to his death, actively engaged in improving the discipline of ecology. Although Tom was a familiar figure to many ESA members, many others both within and outside of ESA unwittingly owe him a debt of gratitude for his selfless promotion of ecology within the National Science Foundation (NSF). All of the programs that Tom was associated with, or took an interest in, have benefited from his involvement, and the multiplier effect of his years of promotion and facilitation would be impossible to calculate. For those who knew him, he will remain an unforgettable character.

Tom's accent and often-colorful idioms revealed his southern heritage. You couldn't sit through an NSF panel meeting with Tom present without having your vocabulary expanded, if not exactly enriched. He was born in rural Virginia, but spent most of his formative years in Aiken, South Carolina. His undergraduate years were spent at the University of South Carolina, and included a summer (1968) at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in an undergraduate research program. For graduate study, he went to the University of Georgia in 1969 where he began a Master's program under the supervision of Dave Coleman. This soon evolved into a Ph.D. study of the population dynamics of the fall webworm *Hyphantria cunea* Drury. Following Dave Coleman's move to Colorado State University, Tom came under the tutelage of Dac Crossley, forming what many would describe as an unholy alliance, as well as a deep and lasting friendship. As evidence of the latter, Tom made a brave trip while dealing with the rigors of chemotherapy in order to attend Dac's retirement celebration in Athens, GA.

While in grad school, Tom developed a reputation for enjoying heated discussions, asking provocative questions, and helping other students -- basic personality traits that he carried with him throughout life. He also was unafraid to work for causes that meant a lot to him, an early example being his on-campus efforts of promotion and organization for the first Earth Day in 1970. It is hard to imagine now that there were sharp divisions over the first Earth Days on some campuses. This willingness to work hard for a principle or concept is another attribute of Tom's that would resurface in many forms. Tom moved through graduate school quickly, finished his Ph.D. degree in 1972, and accepted a position at NSF. Those who were at UGa with Tom will carry fond memories of

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intense dialogues and free-wheeling debates catalyzed by cold beer and boiled goobers, and seemingly off-the-wall comments to faculty and grad student peers that often turned out to be real insights.

Shortly after starting at NSF, Tom had the misfortune to be assigned the task of carrying bad news to a coordinating committee meeting of the International Biological Program. His charge was to inform some of the projects that their budgets would be reduced significantly during the next round of funding. It is clear to many that Tom was unprepared for the intensity of the reaction to this unexpected news. And, it has become part of our folklore that Tom's honorable response to this rather rough treatment was a personal resolution to protect and enhance NSF funding for ecological research.

Nowhere is that resolution more obvious than in the establishment and growth of the Long-Term Ecological Research Program (LTER). Working with then Division Director, John Brooks in the late '70s, Tom helped organize a series of planning workshops for what became the LTER program. Many others, in and outside of NSF, helped contribute to LTER's evolution (Betsy Clark, Frank Golley, Frank Harris, Paul Risser, Dan Botkin, Wayne Swank, Jerry Franklin, Orie Loucks, and George Lauff, to name a few of the very early players) but Tom was a singular and constant force for more than 20 years. Tom worked to synthesize the concepts and objectives for LTER during this developmental phase and was a principal architect of the early LTER program announcement/request for proposals. Anticipating the potential contentiousness of LTER's "Five Core Areas", he purposely crafted language for the program announcement that was sufficiently vague to permit sites a great deal of flexibility and creativity in how they would cover those areas. Published early in LTER's history, Tom's 1984 BioScience article remains an excellent summary of the basic intent and goals of the program.

Tom played multiple roles as LTER developed, and while most of these were ordinary tasks of an NSF officer they were always done with a personal sense of engagement that made Tom's interest in the science of ecology quite clear. He provided continuity through many rotating program officers; organized site reviews; orchestrated panel meetings; advised sites during proposal preparation; explained reviewers' comments; engaged in workshops; helped develop rules for supplemental proposals that often guided LTER toward new directions (particularly in later years); and linked LTER with other programs at NSF in a mutually beneficial way. All of this promoted LTER and ecology, and was done in the open, straightforward, honest, but often blunt manner that was uniquely Tom's.

Because of the length of time that Tom was at NSF, there are many who have interacted with him on proposals. With Tom, the proposal process was a level playing field, and those who asked advice or criticism could be assured all were treated alike. Frequently, the listener would not hear what he/she wanted to be told. But Tom often prefaced his comments with a disclaimer that while what he was about to say might not be pleasant, the intent was to be helpful. And it was. When faced with explaining reality to folks at panel meetings or site reviews, it was not unusual for Tom to wear an expression that was simultaneously world-weary and kind. He did not enjoy being the bearer of unpleasant news, but operated on the premise that candor was the kindest way.

If you were around Tom for any length of time you were exposed to a wry and quirky wit. As quick to poke fun at himself as at others, his humor was pretty free ranging and might have multiple targets and references, layers of puns and entendres. These jokes could be lengthy and offered with a slightly demonic smile, or erupt as quick retorts accompanied by a punctuating laugh. Tom didn't giggle, and his manner was hardly cute. He was good company.

He was also a devoted father and husband. Tom hated to schedule business travel on weekends because he felt strongly that he should be with his family. It often was hard to get him to commit to evening work sessions for the same reason. He was matter of fact that home was important, and it clearly was. He leaves a wife he loved deeply. Anne would probably be embarrassed by Tom's stated devotion, as would his three now-adult children, Martha, Jim, and Will Callahan. When he talked about them, it was evident there was no more adoring husband, no prouder father.

In recent years, it became clear to many of us that Tom had developed a second professional love, that the various programs at NSF had a significant competitor in Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum, a 700-acre biological field station of the University of Virginia. He became an excellent representative for Blandy Farm and a shameless promoter. It was fun to listen to Tom because his love for the field station was so transparent.

Tom first visited Blandy Farm in the Fall of 1995, and instantly fell in love with the place. As Program Director for NSF's Field Station and Marine Lab competition, Tom had become a fierce supporter of field stations and marine labs, but had maintained a distance. One had the feeling that Tom had a lot of pent-up energy, that he longed to step out of the office, get his hands dirty and help build a research program. And that is what he did at Blandy.

First, he initiated studies on tent-caterpillars and fall webworms, subjects he knew well from his dissertation 25 years earlier. He would drive out from his home in Fairfax, 60 or so miles away, spend a day or two each week collecting and mapping, and then go back and catch up with his NSF duties. He seemed to relish the idea of being a PI (a reversal of his typical role) and especially that of a mentor to students. In 1997, he single-handedly began a "herpetological survey" of the Farm's ponds, fields and forests. In

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addition to drift fences and pit-fall traps, Tom made turtle traps out of chicken wire and started mark-recapture studies of snapping and eastern-painted turtles. A Ph.D. student would later take over the turtle project, but Tom was very involved right up to his death.

Tom, true to his nature, always had the big picture in mind. At Blandy, he would toggle between fieldwork and helping with programmatic issues. Tom was never shy about offering advice on issues as diverse as budgets to personnel to planning. He became interested in public programming, and the year before his death was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the State Arboretum, a foundation that supports Blandy's efforts in environmental education. He would have made an excellent Director of a field station.

Tom was good for Blandy, and Blandy was good for Tom. He had his own room where he slept and held court. He worked with the students and established meaningful personal relationships with all employees, from faculty to maintenance staff, reflecting both his professional training and his blue-collar roots. He especially loved the students, loved being in the field with them, loved being part of the gang.

On September 2nd, about a week before he died, Tom drove himself to Blandy with some difficulty, took some staff out for breakfast, did some fieldwork, rested for a few hours, and then drove home -- not to return. Blandy will miss him!

We all will miss his positive presence and his humor. Yes..., we will miss him.

OBFS Business Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016

Present: Reid Bertone-Johnson, Philippe Cohen, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Brian Kloeppel, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Hilary Swain, Jason Tallant, David White

Plus several members (approx. 35 people total)

Meeting began: 8:40 am Alaska Time

To Do:

1. Jen Tisthammer: offer a survey template

Agenda Items:

1. Announcements (All)
 - a. 2016 auction proceeds were roughly \$8,000!
 - b. Thank you Sitka Sound Science Center for hosting OBFS so wonderfully
 - c. Annual Meeting Evaluations – please fill out the digital survey, and remember to pay for auction items
 - d. Meeting presentations on website (or link to existing ones) – Jason will take the link and post on OBFS website. And also put out an announcement on the listserv highlighting presentation availability for members.
 - e. OBFS 2018 annual meeting solicitation – encouraging international or east coast US stations to submit
 - i. Hilary – has Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute been approached?
 - ii. Comment that OBFS may have to be proactive about soliciting locations that can physically hold 200+ people and perhaps that site is an institution that is a member of OBFS but not a field station facility
 - f. Please get development event contacts to Sarah ASAP, and 5 photos to Hilary
 - g. Nominations will close at the board meeting.
2. Sustaining membership category discussion.

Philippe: progressive payment scheme, where amount is on a scale based roughly on a station's annual budget. Level is self-defined.

Damon: terminology is not needed, just be called a member. Jen T: will some members test the value of this category first?

Sometimes larger organizations have to participate in multiple organizations that are competing (development, etc.) so that may impact the decision. Eric: against the idea for philosophical reasons: OBFS historically has been egalitarian, and it is neither right nor necessary to develop a tiered structure for membership, even if no prestige or services come with the designation. The membership will know the big stations are contributing at that higher level, which sets up a tiered structure. Also, financially we don't need this right now. Jen T: can those organizations who want to contribute in this way do it another way? Philippe: it doesn't have to be visible, and it could lower the annual fee for stations that have small budgets. Currently, some stations join as Individual Members at that lower fee, but they get no voting privileges. Sarah concurs; NAML has a similar tiered membership structure. Eric: we could waive membership fees. What's the reason to do this? Paul: we can meet goals of maintaining high member retention if some institutions decide to sponsor another station and are invoiced to do it. Shorty Boucher: a problem with this model is some stations/reserves need permission from a higher level to be a member, yet have no mechanism to get approval if there are

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membership categories. Philippe: not an issue; the membership choice would be decided by the station director/manager before being invoiced and not a choice list on the invoice. Jeff: is supportive, as a mechanism to be more supportive of OBFS without stigmatizing or rewarding a station makes sense. It may take us a long time to reach our goal of hiring an executive director (ED). Peter Connors: I won't know which stations have given, just that there are some. I see no danger. Paul: the danger is if in future leaders of stations may not be as egalitarian. Philippe: the choice is optional.

Jen T: could do a full member survey to test the limits of the idea, get numbers of who values the sponsorship opportunity, do a quick pro forma on what money that generates and see if it helps us reach our goal and know what we can sustain. Shorty: the other problem is that if I approved a higher cost for the same membership value, that may cause trouble with my administration. Peter: as guidelines, OBFS could set a guideline based on small/medium/large budgets, and stations would follow it. Jason: what is the specific organizational need that requires increased dues besides an ED goal? Are there issues with membership dues going toward the restricted fund? Eric: the fund could be used for an ED. Member: how do you eventually get to a decision? Eric: requires a bylaw change and vote.

Mike Lannoo: what is the plan for ED? Philippe: OBFS business plan is to raise \$375K and apply for matching funds for a 3 year hire of an ED and contract with AIBS to do so. The ED would need to secure additional funding during that time to be sustainable. Whether our development events will result in additional funds is as yet unclear, but the additional revenue from higher dues helps us be more sustainable. If we just relied on auction proceeds, it would be 5-10 years before we're at the fundraising goal. Mike: if 10 field stations gave \$1k each that's equal to the auction proceeds. Paul: need to poll the membership. Member: which survey format? Jen: I can offer a template, others have one too. *(Ed. note: A pole was sent to all station members in early August of this year, the results of which will be presented at the Annual Meeting in Itasca.)*

Meeting closed 9:17 AM

Respectfully submitted, Stacy McNulty, OBFS Secretary

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016

Attending: Reid Bertone-Johnson, Philippe Cohen, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Brian Kloeppel, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Hilary Swain, Jason Tallant, David White (quorum)

Plus several members (approx. 35 people total)

Meeting began 9:24 am Alaska Time

To Do:

All BOD will evaluate the AISL grant letter of collaboration and website link request

1. Hilary will share with BOD a list of modules in the Sustaining Biological Infrastructure workshop
2. Paul or Damon will check on availability at Itasca for a pre-meeting SBI workshop

Agenda Items:

1. Sustaining Biological Infrastructure (SBI) – 2017 workshop proposal (Hilary)
 - a. Hilary Swain shared a proposal from Cliff Duke at Ecological Society of America about an NSF-supported workshop to train field station personnel in strategic planning, leadership, management. If the group succeeds in getting a funding extension, they would like to cover costs of travel and housing to Baltimore, MD (roughly \$1500 per person).
Is there member interest from OBFS in a pre-meeting 1 day "light" version as a special session for 20 people? Details are at <http://esa.org/sbi/>.
 - b. Hilary has a list of modules; we could select two (Tools to eval. financial sustainability and successful proposals for policy and private funds; Tools for business planning and stakeholder analysis; Identifying metrics for success). The 3-day meeting includes all.
 - c. Paul shared a past attendee report: members of museum collections, field stations, etc. – approximately 30 OBFS members have gone through the training.
 - d. They estimate a \$4,000 cost contribution from OBFS to offset travel of trainers. Philippe: we'd need to include expenses in the 2017 budget which would accrue in next fiscal year, not this one. Sarah: motion to include \$4K in budget. Damon: would need to check with Itasca about availability; Dave Biesboer would include in cost estimate for meeting. Brian: could it be offered as a field trip where attendees pay a minimal amount to participate to help cover the cost of the meeting.
 - e. Stacy: when will SBI proposal award decision be made? Probably early 2017.
 - f. Hilary notes they could come back to OBFS and do another module the year after, or people could participate in the full meeting. Hilary and Paul will follow up.

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2. Advancing Informal STEM Learning Grant Collaboration - Rhonda Struminger, CICHAZ

- a. The Pls (Struminger, Ewing, Zarestky) request two things of OBFS by Nov. 1:
 - i. A letter of collaboration to include in the application for the Exploratory Pathways grant (AISL program of NSF).
 - ii. A link off of the OBFS homepage to their Outreach at Field Stations survey that asks for details of the informal STEM learning taking place at their field station.
- b. Philippe: is this a formal proposal and can the board see an abstract? Eric: how would OBFS participate? By a link on website and general support for the project to encourage members to participate. Stacy: because members can elect to participate in the project, I am fine with putting a link on the website. Eric and others: we like the idea and buy-in but also need to carefully consider the letter of support that NSF is particular about regarding commitments and language.
- c. Rhonda will share their proposal with the board for review and decision.

3. Nomination slate for 2017

The nominees who accepted nominations for three elected positions and three appointed positions are (*Ed. note: There was some confusion as to whether the Early Career Member at Large would be elected by the membership or appointed by the BOD. In the end, the filling the vacant position was determined by the BOD in a separate election. As of the 2017 ballot, this position will be elected by the membership.*)

Elected positions

Vice President:

Chris Lorentz

Member at Large:

Sylvia Torti

Michael Stevens

Bret Biebuyck

Susanne Olyarnick

Grant MacNeil

Jennifer Tisthammer

Treasurer:

Philippe Cohen

Appointed Positions (see note above)

Early Career Representative:

Lauren Bell

Elizabeth Long

Renee Brown (withdrew)

Anne Kelly

Michelle Lawing

International Committee Co-Chair:

David McGill

Grant McNeill

Human Diversity Committee Chair:

Cause Hannah

2016 OBFS Annual Meeting officially adjourned

Respectfully submitted Stacy McNulty, OBFS Secretary

Auction results 1997 through 2016

Year	Amount	Annual Meeting Location
1997	\$ 2,164	Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
1998	\$ 3,543	Archbold Biological Station
1999	\$ 3,059	Mountain Lake Biological Station
2000	\$ 5,847	HJ Andrews Experimental Forest
2001	\$ 5,559	University of Oklahoma Biological Station
2002	\$ 4,973	Kellogg Biological Station
2003	\$ 6,002	Kananaskis Field Station
2004	\$ 5,889	Shoals Marine Laboratory
2005	\$ 6,131	Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory
2006	\$ 5,593	Flathead Lake Biological Station
2007	\$ 6,793	Llano River Field Station
2008	\$ 6,327	Black Rock Forest
2009	\$ 4,722	La Selva Biological Station
2010	\$ 8,113	U. of Michigan Biological Station
2011	\$ 7,430	Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve
2012	\$ 9,382	Archbold Biological Station
2013	\$ 9,082	Southwest Research Station



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2014	\$	11,025	Woods Hole
2015	\$	12,631	Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
2016	\$	7,188	Sitka Sound Science Center
TOTAL		131,453	

OBFS Budget Summary for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year

General Budget Categories	Category Details	2015-16 Budget Totals	2016-17 End of Year
I. Income:			
Membership dues		40,900.00	36,000.00
Interest (CDs, checking)		71.13	70.00
Investment dividends & capital gains		6,346.97	5,000.00
Auction (revenue goes to restricted fund)		12,631.00	10,000.00
Development event revenue			10,000.00
Donations			
Other income			-
Total Income:		59,949.10	\$ 61,070.00
Total Operating Income		40,971.13	\$ 46,070.00
II. Expenses:			
<i>Organization Membership Dues</i>			
	AIBS	2,700.00	3,000.00
	Other		
	Subtotal	2,700.00	3,000.00
<i>Bank and transaction expenses</i>			
	Moolah	278.80	280.00
	Payscape	2,022.30	2,100.00
	Other	27.71	25.00
	Subtotal	2,328.81	2,405.00
<i>Travel</i>			
	Board of Directors	-	1,500.00

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	Congressional Visits Day (CVD)	4,691.56	5,000.00
	AIBS collaborative events	934.65	6,000.00
	Diversity & Local Hero Award	1,408.41	1,500.00
	Non-Board travel		1,500.00
	Annual meeting travel support	1860.27	6,000.00
	Early career/student travel support	-	4,000.00
	Other/Contingency	-	2,500.00
	Subtotal	8,894.89	28,000.00
<i>Administration</i>			
	EM&S	694.34	650.00
	Treasurer support	780.00	-
	Tax fees		
	Tax preparation	10.00	500.00
	Survey Monkey	250.00	250.00
	Subtotal	1,734.34	1,400.00
<i>Communications & Development</i>			
	Annual Report & Newsletter	-	50.00
	Half funding for ESA booth with AERC	316.66	400.00
	Friend of OBFS attendance		1,500.00
	Subtotal	316.66	1,950.00
<i>Website and data management</i>			
	Website hosting service (MemberClicks)	3,965.34	3,500.00
	Technical support		1,200.00
	Website maintenance		1,000.00
	Subtotal	3,965.34	5,700.00

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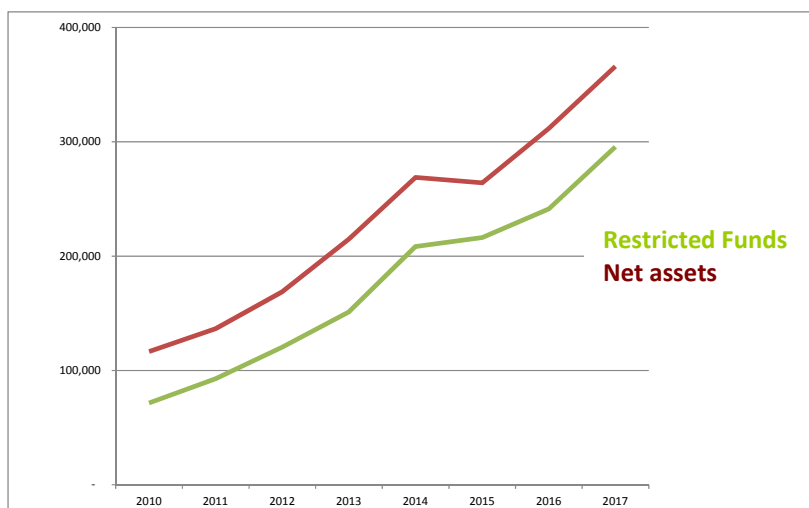
<i>Committee & Organizational Projects</i>			
	GNOMO		250.00
	Arts @ FSMLs		250.00
	Common Interests (Diversity, International, Small FS)	-	150.00
	Outreach	-	150.00
	Development	1,824.80	18,500.00
	Subtotal	1,824.80	19,300.00
Annual Meeting		1,794.85	2,000.00
	Travel contingency	-	1,000.00
	Speaker fees & expenses	(660.00)	2,000.00
	Subtotal	1,134.85	5,000.00
Contingency (5%)		-	3,337.75
Operating Expense Total		22,899.69	70,092.75
Expense Variance (Operating Income- expenses)		18,071.44	(24,022.75)
III. Assets		Beginning FY	Year-End Projection
<i>Vanguard Social Investment Fund</i>			
(Restricted fund investments	Shares last quarter YTD =		
generated by OBFS auction	Share value last quarter YTD =		
proceeds & returns on investment).	Total value last quarter YTD	241,381.86	261,021
Vanguard Federal Money Mkt Fund			

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Bank of the West	Checking account	70,400.42	46,378
Jefferson Bank & Trust	Checking account		
Total Net Assets		311,782.28	\$ 307,399
		# of field station members @ end of quarter	230
		# of individual members at end of quarter	30

Analysis of Restricted Funds 2010 to 2017

Year	Restricted Funds	Net Assets
2010	71,543	116,551
2011	92,712	136,551
2012	120,431	168,849
2013	151,284	215,034
2014	208,446	268,850
2015	216,275	264,149
2016	241,382	311,782
2017	295,658	366,025



SITKA, ALASKA, POST MEETING SURVEY COMMENTS

General comments on plenary sessions, feedback for presenters: Answered: 1, Skipped: 21

- Evening talks should be 30-45 min at most.
- The LTER and Drone plenarys would have been better as concurrent sessions.
- Great job by speakers.
- Didn't feel that there was a dynamic topic that got people thinking about how it impacts their FSML, they were all "nice".
- Always good to have these and not all content will relate the same to everyone. Do like the breadth of the offerings.

- Very good. Some of the plenary sessions were only relevant to American stations though.
- Varied, and broadly interesting.
- Plenary sessions were excellent. Especially enjoyed Joe Cook's presentation.
- Loved the acoustic talk. Nice to bring in the non-science perspective on the importance of our field stations.
- Having an anthropologist do the first plenary was great. Sometimes it's nice to step out of the hard sciences and see/hear stuff like that. What a great pick.

Suggested topics and speakers for plenary sessions at future meetings: Answered: 12, Skipped: 28

- Keep 1-2 local plenary sessions with the rest broader in scope.
- I appreciate topics local to the area where the field station is located. Peter McCartney's updates are always useful. I'd replace the LTER and drone talks with something else in the future. Not sure what, but I didn't get a whole lot out of either, especially the drone talk.
- Marketing experts to talking about recruiting students/researcher; Human resources experts to talk about hr issues: discrimination, sexual assault, ways to deal with remote 24-hour operations where personal/professional lives overlap, keeping up morale/energy in the field station environment. Studies about field stations!
- Hearing from real seasoned experts at the host field station is really nice.
- Amanda Giracca, SUNY Albany - the importance of field science, and perhaps she could focus on humanities in the field as well as science:
<https://orionmagazine.org/article/into-the-field/>
- Jerry R. Schubel, Chair of the Committee on the Value and Sustainability of Biological Field Stations, Marine Labs, and Nature Reserves for the NRC
- Informal education
- I enjoyed Richard Nelson's talk; it did a great job of tying together things outside of field stations. Things of that nature would be good.
- Sharing data management infrastructure across OBFS stations.
- None specific, but again, great to have a non-enviro-science perspective on the field stations. Authors, artists, etc would be fantastic.
- Collaborating with different departments, institutions, etc. Grants

Suggested topics and speakers for concurrent sessions at future meetings:

- Creating regional networks of field stations; Working with Citizen Science programs at field stations
- I would suggest less concurrent sessions and maybe more sessions overall so that people can attend more sessions and get more information. Maybe just do away with the midday plenarys like the drone and LTER talk, but leave the McCartney session alone (we can all benefit from this one!). I would have liked to attend more sessions about fundraising, marketing, communicating with public/government, and how to attract teachers and students (courses) to field station. I also think it would be nice to have a session specifically for smaller university field

stations. We often have to fight with our administration to keep us funded, etc., plus other issues unique to university.

- Working with Federal Land Managers/partnerships
- More of what we missed!
- I think we always need presentations on station data management and one of these days a better way to do training across stations on a regular basis
- Writing a strategic plan. Convincing your administration that you need more FTE. Benefits & concerns of allowing recreation at your field station. Equipment for managing field stations: what you have/what you need. Critical infrastructure of field stations: what do you need?
- Field Station Partnerships--Michael Stevens and Gina Gilson
- How about making a call for symposia ideas and papers? Too much repetition from previous meetings
- Will need to think about this some more.
- I liked the management type presentations, and the ones about moving stations into a more central role. Sessions about moving to the "next level" would be great.
- Would be great to have a workshop, panel Q&A, etc for new station directors. There were a lot of us.
- Awesome examples of some arts programs at field stations. Would like to see more examples and see this topic grow in future meetings. New field stations - the basics

General comments on program, things to consider for future meetings:

- I was intrigued by the idea of the lunch time meetings and disappointed that they never seemed to take place!
- Table sessions didn't work because of the acoustics/ noise. Perhaps have separate sessions for committee meetings.
- a=I think it was an awesome meeting.
- Appreciated shuttle service to/from airport. Love the auction, as always! I thought the "dance party" would be lame, but it was totally fun. I get the most out of talking with others during meals and receptions, so keep those in the program! Thanks, this was the best OBFS meeting I've attended so far!
- More networking time! (I bet you get this every year). More opportunity to meet with / find like stations (this needs guidance)
- Great place for the conference. Very well organized with plenty to keep you busy.
- Great place to hold a meeting! Never, ever run out of coffee!
- Great job by Lisa and the Sitka crew and also Sarah and Damon and others who helped. This is the perfect example of a great field station most people have never visited to host the meeting.
- Attention to when the flights come and go as early as the planning stages for meeting times would have helped. To get there in time for meetings and to attend all of the

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meetings I wished to attend, I had to arrive very early and stay in Sitka for longer than seemed appropriate.

- Many thanks to the hosts and organizing committee! As a group we need to ensure that the newer members and individuals find many ways to be engaged.
- There was too much time between the end of breakfast and when the first session started. I'd rather have a later breakfast and then immediately go to the first session. 75 minutes is too long for a session. I'd prefer 50-60 minutes.
- Overall a great conference. I loved it.
- I was a "trailing" spouse, and so kept myself busy with the local trails, museums, and shops. I was disappointed in the Thursday kayaking trip which was canceled due to inclement weather, but it happens. The Sunday whale-bird watching trip was also disappointing, but I think it was because of the late season in which we were trying to see things. But nice we got out on the water on a nice day! So I was happy with the trip for the most part. Thanks so much to the organizers of the meeting. Job well done in a remote spot.
- Great job all!!
- Everyone was great. I don't recall hearing what the theme of the meeting was and overall it seemed to be a bit of hodgepodge rather than trying to focus on anything. That is fine, but in the past I think focusing on a couple of things worked better.

- Well Done.
- I had no real expectations prior to my attending, but was really impressed by the discussions and the institutional culture you have developed over the years, and feel quite proud to be part of it now. The collegial atmosphere, which was never stodgy made me feel welcome as a new attendee, and helped me to overcome some of the isolation that I feel in my position. Looking forward to the next meeting!
- It was a fantastic meeting, and great to meet new people as well as catch up on happenings across OBFS.
- The SSSC group did a great job and was very accommodating.
- SSSC did a great job. The board can do a better job of being open to speaking with new members at mealtimes or maybe another time - several people found it hard to break into the group. There needs to be a less boys' club atmosphere, particularly at the auction.
- Really well done. Had a great time.
- SSSC did an excellent job of hosting the meeting. They set a high standard for future meetings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Monday, December 19, 2016

Board members present: Reid Bertone-Johnson, Philippe Cohen, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Brian Kloeppe, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Jason Tallant, and David White.

OBFS members: Mike Lannoo

Decisions

1. Membership renewal grace period will be until March 5 (60 days)
2. In the fall 2016 elections, Chris Lorentz was elected Vice-President, Philippe Cohen as Treasurer, and Sylvia Torti as the Member-At-Large (MAL 1) position. Anne Kelly was named MAL Early Career Representative. The change to the bylaws passed.

To do

1. Paul send thank-you message to all who ran in OBFS elections
2. David send Stacy copy of election results for safe-keeping
3. Paul draft 50th anniversary article with Stacy, David and Mary Hufty
4. Stacy ask ESA Bulletin editor for space allotment for 50th anniversary article
5. Sarah help Paul draft a thank-you to the development event attendees/list of donors
6. Brian and Dev. Cmte draw up a plan for future development events
7. Damon gather a list of potential host stations to share at March board meeting.
8. Philippe contact the Belgian station about possible hosting annual meeting in 2018.
9. Damon call Chris re: 2017 meeting planning
10. Philippe and Eric put a policy draft together on letters of support
11. Damon and David survey members on 2018 meeting timing preferences
12. Jason let BOD know once the website changes are made to ensure the content is correct.
13. Stacy ask Peter Connors about mentoring new finance committee member(s)
14. Chris look for a new chair of Outreach Committee

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15. Sustaining membership committee – Paul, Eric, Philippe will draft a membership survey
16. Paul follow up on branding strategy with Jen Tisthammer

Meeting minutes

1. Approval of Oct 25, 2016 meeting minutes (Stacy)
Motion to approve by Philippe – Eric seconded; approved unanimously
2. Elections (David) –
 - a. President should notify winners of election, and thank all who ran. Winners were: Chris Lorentz as Vice President, Philippe Cohen as Treasurer, and Sylvia Torti and Jennifer Tisthammer as two Members-at-Large, and the change to bylaws (see Oct. 2016 meeting minutes) passed.
 - b. Move to approve election: Philippe. Seconded by Damon. Approved: unanimous.
 - c. We normally don't publish the voting tallies, but David can send the final numbers. It was a record year of 100 voting members! Philippe: 241 members were eligible (of 243 voting memberships; a small number have one director for multiple sites and are represented by one membership, e.g., UC Davis). Two emails bounced, but the contact list is up-to-date.
 - d. Discussion of SurveyMonkey and those few members who opted out of voting altogether. The reasoning is not clear, but perhaps we should reach out to membership and ensure all know why they are getting the messages to vote.
3. 50th OBFS anniversary article in *ESA Bulletin* (David)
Paul will have a draft in January; looking for help – ask Mary/Historian. Stacy will ask the *Bulletin* editor how much space we have in the journal.
4. Development Committee report and 2016 event (Brian)
 - a. Total income from event in NYC on October 6 was \$13,960; total cost was \$18,097.77. Sold all but one field trip. Ran through list of OBFS assistants and guest speakers; hoping to do another event in 2017 but planning hasn't yet started. Sarah: Three development people worked together (from RMBL, Black Rock Forest and Archbold) and we had a very smooth and effective team – OBFS has considerable experience after this fourth event. David Mordecai (our NYU/RiskEcon host) was very enthusiastic and gave Mark Ruffalo a gift; Mark enjoyed it and was honored. Of 300 invitations, about 75 showed. Philippe: when it looked as if we might not have sufficient attendance, inviting graduate students at a reduced ticket price was a huge plus (students interacted with guests). We should include discount pricing for students in future events. Stacy: agreed; also, should consider these activities OBFS mentoring/networking opportunities for young career scientists/field station personnel.
 - b. Philippe: how do we intend to follow-up with the attendees? Brian: Paul Hai and others created an organized donor database, so can we send them an OBFS newsletter and progress report. Development Committee can use the donor database as a start, and consider whether to make an end-of-year appeal. Sarah offered to help Paul draft a thank you by early January. Philippe: can encourage individual membership at that time. We can send the ESA 50th anniv article too.
 - c. Jason: new Memberclicks web/software rollout should enable us to keep potential donors in our database as well as members. Will find out what is the capacity for a single database in early 2017.
 - d. Eric: remind us of the goal of these events, now that we have done four to date. Brian: we want to raise funds for an OBFS Exec Director. Once we have a group of friends, we can start entertaining hiring an ED. Philippe: We still have to cultivate this group and keep them informed and interested, so probably a couple more years of engagement before OBFS is ready to look for an ED. We don't want to lose that communication between events. EN: are the donors coming back after attending an event? Sarah: Nine people from Nantucket came to this NYC event, so there is some continuity, but we do need to keep in contact.
 - e. Sarah: OBFS still needs more social presence – even at RMBL, 80% of biologists have never heard of the organization.
 - f. We need to invite someone soon to help with emceeing or naming for 2017. Now we need to determine where the next event will be. Paul: it would be helpful to have the Dev. Cmte. draw up or share an outline of activities (contacting donors, planning).
5. OBFS annual conference 2018 (Damon, Eric)
 - a. Hosts: Bahamas, Manitoba are interested, perhaps Belgian station. Eric has a video of the Gerace field station, Bahamas. Also other North American stations who applied in the past are still interested. e.g., Churchill, CA, Schoodic in Acadia, ME, Beaver Island, Central Michigan. Brian: by February, have a list of stations to share so we can decide at our March board meeting. Philippe will share Damon's message about applying for hosting to the Belgian group.
 - b. There is concern about the Bahamas in late September right in the middle of hurricane season, especially as the station closes during the two-month window (about Sept. 1-Nov. 1). Could we have the meeting later in the year (late Oct. - early Nov.)? Brian: pointed out that many stations across the world are vulnerable to high winds, hurricanes etc. that can affect travel and meeting logistics. General concern that Bahamas is risky in Sept. Damon will survey members about their timing preferences using SurveyMonkey and David will post it.

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- c. Travel details for Bahamas: fly to Nassau, then take the local airline to San Salvador. The cost is typical for a field station meeting. Flight scheduling may mean staying overnight in Nassau. They do host large conferences; if enough members coordinated travel, a flight could be chartered. Eric thinks the director, Troy, will assist with logistics.
6. 2017 meeting – Itasca, MN (Damon) – moving forward. Damon will talk with Chris about planning.
7. Sharing documents and transfer of Historian documents (Jason, Mary) – no update.
8. Letter to President-elect about Biological Research (Paul).
 - a. AIBS letter advocating for use of science to President-Elect Trump.
Motion – Eric; Second – Sarah. Approved. Paul will email Rob and AIBS.
 - b. Discussion about the letter's line about 50% of US economy supported by research; this seems like the same quote used since the 1990s. While it won't change the letter, perhaps AIBS can provide the source of that data or update the statistic if needed.
 - c. Philippe: OBFS needs a policy on letters of support in general and we need a way to navigate that as the requests may increase and come in short order. Philippe and Eric will put a policy draft together on letters of support.
9. Finance Committee (Stacy) – will ask Peter about the idea of mentoring new member(s); if amenable, Stacy can then ask if some of those who volunteered for board/committee positions (e.g., MAL and Early Career Rep) might be interested in serving on this or other committees.
10. Treasurer Update (Philippe)
 - a. Renewals of membership by check - Philippe records the date of renewal, then the membership expiration date updates automatically. How long should he wait to change membership back to "expired" if the check does not arrive? On January 5th there will be 10-15 stations that haven't fully paid. Grace period will be until March 5 (60 days). If stations' expiration was Jan. 5 and they waited to pay until Oct. or Nov., Philippe assumes they are paying for the next year.
 - b. End-of-year notification went to stations that hadn't yet renewed.
 - c. Transfer of accounts to Vanguard – taking a long time, difficult process with the bank.
 - d. First quarter budget looks good for 2017 (see emailed budget copy).

Other business

11. Web updates (Jason)
 - a. Jason will make edits and changes after the new Memberclicks goes into effect. Jason will let BOD know once the changes are made so we can ensure the content is correct.
 - b. Some of the invoice tracking and automated membership notification may become easier in the new system – Philippe and Jason will be working on how to maximize the new tools.
 - c. Spam list and hacking president@obfs.org problems: Spamming can't be fixed; Memberclicks sent directions on how to update passwords. Memberclicks is continuing to seek solutions, but we need to have unique, difficult passwords (global Unique IDs) so the problem is lessened. Philippe: we have had an increase in requests to the OBFS listserv (hosted by Stanford U.) from people who are clearly spammers – he blocks 2 or 3 requests/day from suspicious sources. These spammers may have gotten access to OBFS email addresses via Memberclicks. For those on the board who have email systems that block OBFS messages, those institutional systems are doing the correct thing and protecting the institution. Question: Can we ask our institutions to unblock OBFS emails? Eric: Yes, but then the anti-spam system resets the OBFS exemption and emails are blocked again.
12. Early Career Rep vote (Stacy) – will send candidate voting ASAP.
13. Outreach Committee (Paul)
 - a. The OBFS banner is with Bill Schuster, available to use at events. We should let the membership know it's available and that OBFS will coordinate shipping it.
 - b. Slideshow used at NYC event and compiled by Hilary Swain – is that available on the OBFS site? Members should know they can use that for events.
 - c. Chris will look for a new chair of Outreach Committee as he transitions to Vice President. Chris can suggest names to Paul, then Paul would invite the person(s) and Exec Board deliberates and makes offer to new chair. Turnover date is April 1.
14. Branding strategy (Paul)
 - a. Follow-up with Jen Tisthammer.
 - b. Revisit having a Communications Committee for social media, dealing with requests, etc.
15. Sustaining membership levels
Paul, Eric, Philippe will draft a membership survey.

Move to adjourn meeting by Sarah; Seconded by Paul. Approved unanimously.

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Meeting ended 12:22 PM Eastern

Respectfully submitted, Stacy McNulty, OBFS Secretary

Monday, March 6, 2017

Board members present: Philippe Cohen, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Anne Kelly, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Jennifer Seavey, Jason Tallant, David White.

Call Began 2:07 pm EST

Decisions

1. Pay Dustin Angell \$250 to finish OBFS slideshow.
2. Anne Kelly will fill the MAL Early Career Rep vacancy until 31 March 2018.
3. Human Diversity Committee – Amy Whipple is the new chair.

To do

1. Jason and all – choose a date to walk board through Google Docs site.
2. Paul talk to Jen Tisthammer, Jennifer Seavey and Paul Hai about branding.
3. Damon share draft annual meeting agenda with the board and membership.
4. Damon send out a call for concurrent meeting sessions on OBFS listserv.
5. Damon update the 2018 proposed annual meeting host sites spreadsheet and upload to Google Docs site.
6. Damon will identify time for committees to meet during annual meeting.
7. All - review 2018 proposed hosts by end of March.
8. All - decide whether to include ESA-SBI workshop at annual meeting.
9. Carlos and David Manelli can put out the solicitation for international travel, human diversity and student travel awards and Anne will assist with process/selection of recipients.
10. All – send Chris ideas for pre-meeting workshops.
11. Philippe will solicit additional host proposals for 2018 and 2019 annual meetings.
12. All - identify volunteers to translate OBFS web pages into other languages.
13. Jason will investigate alternate display of website jobs/news ticker.
14. Sarah will send list of donors/friends of OBFS to Jason for inclusion in Memberclicks database.
15. Sarah, Paul, Brian and Chris et al.: develop a Constant Contact email database and way to engage both donors and the public with OBFS activities.
16. All – solicit and submit names for chair of Outreach Committee to Chris. Recruit additional committee members (especially Finance) from membership.
17. Philippe will work on Sustaining Membership proposal in April.
18. Paul, Stacy, David and Mary work on 50th anniversary article for ESA Bulletin by May.

Meeting minutes

1. Approval of December 2016 meeting minutes with changes – Stacy
 - a. Motion to approve by Eric, Jen seconded; approved unanimously
2. Welcome to new board members and thank you to departing members – Paul
 - a. Welcome to Sylvia and Anne!
3. Short board orientation - Paul and other officers
 - a. Jason suggests a 30 min walkthrough of the Google Docs site for entire Board at a date to be chosen. Eric can add new board members to the Google Doc.
 - b. Stacy will send Anne materials from Early Career.
 - c. Thanks to Damon and Reid for their assistance to the organization!
4. Budget update – Philippe
 - a. Other financial details:
 - i. Sentinel to Vanguard money market transfer still in process - slow.
 - ii. Philippe filed the OBFS federal and state taxes.
 - iii. Philippe may not be able to do investment changes or bank details to Bank of the West until later (April) due to travel.
 - b. Budget: Encumbrance formula error; ignore this column as it is just a computer program formatting issue.

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- c. We under spent again.
- d. Current membership is 242 (213 stations; 29 individuals). Membership numbers decreased due to removal of duplicate field station entries in the system from former contacts/profiles. Jason: new database allows multiple contacts for one member station which should help with this.
- e. Update of Memberclicks has been going well, just a few hiccups.
- 5. Branding update – Paul
 - a. Paul talked to Jen Tisthammer; she was interested in the SBI workshop and what questions the board might have re: a new logo or other ideas. Also talk with Paul Hai and Jennifer Seavey.
- 6. 2017 annual meeting update - Damon and Chris
 - a. Itasca Biological Station (host site in Minnesota) has registration website built and will be live in March. They are waiting for workshop confirmation, but may need to add workshops to website later. Damon will share the draft meeting agenda with the board now; a call for concurrent sessions will go out soon. Philippe suggests the membership see the draft also for viewing and commenting.
 - i. Pre-meeting workshops:
 - 1. ESA-Sustaining Biodiversity Infrastructure workshop at 2017 OBFS meeting – Paul.
 - 2. Paul talked to ESA SBI – Cliff Duke wanted to know deadline for workshop and Paul suggested April 1.
 - 3. Total cost of workshop; \$5000 for 20 people. Board discussed subsidizing part of the participant cost, but would not subsidize the workshop itself (see 25 Oct 2016 meeting minutes).
 - ii. Chris: please send ideas for pre-meeting workshops.
 - b. Travel Awards – Paul
 - i. Need to incorporate the timelines for student and international travel awards to encourage member applications.
 - ii. Student Travel Award – a more defined process is needed.
 - iii. Paul: Carlos and David Manelli can put out the solicitation and handle applications. Eric, Paul: should we have the same people handle both travel awards plus the Human Diversity Award travel arrangements (keeping award max at \$1000)? Damon: the Early Career rep could oversee the student award part. Paul will share this idea with Carlos.
 - iv. Human Diversity Committee – Amy Whipple agreed to be the chair; Sarah is willing to help the committee get that call out and evaluate applications.
 - v. Annual meeting planning committee can put announcements on the OBFS website and linked from the Itasca website as well as putting a call to OBFS listserv membership. Philippe: ensuring the OBFS site is the main place and that word goes out early is important.
 - vi. Local Hero Award: Itasca has chosen a recipient.
 - c. Chris suggested the Outreach Chair be a *de-facto* member of the annual meeting committee.
- 7. 2018 and 2019 annual meeting site proposals - Damon, Philippe et al.
 - a. Proposed locations include Bahamas; Maine; Michigan; two from Canada; Belgium. Stacy will set up a doodle call for March 31- April 7th to decide location. Philippe will solicit additional proposals for 2018 and 2019 as well; Damon will send a notice to Philippe.
 - b. Damon will put a spreadsheet together comparing the proposals. Suggestion to put the proposals in one place for viewing – Eric will post on Google Docs.
- 8. Website/database update – Jason
 - a. Content migration went fairly smoothly; this website is much easier to use on a smart phone/tablet. Jason has been updating document links but if you find broken links or problems please let him know.
 - b. Migrating the member database was tough, but there was no loss of data. It's easier to set up forms in website which will be efficient for example for travel awards and now we can have multiple people/contacts listed for a field station. We also can meaningfully retain information on lapsed members now.
 - c. Memberclicks no longer allows members to add events/content to the calendar. To compensate, Jason set up a form for members to add events which he has to manually add to the calendar; this is more time intensive for him than in the past.
 - d. Member station map – Paul asked if one could search on all Costa Rican stations for example. Jason: station directory list searching is limited and would require tagging and manual work on his part. Related: can OBFS website information be listed in multiple native languages (to pop up higher in a web search)? Need volunteers to translate pages into other languages.

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- e. Jennifer: can shorter news/events pop up titles? For example, students search for Research Experiences for Undergraduates at the same time each year, but you cannot see the list of all REUs due to other items “pushing” them off the front page. Jason will investigate.
9. Development Committee update – Brian
 - a. Paul sent a thank-you to all 2016 NYC event attendees Oct. 13. Bill Schuster and Black Rock Forest is supportive for hosting an event in Oct 2018. Discussion of a late 2017 Event in Miami, FL – Brian contacted Hilary Swain and Deborah Pollard at Archbold FS to canvas for Nov/Dec/Jan event availability.
 - b. Friend of OBFS Award: nominations sought.
 - c. Philippe: how are we keeping our friends engaged? Keeping the friends we have is as if not more important than making new friends. Sarah: suggested we develop a Constant Contact email database to send out a note, especially given the opportunity to solidify support for science in society(e.g., quarterly communications including the OBFS slideshow link, news). Jason: we can add these people to the new Friends of OBFS membership category (side note: this category expires in 2027, which is Memberclicks’ longest date allowed, but we can keep this the date open into the future). Sarah will send the list to Jason.
 - d. We can maintain the list this way, but need a different mechanism to send messages to the friends as well as members of the public. Paul: Development committee can maintain the database which should be kept private and also easy to engage people periodically. Sarah will talk to Chris. Jennifer: important for all member stations to be involved in the development so they know how OBFS is talking with donors and the public and solicit input.
10. Outreach Committee update – Chris
 - a. Nominations solicited for new chair to begin April 1 – Michael Stevens (Capitol Reef National Park) and Jen Tisthammer considered; other names also invited.
 - b. Travel display banner – available to borrow; should be sent to Itasca for meeting.
 - c. OBFS slide show status – decided to fund Dustin Angell at Archbold FS \$250 to finish slides (10 hours). It will be downloadable for members. Can have an image viewer with a slider to show it. (Jason says space is no issue, and if for some reason it becomes a problem we could host it elsewhere and link through to OBFS.org). A public web version on OBFS website will be low-resolution to respect the permission/releases for use of images from member stations.
 - d. Congressional Visits Day 2017 update: Five members are scheduled to attend from different parts of the country.
11. Historian report – Mary (tabled)
12. Opportunities for OBFS members to join committees, etc. - Stacy
 - a. Recruit during annual meeting and be active during the year – need to designate time for discussion that is effective. Committees may be perceived as less important if the gathering is too informal and sidelined at annual meeting. Philippe: committees that are not engaging can be sidelined. Damon will look at the annual meeting schedule and identify time for meeting, perhaps on second or third day rather than first day. Committees should each have functions/tasks and at minimum a few engaged members. Jason: Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON) focuses on active research and has a project tracking process for their committees that we could emulate – either publicly available content or members-only. Stacy: a member survey would also help us define what user needs exist; perhaps Jen Tisthammer and others could put together a survey to ask.
13. Shared booth with AERC and/ or SEGA at ESA 2017 meeting – Paul
 - a. Paul will ask membership who from OBFS is attending ESA? Two proposals:
 - AERC – Gene Rhodes, as in past years.
 - SEGA – Southwest Experimental Garden Array (set of field sites; sega.nau.edu).
14. Clarifying Member-at-Large Early Career position process - Eric, David
 - a. In the fall 2016 election, the board handled this position more like a board-selected position vacancy rather than as an elected MAL position vacancy. According to the bylaws, the vote temporarily filled the position until 1 April 2017; however the board can again appoint Anne to fill the vacancy until 31 March 2018, The position will be on the ballot in fall 2017 with the new term to begin 1 April 2018. Ann will be eligible to run for the position. Eric proposed Anne fill the seat until 31 March 2018 and Philippe seconds; vote is unanimous in support.
15. Draft policy on letters of support - Philippe and Eric
 - a. Please review proposed policy (see email from Eric); comment by 8 March via email and we will talk/vote on it at the upcoming short board call, date TBD.
16. Finance Committee mentoring - Stacy for Peter Connors (not present)
 - a. Suggestion to recruit new members to join committee – also a good mentoring opportunity. Peter would like to turn over his role on the committee and he recommends we identify people who have paid some attention to mutual fund investing. As a member of the committee, Philippe is supportive, as is board.

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17. Sustaining membership survey - Paul et al.
 - a. Philippe will work on this in April with intention of presenting the survey around the fall annual meeting and the system is in place for 2018 membership dues renewal.
18. Old Business - Stacy et al.
 - a. Stacy will use numbers for the draft agenda.
 - b. AIBS communications workshop – Eric. OBFS funded four people; attended by three (Sarah Syswerda, Natasha Karniski and Eric Nagy). Well-run workshop on training working with press and decision-makers (e.g., congressional staffers); recommend we keep sending people from OBFS.
 - c. Philippe: board needs a policy on reimbursement of travel by OBFS and canceling within a certain period so OBFS doesn't get encumbered with an expense – need to discuss how much responsibility is on the attendee vs. OBFS (given the slot could go to someone else).
19. New Business
 - a. Paul – ESA Bulletin article on the OBFS 50th by May 10th; Philippe and Sylvia volunteered to edit.

Move to adjourn meeting by circus clowns juggling flaming pokers; Seconded by Leprechauns astride unicorns. Approved unanimously.

Meeting ended 4:11 PM Eastern

Respectfully submitted, Stacy McNulty, OBFS Secretary

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Monday, April 3, 2017

Board members present : Philippe Cohen, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Anne Kelly, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Jason Tallant, David White, Amy Whipple

Called to order: 2:11 PM

Decisions:

1. Give SBI workshop organizers up to \$2500.00 of support
2. Friend 2017 of OBFS will be awarded to Mark Ruffalo.

To Do:

1. All: review updated Policy on letters of support from Eric.
2. Eric and Phillippe: gather and share information from potential 2019 OBFS annual meeting hosts.
3. Chris will add a question about 2019 meeting site preferences to member survey and will send BOD draft survey.
4. All: Formalize criteria for sponsoring/subsidizing workshops at annual conference.
5. Amy and Sarah: Human Diversity Award call for nominations goes out today; due May 8th.
6. International travel support award notice also goes out today.
7. Review the 2019 meeting host proposals in May; with a final decision at our June 7th meeting.
8. Sarah will let Mark Ruffalo know he is the Friend of OBFS awardee for 2017.

Meeting Notes:

1. **2019 annual meeting:** Eric is pursuing the Bahamas asking for some clarification and looking at alternate windows as timing.
 - a. Discussion of logistics of travel and expense in general – prefer to keep cost of registration under \$500 to avoid limiting who may attend. If Gerace/Bahamas is chosen, meeting timing should be outside of hurricane season (not the late September meeting time we typically set). Discussion on whether hosting a Caribbean meeting would enable central and South Americans to attend? Philippe is meeting with an Ecuador field station reps later today; they would like to know when they might be able to host in the future. There are three stations in that area of Ecuador. Philippe will ask Belgium for clarification for lodging and see if they can lower costs.
 - b. Chris will add a question about 2019 meeting site preferences to member survey and will send BOD draft.
 - c. Review the proposal Info in May; with a final decision at our June 7th meeting.
2. **2018 annual meeting** – discussion of pros and cons of proposed host sites.
 - a. Central Michigan University Bio Station – 145 max capacity. Is that total lodging onsite? Getting to CMUBS (Beaver Island) is tough; once you are there it is great. John Gordon of CMUBS could organize an alternative ferry schedule if enough people are there at once.

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- b. Chris L. on location: we are in Minnesota this year and attempt to move between regions. Brian pointed out we were last on the east coast in 2014 (at Woods Hole, MA). Given the 2016 meeting was held in Alaska and an international site will be chosen in 2019, Brian and Stacy pointed out that travel to the east coast is easier for many and perhaps less expensive than some 2018 proposed host sites. We have had meetings at KBS and Flathead Lake in the past.
- c. Damon: Schoodic is top domestic choice with Flathead Lake as equivalent choice; Flathead has been more active in OBFS; thus engaging a new station is good. We need to get more numbers and details from Schoodic as to dining capacity and auditorium capacity. Discussed costs (\$450): there is housing for over a hundred at Schoodic. Since their first proposal, Damon has provided new instructions and they have submitted more information although we still have a few questions for Mark Berry. Damon will reach out to Schoodic for clarification. Back up choice is Flathead Lake; we will let Art McKee know within a month.
- d. BOD held an email vote on 2018 annual meeting host in choosing Schoodic; results were unanimous.

1. Brian (made motion)	5. Carlos de la Rosa	10. Philippe Cohen
2. David White	6. Stacy McNulty	11. Jason Tallant
3. Eric Nagy	7. Anne Kelly	12. Sylvia Torti
4. Chris Lorentz	8. Paul Foster	13. Sarah Oktay
	9. Amy Whipple	(seconded)
3. **Friend of OBFS:** Brian explained the process. Previous winners were: Miles O'Brien and Peter Connors.
 - a. Mark Ruffalo is our nominee for 2017. Brian and Sarah briefly explained his bio and contributions. Brian made that motion; Sarah seconded. All in favor; unanimous. Sarah will contact Mark to let him know. This would be a high-visibility nominee. Mark may be able to attend in person although there is a strong likelihood that he would Skype in to accept the award. He would share the press release concerning the award widely.
 - b. Eric asked that we think about what we are looking for in these nominations. Overall, we want some flexibility in how we make recommendations for the Friend of OBFS Award.
4. **Policy on letters of support:** Eric needs to make some updates based on comments he received from Board members. Decision tabled till June.
5. **Human Diversity Award:** Sarah described the process. Amy Whipple is on the call. Discussed the timeline needed to have the recipient decided by June. Committee makes the recommendation based on a May 8th deadline for material and board approves at June meeting. The announcement will go out today.
6. **Sustaining Biodiversity Initiative (SBI) workshop proposal by Cliff Duke (ESA):** From a March 30th email sent to Paul Foster: "The total funds that we would need through OBFS are approximately \$5,775, including course materials, travel, and fee for Dr. Anderson. Total participants are 25."
7. **Cost and general support** for the workshop: did not have the specifics as to the cost. Eric: for the past two years OBFS has not subsidized workshops (iDigBio, GNOMO). They either received NSF grant \$ to hold the workshop or they brought their own money. For SBI, we would have to pass along the costs to the participants. We would be issuing a grant for their workshop.
 - Philippe said we should make up a policy that creates a protocol to subsidize other mini-conferences so it is a level playing field. We do not have something like that. Eric, I agree with Philippe that we should not start with this midstream and talk to the membership as a whole. Anne: this proposal seems like a for-profit venture. Paul: it is organized by ESA and had funding from NSF for three years, they hire consultants, so a lot of the costs is in that. Eric said maybe offer a partial support. Give them a small amount then formalize or criteria.
 - Sarah suggested that we give a small grant or fellowship to OBFS members to attend. Give them \$ to go to an activity that is associated with OBFS. Then it is a direct benefit to the members.
 - We discussed the logistics of reimbursing individual attendees. Philippe said for him this is a transactional problem, x amount times the number of OBFS participants given to the SBI group. It is a bit onerous to give each attendee a check for reimbursement. He is willing to do it but would prefer not to. We could ask SBI to offer an OBFS special rate or offset that rate with one check. Philippe: Must be member stations not individual members. Why? He has noticed that some people are joining at individual level and not station members. He thinks that the individual members should not get the same benefits. Should be a benefit to the station. Paul asked the Board if it was okay if it was a designated person from a member station (not necessarily the voting member) and BOD agreed. Would OBFS have to find time to review applications or do we think there would not be more than 25 applications? Discussed two options: \$100.00 per participant (Sarah's suggestion) or a max amount of \$2000.00 (Eric) setting it as an \$80.00 discount per participant. We would put the burden on ESA/SBI to advertise. Ask Cliff to send a link for registering to the Itasca people or work with Itasca to create registration; they should send it to our email list but make it clear it is only member stations.
8. **Other business:** Itasca is going live on the 2017 meeting registration. The international travel award will go out via OBFS listserv.

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Adjourned at 1:38 Moved to adjourn Philippe; Eric seconded, all in favor: Next meeting June 7th, 2:00 pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted, Stacy McNulty, OBFS Secretary

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Board members present : Philippe Cohen, Paul Foster, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Anne Kelly, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Jason Tallant, David White, Amy Whipple, Sylvia Torti, Carlos de la Rosa, Mary Hufty, Jennifer Seavey, Amy

Called to order: 2:10 pm EST

Decisions:

1. Financial account security: in addition to the Treasurer, three officers are to have partial account information: President, Secretary, Past-president.
2. 2017 Human Diversity Award goes to University of Akron.
3. 2017 Early Career Travel Award will be presented to two awardees
4. 2017 Friend of OBFS Award goes to Mark Ruffalo.
5. Next OBFS development event will be 1 February 2018 at Deering Estate, Miami, FL

To Do:

1. Jason will investigate if the OBFS membership web form is clear with regard to the two types of memberships. Rearrange to list station membership first and then individual.
2. Jason send LastPass password protection info to Philippe for review; Philippe will develop a procedure for board review and approval.
3. Chris will communicate with Julie Palkovich Carr of AIBS about scheduling a workshop for the 2018 annual meeting.
4. Eric will touch base with Laura Domine about OBFS 2017 auction.
5. Sarah: will send to Brian the names for the awards; Brian will check with Laura on names.
6. Mary can talk to Bill Schuster and Sylvia about including the topic
7. Sarah will coordinate CVD attendees to speak about their experience at the annual meeting.
8. Jason will develop a cost-benefit analysis to evaluate a web data repository for membership.
9. Sarah will work with Jason on a basic media kit for the web.
10. Chris look into posting the member survey on the website.
11. Amy: please add proposed changes to Human Diversity award process under #9
12. All board please review policy on project support or endorsement and send comments to Eric.

Meeting Notes:

1. Philippe made a motion to approve the agenda; Sarah seconded. All in favor.
2. Paul made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes from April 3, 2017. Eric seconded. Approved.
3. Budget (Philippe)
 - a. Move to Vanguard is completed. We are keeping both checking accounts.
 - b. A number of people are joining as individual members, not field stations. We should pay attention to this, is it purposeful, or accidental? The distinction is because individual members can't vote. Sylvia notes that they signed up as an individual station, and her university also has another station that may not be very active. Jason: we created a single membership form to choose either category of membership; perhaps the choice isn't clear to people. Jason will investigate if it's a signup issue with the form. Philippe: let's make clear the nonvoting status in the form, and put the field station choice first followed by individual membership.
 - c. Paul: nine stations didn't renew this year. Are we tracking attrition? Philippe: this may be due to the cleanup of the database to remove duplicates from previous years. Note it's not always a one-to-one station relationship - in some cases, one individual manages multiple stations/sites. Carlos: so multiple stations can be shown as dots on the OBFS map, but that group receives only one vote; e.g., Org. of Tropical Studies runs four stations, but only La Selva is currently a member; OTS is evaluating whether other stations should join or work through La Selva's membership. Philippe: Univ. of California Natural Reserve System joins as a system and UCNRS receives one vote, but each field station joins individually so they can vote.
 - d. Paul: does the budget variance carry over into next year? Philippe: no, it is because we haven't spent money that was budgeted; thus the checking account balances are very high (\$80K).

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- e. Eric and others commend the treasurer for excellent fiscal management.
- f. Budget security –if something happened to the OBFS treasurer, other OBFS officers would have no access to the accounts. To list multiple owners on the accounts we would need a physical presence of the officer(s) at the bank and confirmed by a notary. Philippe will work on solving this, but for now, proposes we break accounts into three officers with oversight (one person has the user name, a second has the password and a third has security clearance) so it takes multiple members of the board to get account access. Eric: can one person have all of the info for safekeeping? Philippe: spreading the information among officers will reduce the likelihood that someone could tamper with accounts. As the account holder, Philippe would receive a text if anyone tried to access the accounts without permission. The Vice President should not be one of the signatories because that position does budgetary audits - a conflict of interest.
 - i. Proposed that the following officers have partial account information.
 - ii. President, Secretary, Past-president.
- 4. Jason: evaluated password protection options and suggested OBFS pay for a LastPass password encrypted to enable us to share private notes/info on accounts with individual board members. It has a master password for access to the account. This might also reduce the problem of hacked OBFS email accounts - some of our obfs.org email addresses are being used to ask for money from Treasurer.
 - a. Jason will send info to Philippe for review, Philippe will develop a procedure for board review and approval.
- 5. 2017 annual meeting agenda, Itasca Biological Station, MN (Chris, Sarah)
 - a. Listened closely to feedback from surveys of 2016 annual meeting. Five plenaries settled (Itasca is covering some of the plenary speakers' travel; OBFS needs to cover one plenary speaker); 11 or 12 concurrent sessions are scheduled. Topics include: a mock NSF panel; Peter McCartney, NSF FSML program; field station admin. Agenda is set.
 - b. American Institute for Biological Sciences speaker – AIBS is happy to speak and requested a \$500 honorarium plus travel. Would need to be a plenary; there isn't space for a concurrent session. Eric: a specific workshop might be useful to members, but an overview on funding/national policies may not be. We could schedule a workshop topic of interest to field-stations (e.g., communications) for 2018.
 - i. Chris will talk with Julie Palkovich Carr of AIBS about the 2018 meeting.
 - c. Budget has \$5000 total for meeting support (including contingencies). Cost is more likely to be about \$2000 this year.
 - d. New members poster session; the 5-slide "meet the station" received mixed reception from the exit surveys of the last two annual meetings. We are getting several abstracts for posters so that seems to be a good way to introduce people to new stations.
 - e. Brian: asked the status of the Local Hero Award (an awardee has been chosen). Would like to engrave all awards in July or August. Sarah: will resend to Brian the names for the plaque; Paul suggests Brian check with Laura on exactly how the names should be engraved.
 - f. Sustaining Biological Infrastructure pre-meeting workshop is Wednesday; Itasca agreed to comp part of the leaders' stay to encourage them to interact with OBFS participants. Sarah: nine people registered for meeting so far; not sure how many registered for SBI.
 - g. Chris: Eric please touch base with Laura about auction.
 - h. Mary: suggests including on the agenda the Qualified Expenses issue which is difficult for some field stations/institutions. Chris: concurrent session 1 might address such an administrative issue; Mary can talk to Bill Schuster and Sylvia about including the topic. Philippe: suggest sending an email to the OBFS listserv and ask others for solutions.
 - i. Chris: estimated number of participants = 125, is that accurate? Laura Domine from Itasca asked.
 - j. Jennifer: Congressional Visits Day – Sarah will coordinate those who attended this year to speak about the experience. [Philippe left the meeting]
- 6. ESA Bulletin article (Stacy, Paul)
 - a. Due Aug 12; need draft by late July (Stacy, David, Mary).
- 7. Website update (Jason)
 - a. Membership database is in good shape with Philippe's help. We can now manage current/active members and former/inactive members in one place.
 - b. Calendar updates (for field station classes) are difficult now in Memberclicks.
 - c. If we wanted a data repository also it would be an additional cost to Memberclicks. Jason will develop a cost-benefit analysis to evaluate this option for membership.
 - d. Uses of website: 1) public documents, who OBFS is; best practices; annual meeting info; 2) map of world and external links to field stations.
 - e. Press releases on OBFS.org and keeping public news up top rather than becoming pushed down by new news: items of note include 1) Mark Ruffalo press release; 2) ESA Bulletin article. Should we think about the public site use and a section for

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media requests and news? We should have a basic media kit; Sarah will work with Jason. Eric: also we can think about how we provide info for the user.

8. 2016 OBFS Member Survey (Chris) – suggest redoing survey in 3-5 years. Chris seeks feedback on how can we best use this to serve the membership, other questions, feedback etc.
 - a. Can we post on the website? Or on listserv?
9. Update on Human Diversity Award (Amy) – four nominations, three applications (Archbold, RMBL, Univ Akron). UA wins! Eric moves to approve; seconded by Sylvia; approved.
 - a. Eric: is that number typical? Brian: 2-6 seems like the range. Amy suggests the process change [Amy: please include those details here and thanks!].
10. Early Career Travel Award (Anne): four applicants: Lacawac, Churchill, Mendocino Coastal Field Station, who was fourth???.
 - a. Committee membership is Anne Kelly, Rhonda Struminger, Grant MacNeill (he was recused from reviewing the Churchill application as he works there).
 - b. Could we grant two awards, as the top candidates were very close, and both are young scientists who would benefit and bring useful experience back to their home field stations and nearby communities. Stacy: having multiple awardees would help create a stronger cohort of early career FS people. Standard award is reimbursable up to \$2000, so it may be the total cost for two would be less than \$3000. Sarah seconded the motion. Motion approved.
 - c. Motion to award two applicants approved.
 - d. Anne notes we can encourage this award more by drumming up interest at the annual meeting and letting people know the odds are good of winning.
11. Friend of OBFS awards (Brian)
12. Member Support Travel Award (Carlos)
 - a. One applicant from Greece, this field station is OBFS member but does not have travel funds – Carlos will send website to board. Eric motions; Mary seconds; approved.
 - b. The following two organizations did not apply to the Member Support award, but inviting them to participate would engage OBFS more in Africa as well as link to exciting programs. Could these groups apply for travel assistance, and/or have honorary OBFS membership for a year or two to start? The award can only go to members.
 - i. Mozambique National Park/foundation cultural restoration project building the EO Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory; interested in OBFS.
 - ii. Kruger National Park, South Africa – affiliated with Org of Tropical Studies; have funding to start more field activities and are joining OBFS.
 - c. Note that \$1500 is not enough to cover travel from these overseas stations. The budget supports increasing to \$2000 each. (\$400 is maximum meeting registration for 2017).
 - d. Carlos will encourage these two to become members and apply for travel support.
13. OBFS Development Update (Brian and Sarah)
 - a. Friend of OBFS Award goes to Mark Ruffalo. We won't know until a week before if he is able to attend, or Skype in. Mark asks that we send a press release that he can circulate so Sarah will work on that.
 - b. Development event planning for Thursday, 1 February 2018 – Deering Estate, Miami, FL. Collaborative event
 - i. Will eliminate the usual \$3,737 registration fee
 - ii. Will give us full access to the 1,200 foundation members, 5,000-name Deering email list, and the 25,000 county email list, plus Society of Women Geographers
 1. OBFS will share the profit with Deering Estate, but provide us at least double the profit and likely quadruple the impact
 - iii. Proposed Budget: \$18,500 (need OBFS board review and approval)
 1. Sylvia move to approve Sarah, Brian and committee move forward; Stacy second; approved. Budget has already been approved.
 - iv. Targeted Entertainment possibilities: Dan Rather, former host, CBS Evening News; Carl Hiassen, author; Carl Safina, author; other ideas please tell Sarah.
14. Planning 2018 OBFS meeting, Schoodic, ME - TABLED
15. Old Business - policy on support or endorsement of projects – board please review and email around comments to Eric.
16. Stacy send doodle poll for August meeting.
17. Mary moved to adjourn; seconded by Jason. Approved. Meeting ended approximately 4:10 pm.

Next meeting Wednesday, August 2, 2017, 12:-00-2:00 pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted, Stacy McNulty, OBFS Secretary

August 2, 2017

Draft Meeting Minutes (minutes to be approved at the Annual Meeting)

Board members present : Philippe Cohen, Paul Foster, Mary Hufty, Brian Kloeppel, Anne Kelly, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Jason Tallant, David White, Sylvia Torti, Carlos de la Rosa, Jennifer Seavey, Suzanne Olyarnik (Auction Committee), Laura Domine (Itasca Biological Station)

Called to order: 12:02 pm EST

Decisions

1. LastPass is for password management for financial accounts
2. Policy on project support or endorsement approved

TO DO

1. Governance committee will identify a process for progressive membership and share the draft with the board.
2. Philippe will send a survey to members about progressive membership
3. Laura will remind members to register for annual meeting.
4. Auction format is changing and board will encourage members to participate broadly.
5. Board and committee members submit items to David for annual report by early Sept.
6. Jason, Stacy, Mary will organize a session at annual meeting on website content/uses.
7. Sarah and Brian compile Friends of OBFS list by Sept.
8. Paul will send Eric a draft procedure for awards committee.
9. All board send Eric feedback on policy on sponsoring workshops
10. Paul will draft a letter accepting Schoodic's commitment to host OBFS in 2018, and encourage attendance at Itasca meeting.
11. Encourage members to nominate themselves or others for open board positions – see Sarah.

Meeting notes:

1. Welcome and announcements (Paul)
2. Approval of June 7, 2017 meeting minutes (Stacy)
3. 2017 Annual Conference (Chris)
 - a. Need help with organizing session on Administering FS - can Stacy and Eric help?
 - b. Only need to pay for travel of one speaker.
 - c. The NSF mock panel will be a plenary.
 - d. Update from IBS host (Laura): To date there are 47 registrants, which is low for a month out. Will email OBFS-listserv with a ride board, field trip info to remind folks to register. Chris will help Laura. Eric: Paul can also invite members.
 - e. The Mary Hufty Award will go to the Nelsons. University of Minnesota (IBS) communications will work with Laura/OBFS to announce the award.
 - f. Brian: Mark Ruffalo is receiving the Friends of OBFS award. Plaques have been ordered.
 - g. Auction (Eric, Anne)
 - i. Changes proposed for this year: with the retirement of Peter Connors, OBFS would benefit from considering the current strengths of the organization, including many new members who may not feel a part of or welcomed by the existing auction structure. Proposal: rather than past auctioneers being on stage, rotate more people on stage;; Shorten the live auction somewhat and divide between silent and live auction more evenly. Suzanne: Asks what would be more inclusive, diverse and spread the workload? Anne: there is interest in new people becoming involved. Suggests taking a step back to assess if other fundraising models might work in addition to or besides the auction. Paul, Chris: note that committee roundtables at lunch are additional places to become involved. Brian: the auction has been the most successful internal funding event, so changes to be more member-inclusive are important but we should adjust slowly. If attendance is smaller, the fundraising may be smaller anyway. Mary: can a signup sheet for skits, talent, auction items, be put out now? Philippe: good ideas, but need to recruit people during the meeting and would be hard to do prior to meeting – how do we go about it? Jennifer: required auction skills are considerable – how do we find someone good at it? Carlos: agree, auctions require skills. We need guidelines of the elements. We could hire someone to do the auction.

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Eric: could do a general call before the meeting, and work on it during the meeting. Philippe: OBFS previously defined the fund target is a matching grant to hire an Exec. Director. Board agreed to consider options further.

4. Awards (Paul) –the Human Diversity, one International (Mozambique), and two Early Career recipients of \$2000 each. Philippe: the board increased travel for EC from \$2000 to \$3000 so he will make this change for this fiscal year.
5. Treasurer report (Philippe)
 - a. OBFS is now using LastPass for password management for financial accounts; President, Secretary and Past President have access. Eric: what procedures are in place to transition to new people in those offices in the future? Philippe: Treasurer is annually responsible for changing the passwords and LastPass settings for who can view and share information and the old person's access is ended when their board service ends.
 - b. Progressive (Sponsored) Membership – a survey will go to the membership soon to assess interest in larger field stations paying more to help support smaller/new stations.
 - i. OBFS website could have a tab saying “if you are considering sponsorship click here” that would direct stations to inquire about options.
 - ii. Eric: a dues category could be Zero, which would enable members to join who may have financial issues. Formally matching sponsor field stations and potential members is a good idea. That said, formalizing this would have benefits, even as the board is supportive of Philippe informally dealing with the sponsorships.
 - iii. Philippe – in some cases he acts as “matchmaker” and has allowed stations to join as an individual member. Is this board-supported? Governance committee will take this up to identify a process and share the draft with the board.
6. 2019 International Meeting Site Options – Philippe and Eric
 - a. Do we want OBFS to subsidize meetings that may be in more expensive locations? For example, \$10K might cover a lot of the housing and food costs of a meeting, leaving only travel costs to be covered by the attendees.
 - b. Philippe is getting cost estimates from the Belgian FS. Some of the issues include additional layover due to time difference. For the Bahamas (Gerace FS), a charter flight would be better than commercial flights if OBFS can fill a plane.

Mary: would be useful for OBFS to raise money separately to help fund travel. Carlos: this would result in a high number of travel requests to deal with. Stacy: supportive of keeping our financial goals in mind rather than using organizational funds to support meetings when not all of the members would accrue benefits (e.g., if 100 people attended a meeting and we subsidized \$100 each, that's \$10K for less than half of the membership).
 - c. Subsidizing Member Attendance to International Annual Meetings –Philippe notes that a progressive membership structure might enable some subsidizing of meetings in the future – the two are linked. Jennifer: consider that if attendance is low for 2017 due to budgetary constraints, that indicates an international meeting may have attendance issues also.
 - d. Paul: board will discuss further at Sept. annual meeting.
7. Publications (Stacy) – ESA Bulletin article on 50 years of OBFS is to be submitted next week; Stacy will send the draft to Philippe, Jason and Hilary Swain for review.
8. Annual Report (David)

Working on compiling reports for 2016-17; Sept 1 – Aug 31.
9. Elections (David)

Open Board of Directors positions for 2017 elections: President, Secretary, MAL2 and MAL Early Career. Please encourage people to consider running; nominations take place at the annual meeting up until adjournment. Eric: Nomination Committee is chaired by Past-President (Sarah Oktay).
10. Policy on project support or endorsement (Eric)
 - a. Discussion on the policy which has had several revisions. Paul: who is an “official representative?” Eric: This is the voting member of the station.
 - b. Eric: formal contracts would need separate consideration and process beyond the scope of this policy; e.g., letter of support by OBFS president for an Ecological Society of America letter. Paul: will also need a separate policy document to cover letters of support.
 - c. Philippe moves we accept this policy. Paul seconds. Board approved. Eric will add to the policy and procedures manual and Jason will put on the Google Docs web site, with an email reminder to the board that it's there.
11. Website (Jason)
 - a. Clarified website membership form that the individual member level is non-voting.
 - b. Memberclicks can't offer a drop-down menu for membership. Solution is to create multiple forms, but that didn't work in the past so we are not changing that.
 - c. Media kit has not moved forward; will work on before annual meeting with Sarah.

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- d. Jason– we can have a breakout session during annual meeting to use OBFS.org and think about website content refresh. Stacy will help, Mary too.
- e. Cost/benefit analysis of web repository – ongoing. We have unlimited storage through Memberclicks; we could increase the number of people able to upload content, but that would cost more. Note EDI (a separate data management tool run by LTER NCEAS and Matt Jones) does offer space for storage and wants to archive data, so suggest we look further into this, but it would not be under total OBFS control.
- 12. 2018 Development Event (Brian)
 - a. Moving forward with the Deering Estate, FL event in February 2018. Sarah and Brian are working on the Friends list, and should have it by Sept.
- 13. 2018 OBFS meeting (Chris)
 - a. Today Jason received a message from Schoodic Institute, Maine about a new CEO/president. Does that change impact our 2018 meeting? Philippe: their representative needs to confirm with us on the meeting and need to attend at Itasca. Paul will draft a letter accepting their commitment to host, and encourage attendance.
- 14. Old Business - none
- 15. New Business
 - a. Eric: policy on sponsoring workshops and managing the process, finances, host and board responsibilities. Sent an outline and requests feedback from board; will circulate revision(s).
 - b. An annual award policy is needed - putting them all into one place, being consistent on process. This conversation can be on the annual meeting agenda. Paul will send Eric a draft procedure for awards committee.

Next meeting: Itasca, Sept. 20, 2017

Meeting adjournment Philippe; seconded Mary. Approved.

Meeting ended 1:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Stacy McNulty, OBFS Secretary

Policy on Support or Endorsement of Projects

Organizations, OBFS members, and others, occasionally make requests to the OBFS President or Board of Directors for statements or letters of support for a variety of projects and initiatives. Project leaders may seek OBFS endorsement of a project, financial assistance, in-kind support, or participation of OBFS leadership or members. Most often the request is for a general letter of collaboration or partnership to be used in a grant proposal.

While many projects and ideas may be worthy, OBFS desires to be judicious about its endorsement of projects and cooperation with potential collaborators. OBFS will properly review requests to ensure they are consistent with the policies and interests of the organization and its membership. For a project to be considered for a formal endorsement or other type of support from OBFS, the following conditions must be met:

Conditions for Endorsement:

1. A PI or project leader on the project must be an individual **member** of OBFS or an official representative of an OBFS member station.
2. **Goals and mission** of the requesting organization and the proposed project must be consistent with, or enhance, the goals and missions of OBFS.
3. Level of support or contribution to the project by OBFS must be **over and above that already granted to individual or station members**.
4. Tasks to be performed or support offered by OBFS must describe specific, accrued **benefits to OBFS**, its programs, mission, or members.
5. **Commitment** by OBFS does not necessarily convey to member stations. If such commitments are a core part of the proposed project, then sufficient lead time must be provided so that OBFS can solicit input from members or secure commitments required.
6. Activities, commitments, or products of the cooperation must be made clear and **explicitly defined** in a document **separate** from the full project proposal. A timeline associated with any commitments is required.

Process:

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1. Requests must be submitted to the President, Vice President, or Secretary of OBFS at least **one month prior to a Board of Directors meeting**. Meetings are typically held quarterly.
2. The specific **resources requested** of OBFS must be enumerated. Details such as project goals, grant deadlines, sponsoring program name, etc. are to be included in the request.
3. The OBFS Board of Directors will **vote** on the entire package of support or endorsement.
4. At least one Board member or OBFS member (other than those already associated with the proposed project) must volunteer to serve as project **liaison** to the Board before a vote can be taken. The liaison is responsible for reporting to the Board on project outcomes and following up on commitments made by either party.
5. The project leader will provide the OBFS liaison with a short **report** of accomplishments within six months after the end of the project. The report will focus on cooperative activities and should be distinct from any full report required by others.
6. OBFS can **withdraw support** or endorsement from a project at any time, for any or no reason, unless a formal separate agreement or contract indicates otherwise. Support will be withdrawn if the project does not meet any of the conditions outlined above.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter to President-Elect Trump on Science Funding

December 22, 2016

Dear President-elect Trump:

As leading scientific organizations in the biological sciences, we write to encourage you to make scientific research and education a priority during your administration. Part of what makes America great is our capacity to generate new knowledge and ideas that spur innovation and drive the development of new economic opportunities for all Americans.

We respectfully request that you take swift action to:

- 1) Make scientific research a budget priority
- 2) Appoint a Presidential Science Advisor with strong scientific credentials
- 3) Direct your administration to use peer-reviewed scientific information to inform decisions

Biology is the science of life. Every day, discoveries arising from biological research contribute to improved human health and economic security. Biology is a foundational science from which we build new antibiotic and antiviral medications, translate findings from genetics laboratories into the development of more drought tolerant food crops, and develop new materials inspired by biological compounds and structures. Biological diversity surveys, for example, provide us with the information we need to identify and model diseases, such as Ebola and Zika, which can jump from wild animal populations to humans. Insights derived from our investigations into the human microbial biome are improving our understanding of various health conditions and diseases, such as food allergies, Crohn's and Inflammatory Bowel Disease, among many others.

Biological research enables us to make more informed decisions about natural resource management and stewardship. When we understand how ecological systems function, we can prevent and better mitigate disruptions to important environmental processes that provide us with clean air and water.

Research is an important engine that powers our economy. Over the past 50 years, roughly half of our nation's private sector economic growth has resulted from research and development. One analysis of the return on the federal government's \$12 billion investment in the Human Genome Project found that it generated an estimated \$800 billion in economic return. Other economic analyses of investments in agricultural research have estimated a \$10 return on every \$1 the federal government invests. These are just some examples and others may be found in a recent report from the American Institute of Biological Sciences (see https://www.aibs.org/public-policy/resources/AIBS_Biological_Innovation_Report.pdf). In short, taxpayer support of scientific research pays dividends.

The federal government provides more than half of the funding for basic research in the United States. Indeed, industry counts on the federal government to support fundamental discovery so that the private sector may target its resources to new product development. For example, 80,000 patents awarded over a 10-year period were based on research initially funded by the federal government's National Science Foundation.

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Although the United States has long been a global leader in science, our leadership is waning. Foreign countries are allocating growing shares of their Gross Domestic Product to research and development. New investments in federal research agencies must be a priority if we are to be a global power. Science is a rapidly advancing field that builds on itself. One scientific discipline borrows from another. Thus, it is important that federal agencies coordinate and strategically leverage their research portfolios. One of the ways in which the federal government coordinates its scientific priorities is through the President's Science Advisor and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. A strong and respected science advisor can provide the honest and timely analysis you will require to make informed decisions on threats to public health, national security, and environmental incidents that can threaten the well-being of people for years into the future.

The Office of Science and Technology Policy can also help to ensure that federal research programs are responding to the needs of the scientific community and the nation. We encourage you to work with the National Academies of Science and professional scientific associations such as the undersigned to identify a highly qualified individual who can provide you with the highest caliber scientific advice and counsel.

Science has not been, nor do we think it should be, a partisan issue. Rather, it is a public benefit. We request that upon taking office you provide clear and immediate guidance through the White House Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to all federal department and agency heads directing them to seek and use peer-reviewed scientific information as the basis for decision-making. Many federal programs have established scientific advisory boards and committees. These panels should be filled and staffed by qualified scientists. To do otherwise will call into question the credibility of any government actions taken on matters of health, security, or environmental stewardship.

We stand ready to work with you, your transition team, and your administration to move forward programs and policy that advance science for the benefit of the nation. Please contact Dr. Robert Gropp at rgropp@aibs.org or 202-628-1500 x 250 if we can provide any assistance to you and your administration.

Sincerely,

American Arachnological Society
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Malacological Society
American Ornithological Society
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
American Society of Mammalogists
American Society of Naturalists
American Society of Parasitologists
American Society of Primatologists
Animal Behavior Society
Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University
Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation
Association of Southeastern Biologists
Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Science, University of South Carolina
Berkeley Natural History Museums
BioQUEST
Botanical Society of America
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
Crop Science Society of America
Delaware Museum of Natural History
Entomological Society of America
Great Lakes Research Center of Michigan Technological University
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution at Florida Atlantic University
Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology
Hatfield Marine Science Center

Helminthological Society of Washington
Herpetologists' League
Human Anatomy and Physiology Society
iDigBio
International Association for Bear Research and Management
Kewalo Marine Laboratory, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
National Association of Biology Teachers
National Association of Marine Laboratories
National Tropical Botanical Garden
NC State University/Center for Marine Sciences & Technology
Oregon State University Herbarium
Organization of Biological Field Stations
Paleontological Society
Phycological Society of America
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
Society for Conservation Biology North America
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
Society for Mathematical Biology
Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles
Society for the Study of Evolution
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
Society of Systematic Biologists
Soil Science Society of America
Southwestern Association of Naturalists
State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
The Field Museum of Natural History
University of California Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory

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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Institute of Marine
Sciences
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Department of Botany
US Regional Association of the International Association of
Landscape Ecology

Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, University of
Florida
Wisconsin State Herbarium

Letter to the Congressional Science Subcommittee on National Science Foundation (NSF) funding (reformatted from the original)

April 4, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

We write to respectfully request that the National Science Foundation (NSF) receive at least \$8 billion in funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The NSF is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science, secure the national defense; and to advance the nation's health, prosperity, and welfare. Ensuring the NSF has robust resources to carry out its mission has never been more important. More than 20 percent of jobs in our country require training in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields which are projected to experience the highest growth in coming years. At the same time the United States lags behind other nations in STEM training; our nation ranks 38th in mathematics and 24th in science performance. Nearly one-third of our country's adults have less than basic mathematics skills. To remain competitive globally we must invest in the NSF as it is the only federal agency specifically responsible for supporting essential education and research across all science and engineering fields.

According to the Center on Education and the Workforce, there will be a shortage of five million STEM professionals by 2020. To meet our nation's workforce needs, support research and development, and compete in the world economy, Congress must fully fund the NSF. One out of every four basic research projects at higher learning institutions across the U.S. is supported by the NSF. All NSF grant proposals are critically reviewed to ensure they meet the intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria. The NSF's expert merit review process is the international gold-standard for the review and evaluation of grant proposals. The NSF's merit review process relies upon the expertise and knowledge of leading scientists and engineers to ensure that the best research is being funded across the scientific disciplines. Full funding of the NSF will enable 377,170 researchers, including teachers and students across the country, to address some of our society's most pressing concerns through 10,100 individual NSF awards.

NSF research has led to scientific and technological breakthroughs that have generated positive change in society and long-term economic benefits. Many of those discoveries have been expanded upon and applied commercially by domestic companies, benefiting the private sector and spurring our nation's economy. Advanced rechargeable batteries, facial recognition software that can read emotions, and more protective sunscreens are examples of commercial products that have roots with the NSF, have created jobs, and have helped businesses grow.

Each day NSF-supported inventions like those that detect chemical and biological weapons and models and management strategies for storms and disaster situations make our lives better and safer. Other breakthroughs have assisted our military through stealth camouflage and helped veterans transition home through advanced trauma research. Scientists supported by the NSF are currently developing breakthroughs including treatments for resistant prostate cancer, sensors to detect lung cancer, new lightweight body armors, and zero resistance energy flows to improve energy efficiency.

The NSF helps support our nation's brightest minds in their endeavors to address our most challenging problems. Funding for the NSF makes investments at all education levels to develop a modern and resourceful workforce that will enable our country to remain competitive in emerging industries.

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For these reasons, we respectfully request your support to ensure that the National Science Foundation receive at least \$8 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. This amount is the minimum level of funding needed to ensure future generations of Americans are prepared to help our nation remain a world economic leader.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

Signed by 134 Members of Congress

Letter to Congress on Science Funding

(signed by OBFS and other science organizations)

May 23, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

As leading scientific organizations in the biological sciences, we urge you to make strong investments in scientific research and education in fiscal year 2018, and to reject the deep cuts to federal research programs proposed in the President's budget request.

Research is an important engine that powers our economy. Over the past 50 years, roughly half of our nation's private sector economic growth has resulted from research and development. Analysis of the return on the federal government's \$12 billion investment in the Human Genome Project found that it generated an estimated \$800 billion in economic return. Other economic analyses of investments in agricultural research have estimated a \$10 return on every \$1 the federal government invests. These are just some examples and others may be found in a recent report from the American Institute of Biological Sciences (see https://www.aibs.org/public-policy/resources/AIBS_Biological_Innovation_Report.pdf). In short, taxpayer support of scientific research pays dividends. The federal government provides more than half of the funding for basic research in the United States. Indeed, industry counts on the federal government to support fundamental discovery so that the private sector may target its resources to new product development. For example, 80,000 patents awarded over a 10-year period were based on research initially funded by the National Science Foundation.

Although the United States has long been a global leader in science, our leadership is waning. Foreign countries are allocating growing shares of their Gross Domestic Product to research and development. New investments in federal research programs must be a priority if we are to remain a global scientific power.

The budget cuts outlined by the Administration for 2018 would set back American innovation for years. Funding rates for programs that support foundational biological research are already extremely low, with roughly four out of five research proposals rejected by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. The proposed budget would slash these funding rates even further for researchers at universities, colleges, marine labs, field stations, biological collections, and other non-profit research centers. Research conducted at federal labs would be harmed by likely staff reductions and cuts to research budgets.

Congress has shown bipartisan leadership by advancing science and thus stimulating American innovation and entrepreneurship. Please continue to demonstrate this bipartisan national leadership as Congress makes fiscal year 2018 appropriations.

Sincerely,

American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Arachnological Society
American Ornithological Society
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
American Society of Mammalogists
American Society of Naturalists
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Society of Primatologists
Animal Behavior Society
Association of Ecosystem Research Centers
Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences,
University of South Carolina
BioQUEST

Botanical Research Institute of Texas
Botanical Society of America
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
Delaware Museum of Natural History
Entomological Collections Network
Entomological Society of America
Florida Atlantic University
Human Anatomy and Physiology Society
National Tropical Botanical Garden
Natural Science Collections Alliance
Organization of Biological Field Stations
Paleontological Society
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

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San Diego Natural History Museum
Sitka Sound Science Center
Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
Society for Mathematical Biology
Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles
Society for the Study of Evolution
Society of Systematic Biologists
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Society of Wetland Scientists
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society
Southwestern Association of Naturalists
The Coleopterists Society
US Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology
Weed Science Society of America
Willi Hennig Society

Letter to Congress on Climate Change

(signed by OBFS and other science organizations)

June 28, 2016

Dear Members of Congress, We, as leaders of major scientific organizations, write to remind you of the consensus scientific view of climate change. Observations throughout the world make it clear that climate change is occurring, and rigorous scientific research concludes that the greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are the primary driver. This conclusion is based on multiple independent lines of evidence and the vast body of peer-reviewed science. There is strong evidence that ongoing climate change is having broad negative impacts on society, including the global economy, natural resources, and human health. For the United States, climate change impacts include greater threats of extreme weather events, sea level rise, and increased risk of regional water scarcity, heat waves, wildfires, and the disturbance of biological systems. The severity of climate change impacts is increasing and is expected to increase substantially in the coming decades.

To reduce the risk of the most severe impacts of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions must be substantially reduced. In addition, adaptation is necessary to address unavoidable consequences for human health and safety, food security, water availability, and national security, among others.

We, in the scientific community, are prepared to work with you on the scientific issues important to your deliberations as you seek to address the challenges of our changing climate. The conclusions in this and the preceding paragraph reflect the scientific consensus represented by, for example, the U.S. Global Change Research Program, the U.S. National Academies, and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Many scientific societies have endorsed these findings in their own statements, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Chemical Society, American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, American Statistical Association, Ecological Society of America, and Geological Society of America.

American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Chemical Society
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Meteorological Society
American Public Health Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
American Society of Naturalists
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Statistical Association
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography
Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation
Association of Ecosystem Research Centers
BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium
Botanical Society of America

Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Crop Science Society of America
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Geological Society of America
National Association of Marine Laboratories
Natural Science Collections Alliance
Organization of Biological Field Stations
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Mathematical Biology
Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles
Society of Nematologists
Society of Systematic Biologists
Soil Science Society of America
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

Letter to the US Environmental Protection agency on Research

(signed by OBFS and other science organizations)

July 31, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

As leaders of professional scientific societies with our collective membership of hundreds of thousands of scientists, we are writing in response to reports that you are working to develop a “red team/blue team” process that challenges climate science.

We write to remind you of the ongoing research, testing, evaluations, and debates that happen on a regular basis in every scientific discipline. The peer review process itself is a constant means of scientists putting forth research results, getting challenged, and revising them based on evidence. Indeed, science is a multi-dimensional, competitive “red team/blue team” process whereby scientists and scientific teams are constantly challenging one another’s findings for robustness. The current scientific understanding of climate change is based on decades of such work, along with overarching, carefully evaluated assessments within the United States and internationally.

As a reflection of that work, 31 scientific societies last year released a letter, updated from 2009, to reflect the current scientific consensus on climate change. We urge you to give its text consideration, along with America’s Climate Choices, the work of our premier United States scientific body, the National Academy of Sciences.

Of course, climate science, like all sciences, is an ever-changing discipline: our knowledge is always advancing. Robust discussion about data interpretation, methodology, and findings are part of daily scientific discourse. That is how science progresses. However, the integrity of the scientific process cannot thrive when policymakers—regardless of party affiliation—use policy disagreements as a pretext to challenge scientific conclusions.

Given your interest in the state of climate science, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to better understand your perspective and rationale for the proposed activity; and to discuss climate science, including which areas are at the frontiers of scientific knowledge and which are well-established because of thousands of studies from multiple lines of evidence.

We look forward to hearing from you, and your office may contact Lexi Shultz (ashultz@agu.org), Kasey White (kwhite@geosociety.org), or Joanne Carney (jcarney@aaas.org) to coordinate a meeting.

Sincerely,

Rush D. Holt, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
American Association for the Advancement of Science

OBFS Member General Information Survey Results, April, 2017

Submitted by the Outreach Committee

On behalf of the OBFS Outreach Committee, we would like to thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The primary goal of the survey is to gather information about the members' needs and preferences in several key areas of operation. Your responses and comments will be confidential. Your input is vital to allow the organization to most effectively serve its members. NOTE: All responses were anonymous.

Q1) How long has your Station (or Individual Member) been a member of OBFS?

📊 Answered: 66 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices

1-2 years
3-5 years
6-10 years

Responses

9 Members (13.64%)
8 Members (12.12%)
14 Members (21.21%)

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11-20 years	12 Members (18.18%)
over 20 years	20 Members (30.30%)
Other (please specify)	3 Members (4.55%)

Q2) What are your primary reasons for being a member of OBFS? (click all that apply)

📊 Answered: 65 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Responses
Annual Meetings	44 (67.69%)
Listserv	34 (52.31%)
Networking and Communication with other Members	60 (92.31%)
Research Collaborations and/or other potential collaborations	30 (46.15%)
Sense of Community and other Social Aspects	38 (58.46%)
Updates from NSF and other Federal Agencies	33 (50.77%)

Comments

- resource for any issues that arise at our field station.
- Great community!
- It's a great bunch of dedicated, friendly people!
- serve as a collective voice to funding agencies; offer science-based guidance to decision makers, managers
- Hoping to work together to accomplish more than we can alone.
- Create stronger national profile for field stations.

Q3) How often do you, or someone from your Station, attend the OBFS Annual Meetings?

📊 Answered: 66 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Always	19 (28.79%)
Often, but not every year	16 (24.24%)
Occasionally	13 (19.70%)
Rarely	7 (10.61%)
Never	7 (10.61%)
Other (please specify)	4 (6.06%)

Q4) Are expenses a limiting factor in choosing whether or not to attend the Annual Meeting?

📊 Answered: 65 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices–	Responses–
Yes	18 (27.69%)
No	18 (27.69%)
Often	2 (3.08%)
Occasionally	12 (18.46%)
Rarely	8 (12.31%)
Other (please specify)	7 (10.77%)

Q5) Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed at the annual meetings? (click all that apply)

📊 Answered: 64 Skipped: 2

Answer Choices	Responses
Administration of Field Stations	49 (76.56%)
Art & Science Convergence	25 (39.06%)
Bioinformatics	9 (14.06%)
Citizen Science	29 (45.31%)
Climate Change and/or other Emerging Issues	28 (43.75%)
Collaborative Projects between Stations	47 (73.44%)
Communicating Science to elected officials and/or the public	28 (43.75%)
Development and other Fundraising/Friendraising Ideas	45 (70.31%)
Education	22 (34.38%)
Field Trips	21 (32.81%)
Marketing and Public Relations	27 (42.19%)
NSF and other federal funding sources	35 (54.69%)

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Research at Field Stations & Marine Labs	33 (51.56%)
Resource Management (land, fisheries, wildlife, etc.)	24 (37.50%)
Sensor Technology	22 (34.38%)
STEM Outreach	22 (34.38%)
Workshops	22 (34.38%)

Comments

- Partnerships between field stations and other agencies
- Broadly related to all of these topics, keeping stations nimble and relevant to research and education needs
- Lobbying with AIBS. OBFS can and should do what we can't effectively do ourselves: work at larger scales, collaborate with other organizations and institutions.

Q6) Periodically, OBFS holds the Annual Meeting at an international site. Please rank the following options, in terms of your preference for potential international meeting locations:

☑ Answered: 63 Skipped: 3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Score
Africa	8	3	3	3	5	12	7	2	43	4.42
Asia	0	2	5	6	5	9	13	1	41	3.61
Australia/NZ	9	6	3	6	11	4	4	1	44	5.16
Canada	15	7	6	5	3	6	6	0	48	5.67
C. America	9	13	10	5	5	4	1	0	47	6.00
Europe	7	11	9	5	5	3	7	1	48	5.33
S. America	3	9	12	12	6	0	1	2	45	5.49
No pref.	12	0	1	0	1	0	0	11	25	4.68

Q7) OBFS has found that late September is typically the best time for the Annual Meeting and will adhere to this time frame, when possible. In the event that new dates are necessary, please rank the following options, in terms of your preference for alternative meeting times:

☑ Answered: 60 Skipped: 6

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Score
late August	18	6	6	2	9	4	45	4.22
early September	12	19	7	3	6	0	47	4.60
early-mid October	13	9	10	4	6	1	43	4.37
late October-early November	8	13	5	15	2	1	44	4.16
late November	1	3	9	8	13	5	39	2.87
No preference	7	1	2	2	1	10	23	3.17

Q8) How often do you visit the OBFS website?

☑ Answered: 66 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Often	3 (4.55%)
Occasionally	47 (71.21%)
Rarely	14 (21.21%)
Never	0 (0.00%)
Other (please specify)	2 (3.03%)

Q9) How often do you participate in the quarterly OBFS Board conference calls?

☑ Answered: 66 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Always	4 (6.06%)
Often, but not always	2 (3.03%)
Occasionally	6 (9.09%)
Rarely	9 (13.64%)
Never	42 (63.64%)
Other (please specify)	3 (4.55%)

Q10) In which of the following areas, would you like to become more involved?

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(click all that apply)

☑ Answered: 52 Skipped 14

Answer Choices	Responses
Annual Meeting Planning Committee	11 (21.15%)
Communication Committee (soon to be formed)	7 (13.46%)
Development Committee	8 (15.38%)
Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, etc.)	6 (11.54%)
Editorial Work	3 (5.77%)
Finance Committee	0 (0.00%)
Governance Committee	3 (5.77%)
History of OBFS	1 (1.92%)
Human Diversity Award Committee	4 (7.69%)
International Committee	7 (13.46%)
Nominating Committee	1 (1.92%)
Outreach Committee	6 (11.54%)
Website work/Network Coordination	2 (3.85%)
I am not interested in becoming more involved.	25 (48.08%)

OBFS Membership Fee Structure Survey, August, 2017 results.

The survey was sent to all station members in good standing, 72 stations responded

Q1 Are you a field station representative that is a member of OBFS?

- Answered: 72 Yes 71, No 1
- Skipped: 0

Comment:

- We have historically [Disney Wilderness Preserve] and will be once again soon. I am currently an individual member.

Q2 If the answer to #1 is yes, are you familiar with your field station's annual operating budget?

- Answered: 70 Yes 66, No 4
- Skipped: 2

Comments:

- We have not worked with strict adherence to a budget. This is a general understanding of costs to operate late April to early October. There is much volunteer input, the monetary value of which has not been worked out. It would be to unsettling. How would we continue without that level of volunteer commitment?
- It might be appropriate to distinguish between salaries and other types of operating expenses. It also might be helpful to distinguish between operating expenses covered by parent institutions and operating expenses that rely on revenue generation.

Q3 Do you think it is appropriate and would you support an OBFS policy change for field stations with larger operating budgets to pay more than field stations with smaller budgets?

- Answered: 63 Yes 53, No 10
- Skipped: 9

Comments:

- Depending on how these distinctions are defined. I support it in theory and especially to give new/small field stations a chance to join (great idea!); but this might depend on how much it costs for larger field stations, and what defines a "larger operating budget". For example, if fees increased for my field station - with a \$275,000 annual budget - we would be challenged to pay it.
- To an extent, but realizing that even the smallest field station should be contributing. In turn this places onus on OBFS to make sure the smallest feel a part of, and see value in membership.
- maybe
- what would the additional funds be used for? NAML does this but they have a strong Public Policy out reach that the additional funds pays for.
- Would those paying higher rate have more votes, etc.?
- In general I do agree but the details here will matter a lot.

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- It depends on factors mentioned in answer to #2. In general the answer is yes. To be fair will require some complexity beyond what the budget's "bottom line" is. In our case, we have one dedicated staff person (me) whose salary is paid by the University. All (other) operating expenses must come from revenues. Our facility is 80 square miles and includes a 12 building HQ. Regardless of what the size of the operating budget is, finances are extremely tight.
- Depends on whether the rates charged for larger field stations would increase beyond what we are already paying for membership.
- It depends on how much
- Such heterogeneity among stations about what is in and out of the field station budget. My bet is that every budget model will be different.
- In principle it makes sense. There could be challenges in defining relevant operating budgets consistently across the range of field station institutional support models within OBFS. It would also get creepy if stations paying larger fees had higher status or more influence than stations paying less.
- We are such a small field station, we were considering not renewing given the existing fee - so for us, this is potentially good news.

Q4 Would you be less or more willing to join as a member field station or renew a membership if the fee structure were progressive? Please click either "more" or "less" and then enter a number from 1 (less) to 5 (more) in the comment box.

- Answered: 62 Less 15, More 47
- Skipped: 10
- Answered 54 1=1, 2=3, 3=25, 4=17, 5=8

Comments:

- 3 but if there were a price threshold this would shift to a 1
- I think a progressive fee structure makes a lot of sense, and we're part of other organisations at that have a similar structure. I would also suggest a travel pool structure for AGMs, where everyone pays the same fee to attend, and everyone is reimbursed for their travel expenses afterwards to make it more equitable.

OBFS 2017 Annual Meeting



The 52nd 2017 OBFS annual meeting will be held at the Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, Sept 20-24, 2017.

OBFS 2018 Annual Meeting

The 53rd 2017 OBFS annual meeting will be held at the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park

