

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



50TH YEAR

**Organization of
Biological Field
Stations**

Founded 1966

*Annual Report
2015-2016
www.obfs.org*

The OBFS *Annual Report* contains results of elections, minutes of the annual meeting, list of annual meeting attendees, meeting exit survey, quarterly meeting minutes, budgets, and other business of the organization. This report covers OBFS activities for the period of 9/1/2015 through 8/31/2016.

OBFS GOVERNANCE

Email address 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	Damon Gannon	2015-2017
Secretary	Stacy McNulty	2016-2018
Treasurer	Philippe Cohen	2015-2017
At-Large (1)	Reid Bertone-Johnson	2015-2017
At-Large (2)	Jennifer Seavey	2016-2018

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

Editor	David White	2016-2018
Network Coordinator	Jason Tallant	2016-2018
At-Large (Early Career)	[vacant]	

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	Damon Gannon	2015-2017
Human Diversity	Mel Dean	2016
International	Carlos de la Rosa	2016
Governance	Eric Nagy	2016
- Sub Finance	Peter Connors	n.a.
- Sub Nominating	[vacant]	
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, along with previous *Annual Reports*, is publically available. All inquires should be addressed to editor@obfs.org.

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*Supporting environmental
research, education and public
understanding*

2015-2016 Presidents' Report

Sarah D. Oktay (2014-2016) and Paul Foster (2016-2018)

(Some portions taken from the ESA Bulletin article, see page 42)

OBFS has been busy since our 2015 annual meeting held at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. Each year we continue to add new members and to increase our engagement with colleagues, partners in DC, and other organizations. We now have more members than ever and are working on strengthening ties with our international members.

The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory hosted the OBFS annual meeting in September, 2015. The 118 attendees representing 75 field stations enjoyed a presentation by actor, director, and environmental activist Mark Ruffalo who talked about his commitment to water resources and how field stations engage the public. OBFS presented the inaugural *Friend of OBFS Award* to Miles O'Brien, an internationally-known science correspondent for CNN, NSF (National Science Foundation), NASA and PBS. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miles_O%27Brien_\(journalist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miles_O%27Brien_(journalist))). O'Brien was recognized for his efforts to help create a lasting network of field stations devoted to the discovery and understanding of the environmental challenges of our time. The *Mary Hufty Local Hero Award* went to John Norton of Crested Butte, Colorado. This award recognizes an individual who exemplifies the ideals of OBFS and supports research, education, and outreach through personal and/or professional actions, particularly in the areas of biology, conservation, or ecology.

OBFS participated in the 101st annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) in August. The Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC) and Mountain Social Ecological Observatory Network (MTnSEON) shared a table with OBFS. OBFS information was distributed to conference goers. Our thanks to the following OBFS members who helped staff the booth during the conference: Hilary Swain (Archbold Biological Station); Sarah Knutie (Itasca Biological Station, University of Minnesota); and Jennifer Tisthammer (Director Deering Estate and her Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces) and her coworkers Suzana Mic and Brittany Jones.

We will be holding our 2016 OBFS fundraiser/friendraiser in New York City on October 6th at the NY Academy of Science. Our speakers will be Mark Ruffalo and Dr. Gene Likens of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Dr. Likens will be presented an award from OBFS recognizing his significant service to science.

In 2015 OBFS the Board approved the signature of OBFS on two letters organized by the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and aimed at decision makers. The first was a letter to Members of Congress offering collaboration in working on climate change (see page 41). The second was a set of 20 questions addressed to the major Presidential candidates requesting their views on topics in science (see page 44).

OBFS will celebrate its 50th year at our annual meeting September 21-25, 2016, at the Sitka Sound Science Center in Sitka, Alaska. The Sitka Sound Science Center is dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of Alaska through education and research (www.sitkascience.org/).

2015 OBFS Elections

Candidate Bios for Ye Official 2015 OBFS Ballotte President

Paul Foster I have been the Director of the Reserva Ecológica Bijagual in Costa Rica since 2004 after helping start the Reserve in 2001. The 286-hectare field station hosts courses and research projects from institutions and investigators from the US, Costa Rica, and other countries. My own research focuses on the ecology of vines and lianas, secondary succession, and reforestation strategies and policies. In addition to serving as Director of the Reserve, I also have an appointment as an Adjunct Assistant Research Scientist in DEEB at the University of Michigan. I joined OBFS in 2008 and helped organize the 2009 meeting in Costa Rica. I became co-chair of the International Committee in 2014 and serve on the Board of Directors. In August, 2015 I participated in the Development event on Nantucket together with three other field station directors. I also have served on site reviews and planning workshops for member field stations. Each of these opportunities has added to my appreciation of the diversity of field stations together with their strengths, needs, and successes. One key to success that I've identified in all of these activities is strong organizational skills. My vision for leading OBFS is to continue the tradition to work through consensus to set an agenda and make decisions by the Board of Directors. Consensus is a strong part of the board's culture and maximizes board members' extensive experience and talent. I also strongly support the goal to raise the funds necessary to employ an executive director. Recruiting and retaining member stations is essential to this effort. Currently our international stations represent only 15% of the membership, and I would like to see this percentage increase. Finally I believe we should maintain an active conversation to ensure that OBFS activities and programs are aligned with the needs and desires of the membership because it gets late early out here.

Jeff Brown I have served in my current position since 2001 and have been very active in OBFS since 2003. Not coming from a science background, people have told me that I bring different perspectives to bear and that my greatest strength is in my ability to bring divergent groups together to solve problems. OBFS is crucial to

the future of the field stations I am responsible for. The organization really does represent us at the national level and also is working hard to position us internationally. Since my participation began with OBFS, I have been pleased to see how the leadership has moved the organization forward by taking a very pragmatic perspective and using a meticulous approach. I see how this has positioned OBFS as both the voice and face of field stations and as the focal point in helping people figure out how to engage with us, and us with them. As the NAS report on FSMLs points out, we are at a crossroads and need to think and act differently to thrive in the 21st century. OBFS is poised to take those steps necessary to truly position us to better engage with broader audiences. Field stations serve as the melting pots within which relationships are made, information is collected, and solutions to problems generated. The next challenge, as I see it, is to move from coming up with solutions, to creating the empathy needed to get to actual implementation. These are the reasons why I am willing - should you decide that this is a role I can play - to step up, make the necessary time and energy available, and work with this great group of folks to make this all happen. At California field stations, it ain't the heat, it's the humility.

Secretary

Stacy McNulty I am the current OBFS Secretary. I previously held an OBFS Member-at-Large position and was a big wheel on the OBFS Human Diversity Committee. In my other life, 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. My Master of Science from SUNY ESF is in environmental and forest biology. My research interests include forest and wetland ecology, wildlife conservation and management, phenological patterns of native species, and the relationships between humans and the environment. I have conducted research and educational activities at AEC since 2000; before that, I was a trapeze artist in Transylvania until untimely a knee injury forced me to switch careers. The first OBFS meeting I attended was in 2002; by engaging with this dynamic group of colleagues over the years, I

have learned a tremendous amount about field station administration, development, and facilitating science while wearing sartorially-questionable auction costumes. While serving as OBFS Secretary, I advocated adding an early career representative to the board of directors to provide feedback to the organization from current/recent station users and to serve as a mentoring opportunity for rising scientists/educators. I have enjoyed recording board conversations (legally) for the past two years and would be honored to continue to serve in that capacity if reelected. We have made tremendous progress toward our organizational goals, and I look forward to working with all of you to continue the success of OBFS. Can't wait to see my competition...it's like déjà vu all over again.

Kim Davis I am your competition..... We both wear the same glasses, but that is where the similarities end. I worked in Kentucky's Rowan County Clerk's office for 27 years as a Deputy Clerk and will be honored to be elected as the Secretary of OBFS. I love my job and the people of Rowan County, but my lawyers said that I should broaden my perspectives and get out of that county. Most of the OBFS stations are remote, and that would suit me just fine. I am not perfect. No one is. But I doubt that the other person running for Secretary has met Pope Francis. Running for Secretary is not an issue I take lightly. It is a Heaven or Hell decision – Heaven if I am elected, Hell if I have to stay in Rowan County. For me it is a decision of duty to an organization about which I know nothing, but I promise to have no animosity toward anyone and harbor no ill will. It is a matter of secretarial liberty, which is protected under the First Amendment and the OBFS Bylaws. The history of OBFS is filled with accommodations for freedom and conscience. I will continue to perform my duties no matter what any judge or the Executive Committee says. That is all I am asking. I never thought I would be in this position, but I hope to be elected by the membership to serve the Organization. I can spell most words, am a registered notary public, can illegally record your conversations and even make them public record, and I go on record as being opposed to any research using animals of the same species. I have come to my fork in the road and am taking it.

Member-at-Large (2)

Jennifer Tisthammer I am Director of the Deering Estate in Miami, Florida, have 7+ years experience in natural and cultural resource management and 19+ years executive and senior management experience in financial and risk management, strategic planning and project management, fundraising and new business development, non profit governance and community engagement, and staff transition and empowerment. The Deering Estate is a 450+ acre Cultural and Ecological Field Station with diverse cultural and ecological resources including an historic site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Paleo and Tequesta archaeological sites, an artist in residence village, 7 native Florida habitats, a 7 acre spoil island restored as a bird rookery, a 10 acre demonstration wetland - part of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetland Project/Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and a 10,500 sf solar powered contemporary residence to welcome visiting scientists, students and academia in a discourse about unique ways to preserve the rich cultural and natural resources of our community. I was appointed to the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team and Florida International University's School of Environment, Arts and Society Advisory Boards. I am an American Association of University Women scholarship recipient, receiving my Master's degree in Environmental Science with emphasis on public policy, citizen engagement in environmental decision making, coastal morphology and resource management; I also have an Historic Preservation Graduate Field Study Certificate from the University of Florida/Preservation Institute/Nantucket and a Bachelor's degree in Finance/Marketing. Because of all I do, I usually take a two-hour nap from one to four.

Sylvia Torti

I am a biologist and novelist and currently the dean of the Honors College at the University of Utah. I completed my Ph.D. in Biology in 1998 at the University of Utah focusing on the unique and little understood phenomenon of tropical monodominance in Panama and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Utah, I have worked as the plant conservation biologist for Red Butte Garden (2001-2003) and as a consultant with the U.S. Forest Service on *Primula maguirei*, a rare species

found only in Logan Canyon, Utah (2007-2010). I am a creative writer. My first novel, *The Scorpion's Tail*, was published in 2005 and won the Miguel Mármol Award for "best debut fiction by an American of Latino/a decent." My short stories and essays have been published in numerous magazines and edited volumes. I have just completed my second novel, *Cages*, and am soliciting publishers. From 2009 and 2012, I was the Associate Director of the University of Utah's Rio Mesa Center, a new interdisciplinary center on the Colorado Plateau. I have visited and/or worked at over 40 field stations and spent time in three art residencies (Hedgebrook, Sacatar, and Center for Art and Science in Nature). My interdisciplinary background has allowed me to develop unique collaborations with artists that have resulted in new undergraduate courses such as the Dual Immersion: Landscape Ecology and Landscape Painting courses at Rio Mesa as well as an Honors Integrated Minor in "Ecology and Legacy" at the University of Utah's Taft-Nicholson Center in Montana. I am co-director of the Mapping Meaning Project (www.mappingmeaning.org) that brings women artists, scientists, anthropologists, and humanities scholars together for a bi-annual workshop at field stations in the Western USA, so if you ask me anything I don't know, I'm not going to answer.

Jennifer Seavey

I am the Executive Director of Shoals Marine Laboratory on Appledore Island, Maine, that is a joint facility of the University of New Hampshire and Cornell University. I also hold research faculty appointments at both institutions. As Executive Director, I develop and implement strategies to achieve the Shoals mission to provide education and research programs that advance 1) the understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems and 2) the development of sustainable solutions to environmental challenges. I am a broadly trained Marine Ecologist with a focus on applied research on waterbirds, climate change, and resource management. My academic achievements include post doctorate positions at the University of Massachusetts and the University of Florida where I conducted research on climate change impacts to coastal ecosystems. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in Natural Resource Conservation, where my dissertation focused on the landscape ecology and conservation of the piping plover

on barrier islands of New York. My Master's Degree is from the University of Washington, Seattle, and I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Lewis and Clark College, Portland. Before joining Shoals Marine Laboratory, I held an Adjunct Assistant Professor position in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, where I also served as the Assistant Director for University of Florida's Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory. I currently serve on the STEM Education Committee at the University of New Hampshire and as an organizer of the New England Marine Station Network. I'm not going to buy my kids an encyclopedia. Let them walk to school like I did.

Tom Bansak

I am an aquatic ecologist who works at the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS). After completing my MS at FLBS in 1998, my role evolved from research scientist to educator to outreach and development. You know, it's a typical varied biological field station position. In the research arena, I have worked around Western North America on rivers, lakes, ground water, floodplains, salmon, and aquatic invasive species using an ecosystem approach. I also have designed, installed, and maintained environmental sensor networks. On the education front, I have taught field ecology and resource policy courses at the university level and regularly give presentations and host school groups ranging from middle school through university. Over the last several years, more of my time has been dedicated to community outreach and fundraising (as that is what it seems to take to keep bio stations going these days). I regularly engage professional and service groups (e.g., chambers of commerce, Rotary Club) and homeowners associations to convey the importance of science to broader society. I also attend meetings with state and federal agencies and local political entities to ensure that sound science is used in management decisions. I became FLBS's representative to OBFS and started attending meetings beginning with the Archbold Biological Station in Florida in 2012, and thus far I have made it to all subsequent meetings. From personal experience, I really like and am excited about Sitka, AK. In the past we made too many wrong mistakes, and I'd like to be in the position to continue that tradition.

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Change to Bylaws

Note that rewording of the Bylaws is meant to clarify, not change, existing practices of OBFS. The entire Bylaws can be found on the OBFS website (<http://www.obfs.org/>) under Public Documents.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS, CHAIRPERSON, AND STAFF

Section 2. Election and Term of Office. The voting members will elect the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and directors at large. As soon as possible following the election of directors, the Board of Directors will meet to appoint the network coordinator and editor.

The following paragraph is deleted.

All officers shall serve two-year terms and assume office on April 1. Only the secretary and the treasurer can serve consecutive terms. The president and secretary will assume office in even numbered years. The president shall serve a further two years as past president, beginning at the end of their term as president. The vice-president and treasurer will assume office in odd numbered years. Each officer will hold

office until her/his successor has been properly elected and has taken office, unless she or he resigns or is removed.

The following paragraph replaces the deleted paragraph (words added are in **red**).

*All officers shall serve two-year terms and assume office on April 1. Only the secretary, treasurer, **network coordinator, editor, and officers appointed by the Board of Directors as vacancy replacements** can serve consecutive terms **(in agreement with Article IV Section 2, Section 4, and Section 8)**. The president and secretary will assume office in even numbered years. The president shall serve a further two years as past president, beginning at the end of **her/his** term as president. The vice-president and treasurer will assume office in odd numbered years. Each officer will hold office until her/his successor has been properly elected and has taken office, unless she/he resigns or is removed.*

Results of 2015 Voting

President – Paul Foster

Secretary – Stacy McNulty

Member at Large (2) – Jennifer Seavey

Change to Bylaws – Passed

OBFS greatly appreciates Tom Bansak, Jeff Brown, Jennifer Tisthammer, and Sylvia Torti for their willingness to serve as Board members and stand for office!

Polls were open from Monday November 2 through November 27 (5:00 central time). Ballots were sent via SurveyMonkey to 210 member station contacts: 1 email bounced, 5 had opted out of Survey Monkey. Not every voter voted in all three contests. There were no write-in votes cast. 85 station contacts voted.

Number of votes in previous elections (there are no data available for total number of ballots cast prior to 2001)

Year No of voters - **Electronic ballots**

2015	85
2014	99
2013	83
2012	83
2011	77
2010	66
2009	47

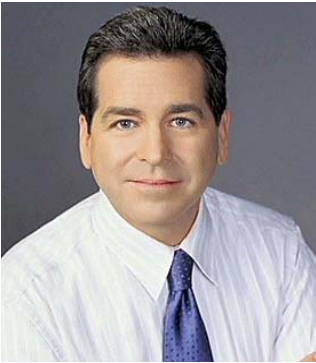


Year No of voters - **Paper ballots**

2008	55
2007	67
2006	66
2005	52
2004	41
2003	54
2002	38
2001	59



2015 Friend of OBFS Recognition



In 2015, OBFS recognized its first 'Friend of OBFS', Miles O'Brien. Miles is a wonderful advocate, was our guest of honor at our 2014 OBFS Development Event in Nantucket, and donated his speaking fee to OBFS. For those of you who were able to join us at our OBFS Annual Meeting at Rocky Mountain Biological Lab in September 2015, Miles joined us via Skype and provided a wonderful overview of his passion and advocacy for field science and education.

*(The 2016 Friend of OBFS award will be presented to **Peter Connors** at the Sitka, Alaska annual meeting in September.)*

2015 Mary Hufty Local Hero Award

John Norton was recognized for building support for the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab within the larger community. He was instrumental in RMBL completing a \$10 million campaign, integrating RMBL into the public transportation system, and generating broad public support for the field station. John began his business career with Procter & Gamble, where he focused on sales and marketing during a time of great expansion for that company. From there, he joined Majers/Dun & Bradstreet, at that time the world's largest marketing consulting firm. He was the team leader at Anheuser-Busch, Ralston Purina, PepsiCo, and helped drive product growth at those industry giants. He then entered the ski industry, where he was COO at Aspen Skiing Company and CEO at Crested Butte.



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.

2016 Award – Santa Rosa Island Research Station (award to be presented at the 2016 OBFS meeting at Sitka). Santa Rosa Island Research Station (<http://www.csuci.edu/sri/>) has 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 Channel Islands.



Middle school students perform and contribute to the long-term sandy beach monitoring program.

International Committee Report

Carlos de la Rosa & Paul Foster, OBFS International Committee Co-chairs

International stations comprise 16% of the OBFS membership representing 19 countries and territories (Table 1, Fig. 1) based on membership status on 20 August 2016. At the 2015 Meeting at RMBL the International Committee held a Breakfast meeting met to discuss activities related to the committee. Martin Bustamante, David Maneli, Molly Phillips, Willem Ferguson, Greg Greenwood, Stephan Schneider, and Paul Foster attended. Discussed was building awareness for the committee, digitizing specimen-based data, promoting OBFS and member stations through blogs and the website (with different language options), and meeting the needs of the international station members at future annual meetings. The Board has expressed strong support for an international station hosting the 2018 Annual Meeting. In 2016 the International Committee awarded three \$1500 grants to attend the 2016 Annual meeting in Sitka. The recipients are

Grant MacNeil, Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Churchill, Manitoba, Canada; Steve Cardimona, Mendocino College, Mendocino, California; and Chris Osborne, University of Kentucky Robinson Forest, Clayhole, Kentucky

OBFS Membership by Country or Territory

Country/ Territory	Number of Member Stations		
Australia	1	France	1
Bahamas	1	Greece	2
Belgium	1	Ireland	1
Belize	2	Mexico	1
Bermuda	1	Netherland Antilles	1
Brazil	1	Panama	2
Brunei Darussalam	1	Puerto Rico	2
Canada	11	Spain	1
Cayman Islands	1	United States	199
Costa Rica	4		
Ecuador	2	Grand Total	236

BESC Congressional Visits Day

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, 2016).

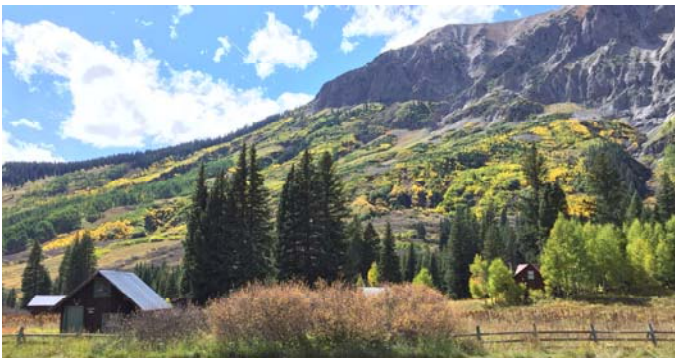
This year's event was held on April 27-28, 2016 in Washington, DC. Four OBFS members took part: 1) Renee Brown (Technical research staff member with the Sevilleta Field Station, NM), 2) Kristina Tirman (AmeriCorps volunteer at the Sitka Sound Science Center, AK), 3) Jennifer Tisthammer (Director, Deering Estate, Miami, FLA), 4) Hilary Swain (Executive Director of Archbold Expeditions, FLA). 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.



2015 OBFS AUCTION



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**PICTURES
FROM THE
2015 RMBL
OBFS
MEETING**
(Photos by Mary
Hufty and Philippe
Cohen)

2015 Annual Meeting
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL), Gothic, Colorado
“Communicating the Value of Field Stations to Policy Makers and the Public”
September 16th to 20th, 2015



OBFS Annual Business Meeting
Sunday, September 20, 2015

Attendees: Ian Billick, Jeff Brown, Philippe Cohen, Mel Dean, Faerthen Felix, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Stacy McNulty, Sarah Oktay, Bill Schuster and various OBFS members

Meeting called to order 8:31 AM MT

Minutes

1. Huge thanks to RMBL for hosting us!
2. Nominations for open positions will close with this meeting, see Bill for nominations.
3. Consider for 2016 annual meeting to move the Sunday BOD meeting to an earlier time to accommodate more of the board
4. Reminder to complete the meeting survey, share any ideas for the 2016 meeting program.
 - i. Bill: let's establish a mechanism to share out the messages from the concurrent sessions – consider that for next year to have note taker or some such.
 - ii. Don't forget to use #RMBL or #OBFS2015 or #OBFStweets to share what you saw/heard at the meeting for increased visibility.
5. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 am

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Attendees: Ian Billick, Jeff Brown, Philippe Cohen, Mel Dean, Faerthen Felix, Paul Foster, Brian Kloeppel, Mike Lannoo, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Sarah Oktay, Bill Schuster, and Richard Grippo

Meeting called to order 6:55 PM MT

To Do Items

1. Philippe send list of participants from 2013 Jasper Ridge Biol. Preserve event to Sarah

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2. Sarah provide links to the podcast of Andy Revkin online on OBFS website
3. Sarah, BOD send Nantucket event friends an end-of-year OBFS newsletter
4. BOD continue 2016 development event planning
5. Put info on website advising potential collaborators OBFS board has a minimum 2 week timeframe for turnaround of letter of support requests
6. Damon put out official call for 2017 and 2018 annual meetings with a deadline of Nov. 1, 2015
7. Eric determine if he can attend AIBS meeting December 1, 2015, DC
8. Stacy move BOD minutes from 2014-15 into the Dropbox folder
9. BOD determine ArtSciConverge and GNOMO committee status at October meeting/call
10. BOD read LTER ABI proposal (see email) and vote on Sunday, Sept. 20

Agenda Items

1. Agenda review and approval (Sarah)
2. Review and approve minutes from August 10th meeting
Bill Schuster moved to accept, seconded by Philippe Cohen, board approved
3. Program for annual meeting (Mel)
 - a. Move Mary Hufty Local Award to 10:30 am and Miles O'Brien 10:40-11 on Sat.
 - b. Sarah will make announcements to alert members of time change
 - c. Jenny Reithel is handling IT; session organizers should ask speakers to come 15 min early
4. Nominations for open positions (Bill) – update on names for Member-at-Large, Secretary, and President.
Continue to encourage nominations. Bill reminded board that there are also opportunities for committee chair changes if people are interested in contributing to OBFS
5. Treasurer Report (Philippe)
 - a. Data storage: recommends purchasing cloud storage for treasurer documents for security and archival purposes – e.g., dropbox files of minutes/history
 - i. Q: is the information sensitive? A: probably ok, as we report tax info publicly
 - ii. Recommends scanning paperwork for archival
 - b. Still interviewing banks for a switch (see earlier BOD meeting notes).
 - c. Investigating use of Quicken or Mint to manage accounts – BOD could view data online
 - d. Finance committee is recommending moving funds managed by Sentinel to another manager because Sentinel's fees are too high (1.2% as compared to 0.5% for other groups such as Vanguard or Parnassus)
 - e. Q: will you still do the 990 forms? A: probably, may have to switch forms and pay someone for accounting help due to exceeding the \$50K revenue cap.
6. Development Report (Brian)
 - a. Nantucket, August 2015 event total cost \$20K, raised \$17K. Considered a success to move us toward fundraising for a 3-year Exec Dir. Projected a \$15K loss in the budget
 - b. OBFS members donated many auctioned visits – raised \$8-10K
 - c. Will have links to the podcast of Andy Revkin online
 - i. Andy Revkin's tweet from the event got a response from Bill Gates in 20 min
 - d. Jeff: create 7 min video that elicits 3 emotional responses – for friendraising, consider commissioning a \$7K production
 - i. Another option – an Ambassadors program to feed in friends
 1. Stacy: think about how to engage the “repeat visitors” for more impact
 2. Ian: suggest sending those donors at a branded level a vest or hat, something else to self-identify
 - ii. Other parts of portfolio are the OBFS website and brochures
 - e. Thanks: Gwen Pearson deserves huge credit for establishing a way to collect funds and Philippe for accounting
 - f. Report back to the friends who participated an end-of-year OBFS newsletter
 - g. Event planning, 2016 – possible New York City or Florida location

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- h. To do: PC send list of participants from Jasper Ridge BP to Sarah
- i. Ian: how to involve OBFS members in the 2016 event as professional development
- 7. Letter of support for the Long-Term Ecological Research NSF ABI proposal (Brian)
 - a. Bob Waide: LTER proposal due next week – BOD read it and vote on Sunday
 - b. Discussion on best practices on proposal review for letters of support. Put info on website advising potential collaborators OBFS board has a minimum 2 week timeframe for turnaround of letter of support requests
- 8. Annual meeting host in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (Sarah)
 - a. 2016 will be Sitka, Alaska. Dates: Sept. 21-25. Cost of travel will be high, which may impact attendance due to having only a year to plan ahead
 - b. Potential other sites
 - i. 2017 – Damon put out official call with a deadline of Nov. 1; send the template and add the proviso that the winner must attend the meeting a year before
 - ii. 2018 – target an international station by June 1, 2016
 - iii. Co-host a NAML meeting again? Would be ideal to have up-front dialog with them about being a partner in cost and informational exchange so attendees get a lot out of the experience
- 9. iDigBio collection digitization proposal with OBFS (Jeff)
 - a. Can OBFS select a member organization to lead a proposal be the contractor and subcontract funds to participating members? The lead station should have low overhead for the indirect rate (< 20%)
 - i. Ian – Rocky Mtn Biol Lab could lead; indirect is unrestricted.
 - ii. Would have to hire project manager. NSF's Postdoc Fellow program might be an additional source for this.
 - iii. Philippe – in the event of an audit, need to be able to justify how the indirect rate is set with NSF
 - iv. Ian – need an Exec Dir first before asking NSF to partly fund via indirect
 - b. Stacy- if smaller stations could get a collection digitization team to help them out, this could be a way to provide additional value to being an OBFS member
 - c. NSF is willing to fund a proposal-writing workshop for ADBC by Gil Nelson of iDigBio and Roland Roberts of NSF this winter. There is a Friday noon lunch meeting on this topic
 - d. Note Bill Michener and Bob Waide have vast expertise on proposal writing
- 10. New Business
 - a. OBFS rep. to American Institute of Biological Sciences December Council meeting, in DC
 - i. See if Eric can attend December 1, 2015, DC
 - b. GNOMO – Global Network of Mountain Observatories (Jeff)
 - i. Held workshop on Monday; had 25 international and 25 US scientists
 - ii. Project abstract at http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1547475&HistoricalAwards=false
 - iii. GNOMO members required to join OBFS
 - 1. Proposed GNOMO Committee. What are the responsibilities for the committee? Submit a paragraph to BOD.
 - iv. Linked to GEO group
 - c. ArtSciConverge (Faerthen)
 - i. Bill Fox of Nevada Art Museum, Sagehen Creek leading effort.
 - ii. Lots of projects, funded a fellow through "Reinventing the Renaissance"
 - iii. Propose Art at FSMLs Committee. What are the responsibilities for the committee? Submit a paragraph to BOD.
 - d. Bylaws change
 - e. Combine Member Support and New Station Committees (Sarah)
- 11. Motion to adjourn made by Philippe. Seconded by Sarah. Meeting adjourned 8:36 PM.

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Attendees: Ian Billick, Jeff Brown, Philippe Cohen, Mel Dean, Faerthen Felix, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Stacy McNulty, Sarah Oktay, Bill Schuster, Mike Lannoo, Tom from AK, Animus River, CO, Bob Waide (LTER)
Meeting called to order 9:02 AM MT

To Do Items

1. Philippe will contact Gwen to change website
2. Philippe will add line item to the budget for Sustaining Members' contributions
3. Philippe will move the AIBS Briefing for National Decision-making to a new line item
4. Sarah will work with Development Committee to send calls for foundation proposals toward Exec Dir for December
5. Sarah ask Rob Gropp provide a proposal for AIBS services to OBFS for BOD review
6. Sarah contact NEON about their membership fee for review by BOD
7. Sarah will ask NEON to become a sustaining member of OBFS and will be in touch with Sam Wisely
8. BOD to create guidelines for what to include on a proposal for any new initiative
9. Sarah will encourage OBFS members via email to consider the ABI proposal by Tuesday
10. Jeff share Patagonia website and BOD decide which clothing selections can have OBFS logo for sale
11. Clarify which Directors can be involved in a discussion about how to develop committees
12. October meeting - review the ArtSciConverge and GNOMO committee and budget requests. Include Jeff and Faerthen on call
13. At the December BOD meeting –vote on combining Member Support and Outreach Committees

Decision Items

1. Added the Sustaining Member dues level at \$1,000 US
2. Changed name of primary membership level from "Annual Station Member" to "Voting Station Member"
3. Agreed to support the LTER proposal to NSF ABI with a letter of support and encouragement to members to join in the proposal

Minutes

1. Membership dues for large field station/institutional category (Philippe)
 - a. Ian – suggest we name it "Sustaining Member" at \$1,000. This will continue to help OBFS reach the fundraising goal for an Executive Director
 - b. Raising dues for those stations who can and want to provide higher support is appropriate. The Sustaining Member sponsors one or more new, international or financially-challenged stations.
 - c. Can we change this quickly before the dues renewal which begins October 1, 2015
 - d. Our low \$150/yr member dues makes it easy for stations to join
 - e. Jeff – caution to not create two classes of members with this distinction
 - f. Change name from "Annual Station Member" to "Voting Station Member" at \$150

Motion carries (we have quorum)

2. New station recruitment
 - a. Philippe is the first contact for new international station members. Chris (Member Support Committee) can help Paul/Carlos (International Committee) reach out to potential members.
 - b. Continue to encourage sponsorship of new stations that may not have resources to join
 - c. We will add a line item to the budget based on the Sustaining Members' contributions to make it easier to know how many stations can be sponsored in a given year
3. American Institute of Biological Sciences relationship
 - a. Much of value comes from Congressional Visits Day, Congressional Briefings Day and the AIBS relationship (currently we pay \$2,500 for AIBS membership, plus \$750 or so for incidentals, and this year we spent \$3,750 for CBD). Rob Gropp asked us to pay travel for AIBS to OBFS meeting.

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- b. The “communicating science” talk was taken off the 2015 annual OBFS meeting agenda; we could in the future have AIBS offer a session where attendees learn how to work with Congress to maximize the benefit to OBFS members
 - c. AIBS is looking to be a stronger partner with us and part of the reason is their lack of financial security (e.g., high cost of leasing office space in D.C.)
 - d. Sarah suggested Rob provide a proposal broken out by activity (training session time, travel costs etc.) and the BOD can review the proposal
 - e. Bob Waide offered an alternate suggestion: Christine O’Connell at Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science (SUNY Stonybrook, NY) also does great training and could present at OBFS annual meeting (costs \$2,500 for a 2 hour seminar for 600 people; or, send a few OBFS representatives to “train the trainer” session)
4. Budget Update (Philippe)
- a. Total budget for next year is \$72K, income projected is \$57K. This is conservative as we never spend money in some of those categories. The higher Sustaining Membership may help offset some costs, but likely won’t make up that entire shortfall.
 - b. \$12K budgeted for the 2016 development event. Sarah notes we may decide not to do a development event which would impact the cost side
 - c. NEON – what services/benefits does OBFS receive for the \$1000 membership?
 - 1. Sarah will contact NEON about their membership fee – it is under review by BOD.
 - 2. Sarah will ask NEON to become a sustaining member of OBFS and will be in touch with Sam Wisely to communicate this
 - d. Note most of OBFS budget is for travel. Many travel costs are incurred around the annual meeting, so the timing of charges is from last year
 - e. Philippe will budget for the AIBS Briefing for National Decision-making event travel funds for 3 people at \$3,000 and move it to a different line item, not under travel
 - f. We will have some materials and supplies costs for shipping brochures etc. – put in \$500 into NRC Reports & Tri-folds budget item
 - g. Jeff proposes adding \$4K to international travel for GNOMO expenses.
 - 1. Philippe advises to have BOD approve any expenses
 - 2. Advantage: anticipates 50 new members recruited to OBFS, many international, which would bring in new funds (\$7,500 for 50 stations).
 - 3. Ian suggests we look at these initiatives and ask “what does success look like?”
 - 4. Stacy suggests we view any new initiative as “how does this help the members and does it apply broadly to the membership?” The OBFS website states a focus on “items that address common issues faced by field stations...on subjects of broad interest” as guidance
 - 5. Jeff suggests the board provide guidelines for what to include on a proposal for any new initiative
 - 6. Mel suggests a smaller group of BOD evaluate how committees are formed

We could not vote on the budget due to loss of quorum at 11:09 am.

5. Organization
- a. Sarah: we should consider whether the future Exec. Director will need to have more international doings, travel etc.
 - b. This led to a discussion on how OBFS can and will operate with a more global focus and the BOD should have a discussion about its workings.
 - c. For example, the AIBS partnership may have differing benefits for international stations.
 - d. Stacy suggests it is time for strategic planning to review where OBFS goals and current membership interests lie
 - e. Clarify which Directors can be involved in a discussion about how to develop committees
 - f. Sarah notes at the December BOD meeting –need to vote on combining Member Support and Outreach Committees

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- g. Determine how to ask membership for their feedback on what is a committee
6. LTER proposal to NSF ABI – “a flexible approach to managing ecological data, the Provenance Aware Synthesis Tracking Architecture (PASTA)” introduced by Bob Waide The OBFS-level support letter commits us only to encourage members to participate (the individual participants in ABI have to commit to attend a 5-day workshop and to publish at least one dataset). Vote: board members vote yes except Paul Foster who abstained.
7. Nominations
 - a. Nominations closed. Jeff Brown and Paul Foster running for President; Stacy McNulty for Secretary; running for Member-At-Large are Jennifer Seavey, 2 others and Tom Bansak; Network Coordinator – Jason Talent from Univ. Michigan and Sarah Syswedra from Michigan
 - b. Sarah suggests we add another Member-at-Large position. This would bring us to the maximum number of 16 Directors.
 - c. Discussion about people interested in participating in OBFS to serve on committees
 - d. Network coordinator – Ideally we bring in new help to work with Gwen Pearson and have a smooth transition
8. ArtSciConverge – (Faerthen) requesting committee status and travel budget, web support
 - a. Requested \$1,000 in budget
 - b. Jeff suggests OBFS think through the two proposals for committees
9. New business
 - a. Sarah notes Jennifer Tisthammer, offered to help OBFS with branding pro bono
 - b. Jeff – Sagehen has a clothing deal with Patagonia at half price. Suggests we make a few items with OBFS embroidered available and offer to members to buy through Jeff’s account.
 - c. Next year’s meeting planning – get audio from concurrent sessions (maybe with film of speaker), and even filming the awards (or interviewing people)
10. Future meetings – set a BOD conference call for early October
 - a. Mel requests multiple choices for meeting times/dates

Meeting adjourned 11:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy McNulty, OBFS Secretary

Auction results 1997 through 2015

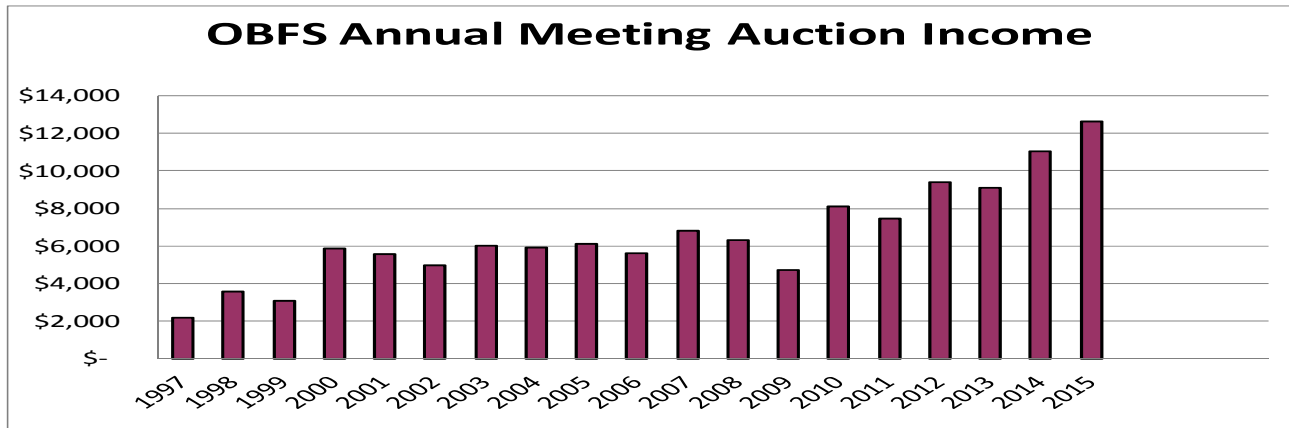
Year	Amount	Annual Meeting Location
1997	\$ 2,164	Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
1998	\$ 3,543	Archbold Biological Station
1999	\$ 3,059	Mountain Lake Biological Station
2000	\$ 5,847	HJ Andrews Experimental Forest
2001	\$ 5,559	University of Oklahoma Biological Station
2002	\$ 4,973	Kellogg Biological 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



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2011	\$	7,430	Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve
2012	\$	9,382	Archbold Biological Station
2013	\$	9,082	Southwest Research Station
2014	\$	11,025	Woods Hole
2015	\$	12,631	Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory

Total \$ 124,265



List of Attendees at RMBL Meeting, September 2015



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Tom Arsuffi, TTU Llano River Field Station
Tom Bansak, Flathead Lake Biological Station
Brian Barnes, Institute of Arctic Biology
Billy Barr, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Jeffrey Basara, Kessler Atmospheric and Ecological Field Station
Natalie Beenaerts, Hasselt University
Geoff Bender, Southwestern Research Station
Brett Biebuyck, Toolik Field Station
Ian Billick, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Franco Biondi, University of Nevada
Virginia Boucher, UC Davis Natural Reserve System
James Brown, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Jeff Brown, Sagehen Creek Field Station
Kevin Browne, University of California Natural Reserve System
Martin Bustamante, Universidad Regional Amazonia IKIA
Kathryn Clancy, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Jeffrey Clary, UC Davis Natural Reserve System
Caitlin Cleaver, Hurricane Island Center for Science & Leadership
Stephen Coates, Ordway-Swisher Biological Station
Philippe S Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve
Peter Connors, UC Davis Bodega Marine Reserve
Daniel Dawson, Valentine Reserve/Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory
Leslie Dawson, Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve
Michael De Luca, Rutgers University
Mel Dean, US Forest Service
Michael Dillon, University of Wyoming
Paul Doherty, Colorado State University
William Eldridge, Huyck Preserve
Amy Ellwein, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Mike Fabbre, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Faerthen Felix, Sagehen Creek Field Station
Becca Fenwick, UCSC
Willem Ferguson, University of Pretoria
Terry Fisk, Capitol Reef National Park
Susan Flowers, Washington University Tyson Research Center
Paul Foster, Reserva Ecológica Bijagual
Jon Garbisch, Cedar Point Biological Station
Jennifer Gee, James Reserve
Gina Gilson, Capitol Reef Field Station
Mike Graybill, none
Gregory Greenwood, Mountain Research Initiative
Richard Grippio, Arkansas State University
Lyle Guyon, National Great Rivers Center
Laura Hainsworth, Emory & Henry College
Michael Hamilton, Blue Oak Ranch Reserve
Cause Hanna, CSU Channel Islands
Laurence Hardy, Ouachita Mountains Biological Station
Trevor Hebert, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

Paul Heinrich, Southwest Experimental Garden Array
Claudia Hemp, University of Wuerzburg
Andreas Hemp, University of Bayreuth
Jan Hodder, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
Rick Horn, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Mary Hufty, Archbold Biological Station
David Jennings, Florida Museum of Natural History
Brittany Jones, Deering Estate
Michael Kisgen, University of California, Natural Reserve System
Brian Kloeppel, Western Carolina University
Lesley Knoll, Lacawac Sanctuary and Field Station
Erica Krimmel, Chicago Academy of Sciences
Michael Lannoo, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory
John Landré, James San Jacinto Natural Reserve
Binka Le Breton, Iracambi Atlantic Rainforest Research & Conservation Center
Paul Leonard, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Misha Leong, California Academy of Sciences
Nathaniel Ley, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Chris Lorentz, Thomas More College Biology Field Station
Claudia Luke, Center for Environmental Inquiry
David Maneli, Gault Nature Reserve
Nancy Mathews, The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
Peter McCartney, National Science Foundation
Art McKee, Flathead Lake Biological Station
Lynn McLaren-Dewey, UCSB-NRS-Santa Cruz Island Reserve
Stacy McNulty, Adirondack Ecological Center - ESF
Gesa Michel, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Eric Milbrandt, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory
Eric Nagy, Mountain Lake Biological Station
Lauren Nolfo-Clements, Boston Harbor Islands Field Station, Suffolk University
Sarah Oktay, UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station
Suzanne Olyarnik, Bodega Marine Reserve
Molly Phillips, iDigBio
David Pitts, HEART Field Station
Mary Price, University of California Riverside/University of Arizona
Celeste Prussia, Bull Shoals Field Station
Thomas Risch, George Harp Field Station Arkansas State University
Roland Roberts, National Science Foundation
Sarah Ross, UGA-CREW
Stephan Schneider, Koffler Scientific Reserve, University of Toronto
Mark Schulze, H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest
William Schuster, Black Rock Forest Consortium
Jennifer Seavey, Shoals Marine Laboratory
Elsa Sebastian, Alaska Whale Foundation
Laura Sewall, Bates College
Maria Sgambati, Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory

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Samantha Siegfried, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Leslie Smith, University of Colorado, CIRES Education and Outreach
Melinda Smith, Colorado State University
Rosemary Smith, Idaho State University
Shannon Sprott, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Michael Stevens, Capitol Reef Field Station
John Stinchcombe, Koffler Scientific Reserve
Mark Stromberg
Homer Strong, ECU Division of Natural Areas
Hilary Swain, Archbold Biological Station
Sara Syswerda, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
Jason Tallant, University of Michigan Biological Station

Bart Tessens, Bosland
Jennifer Tisthammer, Deering Estate
Sylvia Torti, Honors College, University of Utah
Shane Waddell, UC Davis
Dan Wakelee, CSU Channel Islands
Nick Waser, University of California Riverside/University of Arizona
Gary Wellborn, University of Oklahoma Biological Station
John Wenzel, Powdermill Nature Reserve
Amy Whipple, Merriam-Powell Research Station
Andrew Widner, Kellogg Biological Station
Rick Williams, Idaho State University
Danielle Zoellner, Kellogg Biological Station

OBFS BUDGET TOTALS FOR 2015-2016 AND PROJECTED FOR 2016-2017

(fiscal year is September 1 through August 31)

General Budget Categories	Category Details	2015-16 Budget Totals	2016-17 Budget Projections
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		12,631.00	10,000.00
Donations			
Other income			
Total Income:		59,949.10	\$ 51,070.00
Total Operating Income		40,971.13	\$ 36,070.00
II. Expenses:			
Organization Membership dues	AIBS	2,700.00	3,000.00
	Other		
	Subtotal	2,700.00	3,000.00
Bank and transaction expenses	Moolah	278.80	280.00
	Payscape	2,022.30	2,100.00
	Other	27.71	25.00
	Subtotal	2,328.81	
Travel	Board of Directors		1,500.00
	Congressional Visits Day		
	AIBS collaborative events	934.65	3,500
	Diversity & Local Hero	1,408.41	1,500.00
	Award		

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	Non-Board travel		1,500.00
	Annual meeting travel support	1,860.00	6,000.00
	Student travel support		2,000.00
	Other/Contingency		2,500.00
	Subtotal	8,894.89	23,500.00
<i>Administration</i>	EM&S	694.34	650.00
	Treasurer support	780.00	
	Tax fees and preparation	10.00	500.00
	Survey Monkey	250.00	250.00
	Subtotal	1,734.34	1,400.00
<i>Communications & Development</i>	Annual Report and 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		1,500.00
	Website maintenance		2,000.00
	Subtotal	3,965.34	7,000.00
<i>Committee & Organizational Projects</i>	GENOMO		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
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Travel contingency		1,000.00
		(660.00)	2,000.00
	Speaker fees & expenses		
	Subtotal	1,134.85	5,000.00
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>			3,057.50
Operating Expense Total		22,899.69	64,207.50
Expense Variance (Operating income-expenses)		18,071.44	(28,137.50)
III. Assets		Beginning FY	Year-End

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			Projection
<i>Vanguard Social Investment Fund</i>	Shares last quarter YTD =	11,627.256	
	Share value last quarter YTD =	20.76	
	Total value last quarter YTD	241,381.86	261,021.00
<i>Bank of the West</i>	Checking account	70,400.42	42,263.00
	CDs		
	Total Net Assets	311,782.28	303,284.00
	Number of field station members	231	
	Number of individual members	27	

RESULTS OF EXIT SURVEY FROM TH 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

General comments on sessions, feedback for presenters, and/or take home messages

I thought the content was very good this year, and I had a hard time choosing among concurrent sessions.

Absolutely great meeting. My only concern is missing so many concurrent sessions, but if there is a concerted effort to get all of the presentations on an easily accessible web site after this is alleviated.

Skype worked great, encourage Skype presentations longer poster session?

Overall very good. Sometimes the sessions try to be overarching, and the main message gets lost.

Is it possible to film the presentations so that they can then be posted on the web and downloaded for future? There were many good concurrent sessions that I would have liked to be in two places at once.

I thought that the content was engaging, relevant, interesting, and fun. Great to be among our people and know that we are not the only crazy ones up a long dirt road from nowhere! I also really liked the reminder of who we are and what we do: model ecosystems, a community of scholars, access and logistical support, and sharing results!

Field stations are so many different things with different emphases. I think you were able to cover a wide variety of topics of interest to everyone.

I thought the variety of sessions was really great, and the number of choices was also pleasant so that I never felt like I got stuck in a dud session.

Sessions could have been more comprehensively planned to achieve tighter objectives. Might be worth planning fewer further ahead with more resources rather than having so many concurrent.

I very much liked the selection of field trips. OBFS could consider offering trips on Sunday too. I thought the meeting content was very relevant to issues that are current at my own station.

I think a Q & A session with the veteran station directors would be useful for all.

I enjoyed all the sessions and activities. Always very useful and interesting. I especially enjoyed the tour of the facilities. It is always very informative when I can learn about the nuts and bolts of how a field station works.

The sessions where there was a lot of time for asking questions and time for discussion were best.

I attended as a trailing spouse so I did not participate in the concurrent sessions. The Natural history plenary and the station overview and history presentation were excellent. The NSF update was not that helpful for me as I do not derive support from that.

I thought that the sessions were well thought out and well run.

It was a great program, good mix of sessions and informal time. Time was well spent.

I learned so much for this meeting. Some of it from the planned presentations but a huge part of the benefit for me as a first timer was in the informal networking that I got to do. I have a much better idea of what our field station might need to do next.

Some of the presentation sessions felt rushed and packed to me. I would encourage presenters to do less content and leave more time for questions and dialogue. Everyone is so excited to share all their tips it's only natural, but I found it hard to take it all in.

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I really hope you can get all the presentations and share them with us. I missed many great sessions and would love to see the slides.

Try not to do too much in the short sessions

I think some of the breakout sessions tried to do too much in a short amount of time. May have gotten more out of less volume and more depth (subjective I know).

Enjoyed Ian's talk and the Skype sessions. Thought it was an excellent meeting.

The two plenaries (Inouye and Clancy) were spot-on. Excellent choices! I also found the community college talk and the NSF update to be very useful.

Too many good workshops and sessions opposite each other – would have liked to have attended many of these? Maybe we should tape or something?

Best organized OBFS meeting program that I have ever been to – way to go Mel, Damon, et al.!!!

Best Content ever. I love Hilary's idea that each committee be 50% students or young directors. We would get more buy in with the younger crowd who were and are searching for peers, a leadership role and safety. Time to rewrite Tom Calahan's rules. Get conscious, get angry, get effective. Terrific auctioneer.

Too many good topics in the concurrent sessions to choose from, which is a great problem to have.

Ian's opening remarks were valuable as were the tours of the station. Skyping with non-scientists was AMAZING. It gave me a lot of ideas.

Program committee did a fantastic job!

Awesome meeting if for no other reason than to hang out with my "tribe" and to experience the wonderfulness of RMBL. The auction rocked, I'll never get Eric's purpleness out of the deep crevices of my subconscious (for good or bad).

Running concurrent sessions is really important, even if people are bummed they can't make everything. Limiting the time spent on OBFS business in plenary is also important. Both of these items seem well handled at the meeting. Allocating more time to the business meeting and putting it earlier in the meeting seems like a very bad idea.

Sexual harassment plenary was timely and overall I think was good for OBFS to take an internal look at its own culture. Would be great if OBFS could offer a 'best practices' on including a harassment discussion in user orientations that outlines station policies.

General feedback for OBFS station host

We have gotten away from asking hosts to subsidize the meetings. I suggest we get back to doing this. It used to be an expected "community service" to host the meetings at not full cost. Now we pay standard room and board rates, and even room charges at stations. This has HUGELY increased the cost of meetings in recent years. (This is Eric Nagy btw)

Great venue, and great meeting logistics overall! Some things that could be improved: Strange and annoying that you can't Skype (audio only would be okay) and present at the same time in the Board room. Some work-around would be nice. Food service was tasty, but wonky and slow. Need to get a pro to redesign that space. Weird organization, with everyone re-crossing the line to get to the salad bar (maybe move it outside for big groups). If you moved that fridge out of the middle of the wall counter, you could set up two lines and get things moving (maybe put it where the plates are--there's plenty of room for plates on the center serving counter). Food consistently gone for the last people in line. Super obnoxious that coffee was cut off during the day, but I think they fixed that later.

Never run out of food. Too expensive at about \$115/day not counting travel and lodging!

I loved the rustic housing and great food!

I think these meetings are always very well run.

Well, the keg was a little foamy.... :)

Coffee, water, and soft drinks available throughout the day would be great if all sessions videoed or audio recording beer and wine local longer session to see local field station.

Cabin was a bit on the dingy side. Not because it was old, just not very clean.

More snacks would be wonderful.

Fantastic vegetarian options!! Thank you!!.

Excellent meeting, lots of useful information, lots of networking, lots of fun and lots of opportunities to network. The location at RMBL is exceptional, the food was great, accommodation good, and everything worked smoothly. Good job!

Food was OK. Keg maintenance was a problem (altitude?).

I really felt like the housing was not nearly as nice as I had hoped. I ordered premium housing, but didn't realize that heat meant that we had to build a fire several times a day (and buy extra firewood because the wood available wasn't sufficient or dry), and that water meant that there wasn't a toilet in the building. For the amount I had to pay, I could have gone to a much more comfortable place in town. I just wish they would have done a better job setting up our expectations for the reality of what

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"heat" and "water" really meant. I also ordered a linen supply, which should have specified that I should have still brought a sleeping bag with it. I expected that with heat and linens I should have been fine, but it never got about 60 in outhouse, and often times was much colder than that.

Excellent meeting, food was great, overall costs were good for the event.

It is possible that I missed this information during registration, but I was surprised to realize I was sharing a room. Not a big deal, but it would have been nice to know that ahead of time.

I found the station tour with Ian to be most informative and useful.

Investigate ability for web simulcasts; or at minimum tape speaker to be able to hear commentary with presentations. Coffee should be available all day, breakfast menus should vary, have 3-4 varieties of beer with working kegs. Overall the RMBL was a good value.

Venue was fantastic; service and food were great.

I thought all the food and drink was excellent.

I liked having lots of free time to meet and talk with people.

Food was very good, but didn't get refilled in a timely manner much of the time - I went through the line often when there was very little left. Someone should have been paying closer attention to what was left and refilled sooner. Thought the lack of snacks was fine.

More snacks and other refreshments during breaks.

Too limited selection and availability of food.

Really like having the meetings at actual field stations, you can pick up a lot of smaller operational things in this environment. And the less institutional and informal it feels, which facilitates networking.

Very good value overall. Liked that it was an all inclusive cost. Really appreciated the late night pick by Nathan from Gunnison! Wish I had had less altitude sickness. Social snack/break times between all sessions to bring people back together in one location.

Please address dietary restrictions in the future or warn people that they cannot be addressed.

At first it seemed like the food/drink team was overwhelmed but they got better as the meeting went on. A few times it seemed like young staff was left hanging to deal w/problems. Meals were very vegetarian friendly almost to the point of limited options for non-vegetarians.

The location was beautiful and inspiring. I loved the history of the station, its proximity to Judd Falls, and the aspen leaves! The food was great. I liked the way it was made on site and was healthy and interesting. On the downside, my cabin (and mattress) had too many mouse droppings.

Great job hosting a big and diverse crowd!

What an amazing field station! I am in love. The food was amazing particularly the fabulous vegetarian food we were fighting over! Our house Calder was incredible. Dying to know what kind of biota changes you get in the areas where we spread the compost from the toilet.

The food was outstanding. Having a salad bar and leftovers available always made a meal worth it. Moving chairs and tables around was not a big deal and despite the lodging, the meeting felt centralized.

Food was good at the beginning, but seemed to get poorer through to Sunday. All dinners were tasty and innovative, but the breakfasts were the same throughout and the lunch options were really limited. Evening social beer & wine selection was very disappointing especially given there must be numerous local craft/microbreweries nearby. RMBL is a great place, but value for price paid was only middling. DJ was a plus on Saturday.

RMBL was great, food could have been a little healthier but heck, its way the hell in the Rockies so who can complain. Great beer! Better coffee is my only real complaint.

Generally there are snacks at the meetings but I didn't see these except for when we had mixers. Snacks and refreshments should be provided at all meeting to help bridge the gap between meals. If you give us the same breakfast everyday, be sure there are options to spice it up like ketchup, nuts/berries for yogurt, etc. Sack lunches – these should consist of more than just a sandwich. Field trip day was good, but sack lunch on departure was just a sandwich - no chips/apple, drink or desert. Seemed at several of the meals we ran out of particular.

What would get you more engaged, in general, in OBFS business?

Advanced Invite to all Board telecons. Distribute BOD minutes to membership PROPOSED Budget sent to membership before annual meeting. Proposed budget reviewed carefully in business meeting. Really liked Stacy's activity report this year.

Funding for projects always helps! I realize we're a small group, but maybe there are some grant opportunities out there for collaborative projects?

More information that is relevant to our needs. OBFS seems to be geared to the top 5% of member stations.

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More experience with the organization and more time (in my life) to devote to organizational work.

If I had more time, I would be more engaged. It is presented very openly, and there is ample opportunity.

I would like to see a revision of the OBFS Long Range Goals; the last update on the website is outdated. This document will help me/my station to understand where we fit into a larger path/plan on communicating science and some of the goal setting can actually assist smaller/newer stations in their own goal/strategic development.

Maybe a gotomeeting once or twice a year to keep us updated?

I sat in this year, because I was interested. Everyone has that opportunity.

Maybe quarterly newsletters (similar to the LTER network), where stations could submit news.

Project oriented working groups to take on specific tasks, grants, projects, of meeting sessions.

Not sure, clone me?

More time on my end. For someone to contact me and ask for help.

I'd like to be involved with OBFS, but I wonder if there are "entry level" opportunities. I guess serving on a committee would be what I'm looking for.

I am new, so just need some time to get involved.

Definitely do not do more business and do not do it earlier in the meetings. It is not why people go to the meetings. Most of the business is frankly boring and uninteresting to most people. They get much more information from talking to people and some of the concurrent sessions.

The auction is good but could be even better.

Having more time to get engaged - pretty maxed out right now.

Cloning myself so I had more time! I think just getting to know people and the issues better.

Yes but starting at a lower level - a committee or something similar.

I have expressed interest and then not had any one follow up with me.

A cliff notes summary of key points/concepts/ideas/projects prior may help people know what to expect and be thinking about.

If I could be represented in OBFS as part of a regional field station network.

Quarterly conference calls.

Increased international outreach.

Am pretty well engaged now.

Perhaps if we had one central focus and theme and tried to make progress on that one topic rather than hit every single topic. Or, we could aim to really produce something as a group at the end of the week. For instance, it could be a statement about sexual harassment in light of our mission. I think it's good to try to identify unifying themes across all our stations and to spell them out.

Not sure. Perhaps during meeting planning in summer, the committees could devise specific things for members to do during the meeting.

Feels like the board and committees do a lot of heavy lifting, so if any means to figure out how the broader membership can assist would be useful to everyone I would think.

Any additional specific comments that might help us in organizing future meetings?

Great job! Keep banging the gong about engaging with Congress. Maybe more tools to make that less intimidating for folks? Articles, reports from CVD and RCV attendees, a video? Of course, we can't share what we have now, with the website issues. It's really a bummer that we have to miss sessions that run concurrently. If we could capture the presentations and put them on-line, that would be excellent. Video can be a pain if it's not built into the venue, but combining an audio recording with PPT slides is really effective and a lot easier.

The organizing committee and staff at RMBL did a great job—thank you!

I'm sorry I don't have much feedback! I thought it was wonderful. Love that there are so many great concurrent sessions, my guess is all of them were useful but could only attend a couple.

Love your meetings and resolve to get there more often!

Maybe pick field stations that aren't so far from airports. This one made for a ridiculously long drive from Denver.

A great job was done by all who were involved.

I like having break out sessions/assigned tables at meals for specific committees and projects.

It would be nice if officer nominations were open until a couple of weeks after the meeting, so that people could talk about it at the meeting and have a bit of time to think about it.

I feel so grateful for how willing people were to share of their knowledge and experiences only. And I found everyone to be very kind, which I would have appreciated anyone but was extra grateful as I struggled with altitude sickness.

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Outside speakers in combo with speakers from other field.

Looking forward to Sitka!!!

A couple of these topics have shifted to committee level (ad hoc) thus GNOMO really does not need to be a concurrent topic; however, should have time to meet as a committee during the meeting and have time to speak during the business session. Art at FSML's can operate in the same way; however, might make it a plenary session and bring in a strong speaker as continuing to emphasize the power of this is something that might take folks longer to get, yet we don't want to beat a dead horse. Definite committee meeting and report out time as well.

Perhaps some suggestions from the meeting host site about other things to do while en route to/from the meeting.

Need to ponder the question, thanks Mel.

Mel did a great job. She deserves a lot of kudos!

What services would you like to see provided?

Ways to get new folks involved in leadership positions at OBFS, more engaged with the organization, and as presenters of concurrent sessions.

Public AND university awareness of the value of field stations.

I thought the content of the meeting was very good. Leaving lots of time for meet and greet is really important. Overall it was really good.

Help with facilitating regional networks of member stations.

Meeting program organization.

I would like OBFS to offer and provide contact information for field stations about other field stations in their country or region. Surprisingly I learned that international field stations had a sense of working on their own with little funding and a sense of competition/lack of support, from other field stations. Mary H.

Possibly it would lend us more connectivity and momentum to touch base in between meetings. How? Dunno. Virtual happy hour?

Collection digitization services to field stations (iDigBio) sounded like a great idea.

I can probably think of a few things, but nothing leaps into my brain at the moment, it was a very full plate of offerings, and I applaud all of you who planned this year's meeting.

A full-time ED.

Data/information management training, ways to share more seamlessly.

The OBFS website is a train wreck and virtually useless. I know it's an ongoing struggle, but at some point we need to stop fiddling about and turn it into a WordPress site, which is as close to a de facto web standard as there is: lots of tools, lots of hosts, lots of people who know how to use it. UCNRS would probably even host it for OBFS for free.

Ongoing station capacity building workshops, lectures, webinars.

Continued efforts towards integration/networking across stations.

Maybe offer some regional meetings throughout the year. I often don't want to go as far away as this meeting was, and we can't afford to send many staff that often.

Not sure, as we are just a bit too small for an OBFS meeting with housing for 90.

Establish a mentoring program pairing new members with established ones.

Some sort of memento from each meeting, key chain, coffee mug, etc.

More best practices and example policies and those kinds of materials, especially on the website.

Not sure...I am sure there is stuff we need but still figuring that out.

Public AND university awareness of the value of field stations.

I thought the content of the meeting was very good. Leaving lots of time for meet and greet is really important. Overall it was really good.

Help with facilitating regional networks of member stations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

OBFS Board of Directors Conference Call

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Attendees: Lisa Bush (Sitka Science Center), Philippe Cohen, Mel Dean, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Brian Kloeppel, Mike Lannoo, Grant MacNeil (Churchill Northern Studies Centre), Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Tori O'Connell (Sitka Science Center), Pat Oelschlager, Sarah Oktay, Jason Tallant, Jennifer Tisthammer, David White

To Do Items

- Stacy will upload meeting minutes into Dropbox folder.
- Mel to share 2015 OBFS annual meeting survey with 2016 meeting hosts.
- Sarah will ensure all 2015 meeting presentations are uploaded to dropbox for viewing
- Sarah will test Sustaining Member dues paying option on line with Philippe.
- Sarah, Eric and Philippe will work on fleshing out cross-disciplinary initiatives and collaborations committee and specify information requested in budget proposals to BOD that support member activities (see #5).
- Help requested in planning 2016 meeting with Damon, Lisa, Tori and committee.
- Brian, Bill continue planning a late spring 2016 development event in the New York metro area
- Chris/Outreach committee to develop a traveling display banner for OBFS.
- Sarah, David, Stacy – write ESA Bulletin summary of OBFS activities and meeting
- All BOD review 2017 annual meeting host proposals (see attachments from Damon).

Decision Items

1. Sustaining Membership definition was clarified (optional, no special privileges. Sustaining membership designed to accomplish two goals: provide a somewhat progressive membership structure, where larger field stations (self identified) can increase their membership contribution; to help subsidize sponsorship of field station membership by smaller, new, and international field stations with very limited resources.
2. Name of primary membership level “Annual Station Member” remains unchanged

Meeting came to order at 3:02 PM EST

1. Welcome to OBFS Web Coordinator Jason Tallant and hearty thanks to Gwen Pearson (Sarah)
 - a. Gwen resigned as of Nov. 1
 - b. Philippe recommends appointment of Jason. Will have to reappoint as of April 1, 2016.
2. Approval of Sept. 16 and 20 board meeting minutes (Stacy)
 - a. Eric: questions regarding both Sustaining Member and regular Station Voting Member. Please clarify the Sustaining Member definition? PC: it is a change in level of support for sustaining members. It's a progressive way for stations to contribute more support. Eric asked that the September 20, 2015 BOD meeting minutes clarify that the rate is optional and no special privileges are associated. Changing the primary membership level name (Station Voting Member) would require a bylaws change. PC: then let's keep the original name. PC move to approve minutes with above change; second by Eric. Approved. Stacy will make change and put minutes into Dropbox folder.
3. Feedback on 2015 OBFS annual meeting survey (Mel)

Mel will send out results from the Wufoo survey via spreadsheet. Need to share results with next year's OBFS meeting host via dropbox. A reminder that the 2015 meeting presentations are available– Sarah will ensure all are uploaded.
4. Member renewals and web site updates (Philippe)

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- a. Renewals are coming in steadily. Another announcement will go out on 11/5 with cross-posting on OBFS listserve.
- b. We just got a new member from the Russian Federation!
- c. Currently, 238 member stations, 30 individual members. That number may go down in January due to those who have not yet or forgotten to renew. Philippe suggests to Jason it is important to renew map a lot; Jason working with Gwen on the details.
- d. Sarah need to test Sustaining member option on line with Philippe
5. Process for new cross-disciplinary initiatives and collaborations (Eric et al.)
 - a. Discussion by several board members; agreement that as mountain-focused group, GNOMO is too specific to serve the entirety of OBFS membership. ArtSciConverge focus is more organization-wide.
 - b. Sarah notes that requests for funding for specific projects can be requested to the BOD at any time. ArtSciConverge and GNOMO can submit a funding request to BOD before the December meeting. Proposers need to make the case for resources via a formal proposal to BOD that details how the funds would be used.
 - c. Mel: we need to codify what the expectations are for anyone starting new initiatives, justification for creating new board positions etc. Claudia Luke suggested (via email) we have a cross-disciplinary committee group review such requests. Sarah, Eric and Philippe will work on fleshing out that idea.
 - d. Jennifer: when was last strategic planning for OBFS? The committee structure can be addressed through a new goals/objectives plan. Eric: 2005 was the last plan, covering 2005-2010. Do we have interest in a new effort? Stacy concurs.
6. 2016 annual meeting at Sitka Science Center, Alaska (Damon)
 - a. Committee is working on field trip ideas. PC spoke to Zack Brown of the Island Institute (8-12 hrs from main meeting location) – Lisa/Tori will talk with Zack tomorrow. Many opportunities from backcountry to in-town, from fishing to botany to more.
 - b. They are working on group flight rate from Seattle, WA.
 - c. Dorms across the street are reserved; also some shared nicer rooms in another facility.
 - d. Program/talk ideas needed – will work with OBFS program cmte to develop. Damon solicits help (President, VP, past host, MAL).
 - e. Working theme: ocean to alpine or land:ocean interface, how FS work across different ecosystems.
7. 2017 and 2018 annual OBFS meetings (Damon)
 - a. Five proposals sent to BOD by Nov. 1 deadline: (Kellogg Biological Station (MI), Schoodic (ME), Churchill Northern Science Centre (Manitoba), Central Michigan Univ Bio Station at Beaver Island (MI), Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories (MN)).
 - b. Brian: suggests the next meeting be in Midwestern US so it is drivable and possibly less costly than some recent locations (e.g., airline ticket costs and travel logistics).
 - c. Philippe also noted that we have had at least two prior meetings at Kellogg.
 - d. Will have decision by March 1st.
 - e. For 2018 meeting, we are encouraging a non-US host.
8. OBFS portable display (Sarah)

Shane Waddell in CA has the old display, no one wants it. Brian: suggest we purchase the portable, roll-screen type banner, about \$400. Philippe: Outreach committee should focus on creating this using the nice new OBFS content.
9. Newsletter and Election (David)
 - a. Election opened Nov. 2. will have election results on Nov. 27th.
 - b. Philippe: please ensure the station person receiving the ballot is the authorized voter.
 - c. First meeting in 1966 at Cedar Creek That makes next year our 50th year! (2016 meeting theme: Turning 50 in the 49th state)
 - d. Article in ESA Bulletin summary of OBFS activities and meeting including # of attendees from 2015 annual meeting. Deadline Nov. 15 Sarah, David, Stacy
10. Development event 2016 (Brian)

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- a. Two options: 1) NY metro area in May or June 2016 with host help by Bill Schuster; Brian will send meeting note. 2) Florida is other option – not discussed at this time.
11. National Assoc. of Marine Labs meeting is November 20; opportunity to talk to congressional representatives about economy of coastal cities. Sarah will represent OBFS.
12. Conflict of Interest statements (Stacy) – most are all received; send any last ones to Stacy
13. New Business
 - a. Merchandise with OBFS logo – Jeff Brown is willing to coordinate ordering. Need to be sensitive to not creating huge workload for Treasurer and so OBFS does not have to deal with sales tax. Mel in support of the idea.
 - b. Finances - Philippe will cash in CDs to transfer to new bank acct (which bank still TBD).
 - c. Branding – Broadly, BOD is supportive; tabled till December. Jen T offered to talk about reviewing organizational development with individual member stations.
 - d. Brian: in December we will review committee chairs for 2016 to ensure all are still willing and able to serve
14. Next meeting: December 2015

Philippe made a motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 4:29 PM EST

OBFS Board of Directors Conference Call Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Attendees: Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Mary Hufty, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Jason Tallant, Jennifer Seavey, Bill Schuster, David White

Meeting began 2:05 PM EST

To Do

1. Philippe will make decision on changing OBFS contact info, bank and other treasurer needs and communicate at next BOD meeting
2. Solicit members' feedback on Sustaining Membership category via poll (Eric, Stacy and Sarah)
3. Jason will modify OBFS member map and suggest how to best recognize Sustaining Members
4. Eric will add text to Bylaws, date (Nov. 27, 2015) and post on website, also send text to Stacy
5. Determine how to thank Peter Connors for auctioneering (and in the future others who serve OBFS)
6. Sarah, Eric and Philippe will flesh out cross-disciplinary initiatives and collaborations committee
7. All BOD review 2017 annual meeting host proposals by March (see attachments from Damon).
8. Sarah send invites to BOD to OBFS DropBox site so full board has access.
9. Brian will send BOD details of development event planning meeting from Nov. 20
10. Stacy will send email of ESA Bulletin article to BOD
11. Eric will send email to BOD of where board materials are stored on Google.
12. Damon will solicit volunteers for 2016 annual meeting planning via OBFS listserv
13. Jason will combine outreach /member support on website
14. David will contact people affected by 2015 voting error to ensure process integrity
15. Stacy to include the info on the station submissions to all members of board at that time
16. Chris will contact Nina for photos to use for traveling display banner
17. All: solicit help for Jason to copy/paste OBFS web content to new system
18. All: solicit help for newsletter

Decision Items

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1. BOD agreed to provide PO Box and other support for moving location as Philippe retires from Stanford
2. Share booth at 2016 ESA meeting with AERC and MtnSEON
3. Maintain Wednesday evening BOD meeting at annual meeting, stop meeting on Sunday morning.
4. In 2016, treasurer will ensure the list of voting contacts is correct and entire prior to vote.
5. A reminder from editor and web manager with instructions and dates will go out two weeks before voting ends.

Minutes

1. Review and approval of Nov. 4, 2015 meeting minutes (Stacy)
 - o Approval of minutes with changes. Eric moved; seconded David; carried.
2. Treasurer Update (Philippe/Sarah)
 - o Transition of treasurer location/contact info
 - o BOD agreed to provide PO Box and other support as Philippe retires/moves from Stanford U.
 - o CALL DROP/SECRETARY MISSED SOME DISCUSSION
3. Sustaining Member dues option testing results (Sarah)
 - o Website is working; currently, there are 3 Sustaining Members (SM) with a 4th coming in
 - o Eric has concerns about the SM designation: it is not a formal status, but perception is it is becoming a different member class where some stations are defined in a higher category.
 - o Jen: there is no published, public mention of the SM category on the OBFS website.
 - o Jason: true, however the SM designation is a different color on the map.
 - Shares others' concerns about perception. However, SM map dots don't need to be a different color, if that would alleviate the concern of a hierarchy of membership classes.
 - In the web membership management system, the forms can have a different amount paid by either a) creating a new membership category, as was done for SM, or b) providing different drop-down menus of the dollar amount people pay to be a member. It was easiest to create a new group, but could be changed via the menu.
 - o David: there is no verbiage in the bylaws other than regular membership – SM category is invalid.
 - Stations may feel pressured into being SMs. Dot should not be different color.
 - o Sarah: sustaining members don't get special privileges.
 - o Mary: in support of SM; stations need some incentive to join as sustaining members.
 - o Chris: supports special SM designation to recognize donating stations, this doesn't create a hierarchy. Useful to have members be aware of the opportunity to sponsor another station.
 - o Stacy: let's get feedback from members about this – are people happy/comfortable with it? We got general consensus to create the Sustaining Member category, but didn't present these details to the membership.
 - What if we had a web page that you could click for more info on sustaining members
 - Solicit feedback from members via short SurveyMonkey poll (Eric, Stacy and Sarah)
 - o Damon: support Eric's concern.
 - o Jason: will create a map with Members and Non-members, and figure out how to recognize Sustaining Members.
4. Election: Induction of new BOD members Paul Foster and Jen Seavey as of April 1, 2016.
5. Adoption of amendment to Bylaws passed – (David)
 - o Eric will add text to Bylaws, date (Nov. 27, 2015) and post on website, also send text to Stacy
6. Election process and communication with the membership (Sarah)
 - o Issue: 2015 voting information went to the contact person for member stations, not to voting members. There were 23 voting members who did not receive info and were unable to vote.
 - o Concern about providing voting opportunity to everyone who should have voted.
 - o Eric: should allow those people to vote, either informally or via poll.
 - o Concern about including people who shouldn't have voted is unfounded.
 - o Concern about transparency was brought up – acknowledged but seems unfounded.

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- David will directly email people affected by error to ensure integrity of process (the small number of people affected will not change vote results) and cc: Sarah.
- Next year: treasurer will ensure the list of voting contacts is correct and entire.
- Discussion of future voting: should we keep the voting open longer, for example six weeks?
 - David: A month is typical and probably the correct amount of time. A reminder goes to those who have not voted; by the third reminder message, very few participate, so a longer voting period would not address this issue.
 - Future: a reminder from editor and web manager with instructions and dates will go out two weeks before voting ends.
- BOD needs to discuss renewal of board appointments: Early Career, Editor and Web/Database Manager by April 1st.
 - Note: after one more term David will have served as editor for 20 years!
 - BOD can solicit help for newsletter in near future
- 7. Annual OBFS meetings (Damon)
 - 2016 meeting theme: Turning 50 in the 49th state
 - 2016 meeting: Ian, Chris, Damon, Sitka and Sarah are program committee
 - Damon will solicit volunteers via OBFS listserv
 - Need to select 2017 location by March 1 or sooner if possible
 - Then, select 2018 location by June
 - For March and June call info, Stacy to include the info on the station submissions to all members of board at that time
- 8. Development event 2016 (Brian)
 - Sub-group of development committee met Nov. 20; Brian will send BOD details
 - Event will be in New York City in October 2016.
 - Would like to include some of the OBFS people who helped fundraise for previous events
 - Looking at historical wealth reviews, invite list size and other planning
 - Special guest invited – Mark Ruffalo
 - Asked board for \$15K budget; will try to host in someone's home to save fees
 - OBFS members will stay at Black Rock Forest and travel to New York City for the day
- 9. 2016 ESA meeting shared booth (Sarah for Art McKee who was unable to join meeting)
 - As in 2015, OBFS is invited to share a booth with AERC and MtnSEON
 - Paul: Supportive - sharing also helps to keep the presence - the OBFS representative doesn't have to sit at the table the entire time.
 - Stacy: gives us good visibility for a relatively inexpensive amount, supportive
 - Question: Who's going to the 2016 meeting from OBFS? August 7 –12, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
 - Paul: Would help to have a banner for visual impact.
 - In development by Outreach.
- 10. Cross-disciplinary initiatives update (Eric/Sarah)
 - Proposed committees and work groups – how to define and communicate to membership
 - Sarah, Eric and Philippe will work on fleshing out expectations of cross-disciplinary initiatives and collaborations committee and specify information requested in budget proposals to BOD that support member activities
 - Jen: how will OBFS decide about committee existence: BOD or membership?
 - Eric: by BOD discussion, then we can go to membership if board cannot reach a consensus
- 11. BOD meeting scheduling and quorum at annual conference - to Sunday, or not to Sunday? (Paul F)
 - Last flight out of Sitka is at noon – would require BOD to stay till Monday
 - Eric: we could stop having BOD meeting at annual meetings altogether.
 - Brian: maintain the Wed. eve meeting, drop Sunday morning meeting. General agreement.
- 12. New Business

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- Reminder: we have the living document Google site with BOD minutes and governance info. Eric will remind BOD where the materials are.
 - Future conversation: where to store/archive OBFS BOD documentation? Dropbox or Google?
- Chris/Outreach committee to develop a traveling display banner for OBFS.
 - Check with Nina (former Kellogg Bio Station, Michigan State) for photos to use
- Sarah, David, Stacy – wrote ESA Bulletin summary of OBFS activities and meeting to be published April 2016 – Stacy will share with BOD
- Early Career – tabled; Stacy and Pat will meet and present ideas in March 2016.
- Web update (Jason)
 - Jason – willing to stay on to 2016-18 term (thank you!)
 - OBFS website is due for an upgrade and Memberclicks would like to “maximize” us to the new system. They will migrate database over, but any HTML content might not go smoothly and we’d have to fix it.
 - Eric: others can help with this process of copy/paste web content
 - Sarah: we paid previous webmaster for some time and could offer that to Jason.
- Next meeting: March 2015
 - Topics to include:
 - Logos and branding (including clothing)
 - Mel’s member survey info

Motion made a to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 3:47 PM EST

OBFS Board of Directors Conference Call Friday, March 11, 2016

Attendees: Reid Bertone-Johnson, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Jenn Hamblen (Sitka SSC), Mary Hufty, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Jennifer Seavey, David White, Tori O’Connell (Sitka SSC)

Meeting began 2:09 PM EST

To do:

1. Philippe will mail brochures to ESA conference-goers before March 14 for ESA meeting and CVD
2. Stacy will send Peter McCarthy the ESA Bulletin article on OBFS
3. Jason - adjust all the online receipts/invoices for renewal to OBFS’s new mailing address:
PO Box 20492
Stanford, CA 94309-0492
1. Stacy will send out next BOD meeting poll dates before June 9
2. Documents to upload to Google drive:
 - a. Philippe- treasurer docs
 - b. Stacy - meeting minutes
 - c. Mary - historical documents and photos
3. Stacy will send new board members COI for signature
4. Paul will talk to David Maneli about co-chairing International Committee
5. Reminder to new board members to explore the documents stored there
6. All - Friend of OBFS – send nominations to Brian by April 1
7. Philippe ask Peter Connors whom he would like to succeed him as auctioneer
8. Tory send Brian the Local Hero award name; copy Chris

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9. Stacy will send Paul names for shared booth volunteering at ESA meeting
10. All committee chairs let membership know what each committee does
11. Sarah move the photos from dropbox to Google docs for Chris/banner

Decision Items

6. Annual meeting: combine business/board meeting Saturday 3:30-5 pm
7. Sustaining Membership category: test-run and solicit member feedback at annual meeting.
8. BOD will review Bylaws annually at the time of signing the Conflict of Interest form
9. Development Event: October 6, 2016 –New York City

Meeting Notes

1. Review and approve December 16, 2015 meeting minutes (Stacy)
 - a. Philippe moved to accept; Mary seconded; motion passes unanimously
2. Transition of new board members and committee chairs (Sarah)
 - a. Eric thanks Sarah for her leadership over the past two years
 - b. Paul will lead the next meeting in June
 - c. Another co-chair for International Committee needed to help Carlos
 - i. Paul suggests David Maneli from McGill Univ. Gault Nature Preserve, QC
 - d. Stacy will send COI to new board members for signature
3. Access to/storage of online documents (BOD)
 - a. Philippe will upload all treasurer docs to Google drive
 - b. Stacy will upload meeting minutes etc. also
 - c. Mary – upload history docs and photos
 - d. Reminder to new board members to explore the documents stored there
4. 2016 annual meeting update - preparations, program, auction (Damon)
 - a. Damon shared draft program/agenda; Jenn: the meeting website up and registration will go live next week on Sitka Sound Science Center (SSSC) website
 - b. Program: Peter McCartney will talk about how field stations fit into the national science infrastructure as well as NSF FSML programs
 - c. Plenaries – discussed whether to have Frank Davis (potential invitee) to speak on NCEAS/LTER
 - d. Eric: suggests a combined business/board meeting Saturday 3:30-5 pm. Meeting will contain more content; people will be more likely to come. Agreement by BOD.
 - e. Committees are to report only if there is something to report
 - f. Friend of OBFS – are we awarding it this year?
 - i. Solicit nominations – this is a board action. Reminder of language: “In recognition of your efforts to create a lasting network of field stations devoted to the discovery and understanding of the environmental challenges of our time”
 - ii. Send nomination to Brian, Chair of Development Committee by April 1
 - g. Mary Hufty Local Hero award (Chris)
 - i. Tory has the name from SSSC. Brian needs name by Aug 1st at latest to make plaque.
 - h. Damon solicits speaker ideas for concurrent sessions and plenaries– see list (separate email)
 - i. Auctioneer – Philippe will ask Peter Connors whom he would like to succeed him. Suggestions: Dan Dawson and/or Jeff Brown
 - j. 2016 meeting call will be March 21st; let Damon know if interested in participating
5. 2017 and 2018 annual meetings (Damon)
 - a. Discussion about cost, logistics, requirement of attendance of host station director at OBFS meeting, and host site understanding the working field station needs and culture
 - b. 2017 Vote by BOD: Itasca, University of Minnesota!
 - i. Damon will contact director of Itasca, David Biesboer and other applicants
 - ii. Jason will put 2017 info on OBFS website

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- c. 2018 nominations: Grace Science Center (Bahamas), Churchill (Canada), others; Philippe and others please give Damon suggestions. Encourage stations to re-apply for 2018 meeting, with the understanding that an international field station is the preferred location
- 6. Treasurer update (Philippe)
 - a. **New address for OBFS correspondence:**
PO Box 20492
Stanford, CA 94309-0492
 - b. Current membership: 213, highest ever for this time of year!
 - c. Budget – higher than projected due to 5 sustaining memberships
 - i. There are some travel awards that are still outstanding
 - d. Bank change: still in process. The preferred bank did not work out due to procedural mismatches with OBFS' non-profit status. Back to the drawing board...
 - e. Finances will be moved to Mint in May – board will be able to access digitally
 - f. Taxes will be done next week, stay tuned for report under separate cover.
- 7. Website update (Jason) – tabled
- 8. Sustaining Membership category discussion (Eric and Sarah)
 - a. Philippe – a clarification on earlier board discussion that no sustaining member gets additional privileges or status. It is simply to support smaller stations and to engage membership in OBFS.
 - i. Sarah – let's make that explicit on the website
 - b. Eric – it still does set up a privileged class of members, even if we do not intend it. OBFS is not at its core a fundraising or development organization, it is a membership organization, and identifying different kinds of members sets up a class structure.
 - c. Philippe – what if we don't identify the sustaining members?
 - i. Eric – if sustaining membership is anonymous, and there is an organizational mission targeted to marketing of different membership levels, he is comfortable.
 - d. Eric – the purpose is to satisfy a financial goal. Therefore, what if we set up a fund to pay for small stations instead?
 - i. Philippe – academic/non-profit organizations cannot donate to a fund set up that way. The funds need to be paid to something tangible like membership, not a general donation.
1. Also, it's more work for the treasurer to track specifically designated funds.
 - e. Eric – OBFS doesn't collect money to then distribute to the world; we have a surplus.
 - i. Philippe – that is to hire an Executive Director.
 - f. Sarah – sees both sides
 - g. Damon – see both sides, agrees with the concern Eric raises; comfortable if anonymous.
 - h. Stacy – can we get past the procedural issue and make this less about increasing membership and more about “paying it forward” to get the newer field stations invested in participating in and engaging with OBFS?
 - i. David – we are still stuck on the problem of membership
 - j. Philippe- AIBS has membership categories based on size of organization
 - k. Chris- Kentucky Academy of Science has three levels: individual membership, affiliated membership, enhanced membership. What if we market sustainable membership as: please contact OBFS for information?
 - l. Brian – NAML has a three-tiered annual fee for member organizations
 - m. Stacy – let's try the category and solicit member feedback at meeting in September.
 - n. Eric – the bylaws define membership categories and until we change that we don't have a sustaining membership category
- 9. Shared booth decision for Ecological Society of America meeting, August 2016 (Paul)
 - a. AERC is sharing booth with us. We cannot have 3 groups sharing (cost: less than \$500)
 - b. We have 5 volunteers willing to sit at the booth- Stacy will send Paul names

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- c. Philippe asked that people let him know where to mail OBFS brochures – coordinate with Stacy and Paul
- 10. Congressional Visits Day, April 27-28, 2016 update (Chris)
 - a. 5 people registered: Hilary Swain (Archbold FS, FL), Jennifer Tisthammer (Deering Estate, FL), Renee Brown (Sevietta LTER, NM), Amber Parker (Chincoteague Bay FS, VA) and Kristina Tirman (Sitka SSC, AK). AIBS is coordinating travel.
- 11. Committee chairs/volunteers update (Chris)
 - a. Sent solicitation for volunteers to members; chairs of committees may have received interested folks
 - b. Chairs should reach out to membership too and let them know what each does
- 12. Traveling display banner update (Chris)
 - a. Chris tried to get photos but wasn't able to reach Nina (Kellogg Bio Station, retired);
 - b. Sarah can try to move the photos from dropbox to Google docs
 - c. We can reuse the graphics from the brochure Philippe has photos?? for Chris in May
- 13. Development Committee and 2016 friend-raiser event update (Brian)
 - a. Friend of OBFS call for nominations by April 1
 - b. October 6, 2016 – Cornell Club, New York City, Mark Ruffalo is tentative guest
 - i. Black Rock Forest local host to help us; Cary Institute also help with invite list
 - ii. Gene Likens, science guest –
 - 1. We could give a Friend of OBFS award during this event
- 14. Cross-pollination initiative (Sarah) – tabled
- 15. Working group on safety at field stations discussion (Eric)
- 16. Old business (Sarah) – none
- 17. New business (Stacy)
 - a. Suggestion: when board members sign the Conflict of Interest statement, include a separate reminder to review the Bylaws
 - b. Next meeting – early June. Stacy will send out poll dates before June 9.
 - c. Exec. Committee meeting to appoint a new chair - early April?

Meeting adjourned 4:06 pm EST.

OBFS Board of Directors Conference Call

Friday June 12th, 2016, 1:00 pm EST

Attendees: Reid Bertone-Smith, Jeff Brown, Philippe Cohen, Carlos de la Rosa, Faerthen Felix, Damon Gannon, Mary Hufty, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, David White

Meeting called to order 1:06 PM.

To Do and Decisions/Items of Note

- 1. Stacy will send final March meeting notes
- 2. Philippe will check after July 1st with the bank and send it to Sarah to sign until April.
- 3. Philippe will change budget column headings to 2014-15 and so on.
- 4. Damon will work with the program committee on getting Julie Carr from AIBS to speak at RMBL annual meeting.
- 5. Sarah will pin down which slot works for Mark Ruffalo to speak at RMBL.
- 6. Damon: will put out a press release on Mark Ruffalo a month before the meeting.
- 7. Jeff and Faerthen send pre-meeting workshop descriptions to Damon for inclusion in OBFS program and to Sarah so she can mention on her upcoming AIBS visit.
- 8. Pat and Stacy will ask Damon about a time at annual meeting for Early Career gathering
- 9. Carlos will put out one more invitation for the Member Support award.

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10. Sarah will write up a paragraph on Friend of OBFS Miles O'Brien.
 - a. Sarah to check if Miles will make a video to be shown at OBFS meeting.
11. Philippe will share images with David before August Annual Report as well as budget and updated auction graph.
12. Sarah will send David a Message from the President for inclusion in Annual Report.
13. David will send corrections to Sarah and Gwen who will fix the website dates and spelling
14. Gwen will work with Memberclicks to fit the member database into the new structure.
15. Damon will send complete info from Sitka, AK to compare for 2016 meeting location.
16. Philippe will email BOD his impressions of Sitka after visiting.
17. **Motions:**
 1. Established federal government per diem rate for reimbursement of meals;
 2. Approved Friend of OBFS award language and process

Meeting Notes

1. Agenda review and approval [Sarah]
 - a. Motion to approve – Brian; second, Eric. Motion approved
2. Review and approve minutes from March 20th [Stacy]
 - a. Philippe moved to accept with changes, Gwen seconded; approved
3. Treasurer's report [Philippe]
 - a. Membership dues are up – highest ever membership.
 - b. Running under budget as usual. Projected deficit won't be near approved amount.
 - c. Travel reimbursement - we need a policy for approved meal reimbursements rate for OBFS. This came up during travel to the Congressional Visits Day in May; when people don't submit receipts for meals, Philippe uses government standard rates for per diem. Note: alcohol is not covered. Board motion: use federal government rates. Eric moved; David seconded. Passes.
 - d. Clarification: individual members can hold elected positions – e.g., Philippe can be Treasurer after he retires in early 2016.
 - e. Establish a process for accepting membership checks in Philippe's absence or letting people know a reimbursement may be delayed. Eric: can a second designated person sign like President or Secretary? Discussion that it may be a Past President. Philippe will check after July 1st with the bank and send a set of checks to Sarah to sign until April 2016. David: bylaws indicate this can be a board decision, no change to bylaws needed.
 - f. Travel funds to cover Mark Ruffalo are in the budget
 - g. Pre-approval for development funds – discuss at that item #6
 - h. Carlos: International travel support item – how much money is available? Philippe: part of the expense will roll into next year.
 - i. David: budget totals at top of column – what time does 2014 refer to? Philippe: it is 2013-14 because 9 months are in 2014; for clarity will change heading to 2014-15.
4. 2015 Annual Meeting: RMBL [Damon, Chris for Mel on Local Recognition Award, Sarah, Ian]: program, events, new items
 - a. Mel sent out program agenda – mostly full. First plenary will be Thursday PM. Miles O'Brien cannot come, but Sarah may Skype him in or read his statement.
 - b. Chris: Committee introductions is scheduled for Friday AM.
 - c. Jeff: theme is focused on policy & public – can we bring someone to talk? Rob Gropp or Julie Carr from AIBS perhaps? Damon will work with the program committee. Perhaps a slot near plenary #2.
 - d. Chris: will build in additional Q&A time for audience-speaker interaction.
 - e. Inviting public – when Mark Ruffalo speaks, if the public is invited as Ian Billick wishes, we need to be aware of the repercussions/impact on schedule. Sarah will pin down which slot works for Mark. Damon: will put out a press release a month before the meeting.
 - f. Chris: this will be the first year of the Local Recognition Award, to be selected by the conference committee and local host. Haven't named the award yet.
5. Art and science workshop [Faerthen] and Global Mountain Observatory workshop [Jeff]

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- a. Art & Science Workshop - June 19-21, 2015 – an NSF-funded planning meeting in Reno, NV on how to institutionalize art and science at field research sites. Background: LTER put an Research Coordination Network proposal together to expand the Ecological Reflections Network, but the idea hasn't had traction within NSF - needed to think bigger. The Nevada Museum of Art relationship is helping reconceive art as creative problem-solving and not just traditional illustration of natural history. Participants include Jerry Schubel coming to talk about National Academy of Science report as a framework/impetus, plus NEA, Grantmakers in the Arts and others. Dept of Education involved; another RCN proposal will be developed for August. A goal is to draw attention to FSMLs.
- b. Global Mountain Observatory Network – planning grant for hosting GMON as a pre-OBFS meeting. If funded, would host 45-50 people; goal is to create global network of observatories like GLEON. Peter McCartney at NSF FSML program was very helpful; should hear a decision next week. Grant is for \$25K from NSF, with the Swiss-based Mountain Research Initiative to provide \$25K to cover international participants.
- c. Jeff: Can we advertise these pre-meeting workshops to attract others to join OBFS?
 - i. Jeff will send description to Damon for inclusion in OBFS program and to Sarah so she can mention on her upcoming AIBS visit.
- d. iDigBio Sept. 16, RMBL [Faerthen] Encourage digitization of “dark datasets” and sharing without a huge financial or computational investment. Sagehen, Archbold have been active with iDigBio. This could be an excellent way for FSMLs to go digital.
6. Development Report [Brian and Sarah]
 - a. Friendraising Event on Nantucket, Massachusetts, August 3. Same space and caterers, will give OBFS a 50% discount as a non-profit. 80-100 people, suggested \$100 per person donation. Should be simpler to hold the event this year – can reuse some of last year's materials. Will have event video recorded. Save the date email invites go out in two weeks.
 - b. Budget review and approval to insure that we have \$15,000 support from OBFS to carry out the event. There is \$16,118.26 budgeted including last year's carryover.
 - c. Andy Revkin and Michael Schulder confirmed as speakers; \$2500 honorarium for Andy and OBFS will cover his travel.
 - d. Last year's event raised \$10K; just released Michael Schulder's podcast on iTunes.
7. Human Diversity Award [Sarah for Mel]
 - a. Powdermill (PA) won this year. Working on program for OBFS meeting.
8. Meeting Support Awards [Paul Foster and Carlos De La Rosa]
 - a. Four applicants received to date including requests from Brazil, South Africa.
 - b. Carlos will put out one more invitation.
9. AIBS Joint Congressional Briefing Day (CBD) with Rob Gropp: [Sarah, Jeff]
 - a. Jeff, Sarah, and Tom Arsuffi from Llano River, TX attending. Date of meeting is up to AIBS, but will happen in July (before recess); will likely be week of July 13. It may be two events (with both houses of Congress).
 - b. Earlier this year, Jeff asked membership for stories and most were California-based but the goal is to showcase the national presence of OBFS member stations.
 - c. Program: Sarah discuss NAS report, an opportunity to partner with federal agencies, tell stories about cooperatives with science and other disciplines are positive, close with Sarah to ask how do we move this forward.
 - d. Jeff met with UC Berkley administration; the response was positive on the ideas presented in the NAS report and agreement that creating and taking a more active approach is important and encouraged. They are also supportive of OBFS working towards creating ways to move this forward. Jeff's working with government affairs staff at his institution and he thinks this is helping with field station visibility, value, and credibility internally. Berkley wants to approach “friendlies” representatives in Congress beforehand to update them on OBFS, then those reps can come to the AIBS CBD meeting with questions prepared. Rob and Julie are enthusiastic about that approach.
 - e. Philippe: will travel expense be in this or next fiscal year (after July)?

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- i. Sarah: we don't have a line item in the budget for OBFS rep travel, even though we did fund AIBS (*see earlier board notes*).
 - ii. Philippe: there is \$2,500 available: \$1,000 for BOD travel that could be used and \$1,500 for non-board travel.
- 10. Other Committee reports as needed [Eric, Sarah, Stacy, Pat]
 - a. Early Career Rep (Pat Oelschlager) is working on planning for next year.
- 11. Friend of OBFS nomination and selection [Brian]
 - a. Note this is not annually awarded; it is a good way to recognize OBFS partners.
 - b. Philippe: edit item #1 to reflect that individual/lifetime members can be recognized.
 - c. Motion to approve: Philippe (with the change above); Damon seconded. Passed.
 - d. Sarah will write up a paragraph for Miles O'Brien.
 - i. Chris: if Miles would record a video we could play it at the meeting.
 - e. \$1,000 set aside for the plaque; Brian will get a quote.
- 12. ESA Meeting sharing table with AERC [Sarah]
 - a. Knute Nadelhoffer, Paul Foster, Sarah will be at the meeting. Will take NAS report brochures and OBFS materials. Cost of sharing table was approved earlier (\$475).
- 13. Annual Report Needs [David White]
 - a. Philippe will share images with David before August report as well as budget and updated auction graph.
 - b. Sarah will send a Message from the President for inclusion.
- 14. Website Memberclicks update [Gwen]
 - a. Website – David notes to fix current officer slate
 - i. David will send corrections; Sarah and Gwen will fix the dates and spelling
 - b. Memberclicks is primed to update their system. This is good and they still are the cheapest solution, so Gwen advocates staying with them because it works.
 - i. Gwen will work with them to fit the existing database into the new structure.
 - ii. The new version will have a way to associate individual members with a particular station.
 - c. Timing of Gwen's responses to web/data needs is still based on her availability.
- 15. Proposals for 2016 meeting hosts [Damon]
 - a. Tabled till a week or two.
 - b. Damon is expecting more info from Sitka, AK.
 - c. Philippe will email his impressions of Sitka after next week.
- 16. New Members, Renewals [Philippe, Sarah]
- 17. New Business: n/a
 - Sarah will send a doodle poll about meeting dates for August.

Gwen moved to adjourn, David seconded. Approved, even though we didn't have to vote.

Meeting adjourned: 2:56 PM EST.

Next BOD meeting: August 10, 2:00 PM EST

Next BOD meeting: Sept 16th 6:00 pm at annual conference, RMBL

Respectfully submitted, SAM^c

OBFS Board of Directors Conference Call

Thursday, August 18, 2016

[Note that the minutes have been distributed to the BOD and corrections made; however, no vote on passage has been made as of the publication of the Annual Report]

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Attendees: Reid Bertone-Johnson, Philippe Cohen, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Sarah Oktay, Jennifer Seavey, David White, Jason Tallant; Mary Hufty

To Do:

1. Exec Committee to fill out and sign investment approval forms at annual meeting.
2. Need help at registration – Sitka hosts will handle, but can a few BOD volunteer?
3. Paul will email the international travel awardees so Sarah and Chris can arrange housing.
4. Sarah will send a reminder to OBFS list to register
5. Need someone to take the historian photo and report out – Mary will ask Hilary
6. Jason set up BlueJeans connection for annual meeting board meetings
7. Treasurer needs better, more careful review of budget summaries by members of the Board.
8. All submit charges (travel, etc.) to Philippe soon if it is important that charges occur in this fiscal year (ending this month).
9. All review the web and make suggestions for improvements to Jason.
10. Brian write a paragraph describing a potential Outstanding Service to Field Science award for the board to evaluate; Stacy create online poll
11. Philippe send Chris new member info to invite those stations to annual meeting in Sitka.
12. Chris submit a budget to Philippe for creating a travel banner to include in next fiscal year budget.
13. Mary will talk to Jason in October about how to transfer documents
14. Chris will ask Julie Palkovich Carr of AIBS for a short justification of funding request.
15. Stacy will send last year's meeting minutes to David and prepare Secretary Report by end next week.
16. – Philippe and Mary will send to David White RMBL meeting photos.

Decisions:

1. Need a determination on auction process and IRS rules for donations.

Meeting began 2:06 PM EST

1. Accept minutes from June 1, 2016 meeting (Stacy).
 - a. No changes. Philippe moved to approve, seconded by Sarah – motion carries unanimously.
2. Treasurer update (Philippe)
 - a. A new bank account was set up with Bank of the West (BotW) moved \$25K over so far. Will need to have the account open for a certain amount of time before some deposits can be moved from Jefferson Bank over to BotW, but all funds will be transferred.
 1. Need to set up OBFS website so the membership dues deposit directly into BotW account.
 2. At 2016 annual meeting, most auction checks can be scanned directly into account
 - b. Investment Committee – will move funds from Sentinel to Vanguard Investments soon.
 1. Motion to approve movement of funds by Sarah, seconded by Brian. Approved unanimously.
 2. TO DO – at Sitka, all Exec committee needs to fill out and sign forms.
 - c. BOD Budget Request: all please review quarterly and annual budgets early and often.
 1. End-of-year budget will be reconciled after August 31.
 2. Philippe will set up online accounting on Mint (or comparable resource) so board can see materials
 3. Will have passwords for President, Treasurer and Secretary for safe-keeping.
 - d. SurveyMonkey voting – we have a paid subscription. SurveyMonkey account holder is Brian; David White uses for OBFS elections. If Secretary needs access to the account, Stacy will talk with David.
 - e. Currently, 235 OBFS field station members and 27 individual members – these are all-time high numbers for this time of year.

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- f. Comment: New York City field station has requested membership paperwork assistance multiple times without successfully completing the process at their end; Philippe is leaving the problem for how to pay for enrollment of their station with NYC going forward.
 - g. Brian: asked to ensure \$15K is available for the 2016 development event and that any expenditures left from 2015 (\$1,800 line item) aren't going to be taken from that budgeted amount of \$15K. Philippe: yes the full amount is available, and there will be a note in the budget that any 2015 carry-over expenses are separate from 2016 expenses.
 - 1. Jen: how does a member station/individual know if membership is up to date? Philippe: all current members are in the online directory and map.
 - h. Jason: Memberclicks software administration will change with the update to the system this fall, recommends Philippe not spend time determining the workflow
 - i. Jason: Remove BatchGeo budget line item for 2016. Philippe: ok; it was approved last year for the 2016 budget but will be removed for next year.
 - j. Can't close old bank account until new bank account info is successfully integrated into the website.
 - k. NEON line item – OBFS paid the fee for this year; there aren't NEON fees into the future so this \$1000 item should not be in next year's budget.
 - l. Any 2016 charges from the board for travel, etc. please submit to Philippe as soon as possible after the meetings are over.
3. Website update (Jason)
- a. Discussion about changing contact person from a field station to individual member and/or a new person; no follow-up.
 - b. Jason: has been making time-sensitive website updates; planning more changes this fall – what are the priorities?
 - c. Diversity award and other awards web page – Jason will work on next week. There will be a quick link on the main page to this page. Will also have a Conflict of Interest statement for annual meeting also.
 - d. Calendar/course listings is a complex approval/publishing process and Jason's hopeful this will change with Memberclicks' upgrade.
 - e. Created new Friend of OBFS membership type in system, but it does not show on the webpage [to date, Miles O'Brien and Peter Connors are in the Friend category].
 - f. Philippe: we should have this ready for the annual meeting. People should have access to their profile if they want to fill out/update it.
 - g. Jason invites all to review the web and make suggestions for improvements.
 - h. Password encryption management for bank to deal with the multi-user bank account issue: Jason will look into.
4. Development update (Brian)
- a. Next event is Thursday, Oct 6, New York City at the NY Academy of Sciences (David Mordecai is a Black Rock Consortium member/NYU which provides a \$2500 discount).
 - b. Brian asked OBFS membership for a) auction items and b) donor names and got some suggestions for each. Will ask again at Sitka for station donations. 50 invitees identified to date; tickets \$150/person. Expect to break even on event.
 - c. Mark Ruffalo and Gene Likens will be featured guests – Mark in person
 - d. Bill Schuster would like to recognize Gene with an award but OBFS does not have a outstanding service to science role. It could be awarded when appropriate, not annual.
 - 1. Philippe: there is potential for award proliferation and we need to be thoughtful about awards overall and to avoid imprudently encumbering the budget with fixed costs.. Sarah: purpose is to increase visibility. Brian: motion to create a plaque and award Gene. Jen: suggest calling the award Outstanding Service to Field Science.
 - 2. Paul: can Brian write a paragraph describing the new award for the board to evaluate? We can consider for a week then vote online. Stacy create a poll for this.

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5. Committee Reports (Chris et al.)
 - a. New Member/Outreach:
 1. Welcome reception at Sitka meeting scheduled for Thursday Sept. 22nd at 4pm. Philippe send Chris new member info to invite specifically.
 2. Travel display– will send a draft to board for review. Graphic designer on campus (UKY) donated some time to craft it. Phillipe: consistency with the OBFS brochure made in 2014 is important. Funds in budget to buy banner– Chris submit a budget for Philippe to include in next fiscal year.
 3. Sarah: do we have black and white OBFS logo? Philippe: no, just color TIF. Chris check the dropbox folder first, or Philippe can send logo file to Chris.
 - b. Historian: Mary will talk to Jason in October about how to transfer documents
 - c. International committee annual meeting travel grants: awarded three stations \$1500 each. Paul will email the three awardees so Sarah and Chris can arrange housing.
6. Congressional Visits Day (Chris)
 - a. 2016 CVD event was well-received – good geographic representation from OBFS. Participants will share experiences at annual meeting.
 - b. Request support of a different AIBS program: one-on-one visits to field stations during August-Oct program - hosting congressional representatives, coordinated by AIBS. Should OBFS sponsor that program for \$750 in 2016 as we have in the past, or include it in the budget for 2017? Twice as many OBFS members (7-8) take advantage of the program in the years we've sponsored (3 of past 5 years). We already pay \$2700/year to AIBS. Philippe: is this a one-time request, or annual increase? Suggest we pay it this year and as soon as possible so we can include it in this fiscal year's expenditures. Stacy: this is different than CVD which is OBFS convening in DC as a visible group; this program accrues benefits primarily to field stations and I would like more justification as to why OBFS should pay more. Chris will ask Julie P. Carr for a short justification.
7. Shared booth, Ecological Society of America meeting, August 2016 (Paul) – thanks to the OBFS volunteers for staffing the booth
8. 2016 annual meeting update (Sarah for Damon)
 - a. See draft agenda, sent separately. Three plenaries and several sessions. Will have travel costs to pay for some speakers. Plaques for awards are made.
 - b. Meeting will not be streamed; some portions may be recorded
 - c. New members encouraged to bring a poster (no slideshow this year)
 - d. Might be housing for board members; depends on speaker housing needs.
 - e. Sunday board meeting will be from 9-10 am (to accommodate 15 min drive to airport).
 - f. Jason: Those who can't attend will have a BlueJeans connection available for board meetings
 - g. Sarah will send a reminder to OBFS list to register
 - h. Need someone to take the historian photo and report out – Mary will ask Hilary
 - i. An Alaskan group, North Pacific Research Board, offered to joint sponsor the annual meeting (reception) Wednesday at 5 pm.
 - j. Need help at registration – Sitka hosts will handle, but can a few BOD volunteer? Stacy, Philippe will help – talk to Chris/Sarah about timing
 - k. Chris/Sitka are producing the program, which will include a list of attendees. Something will go out beforehand on the listserv so new members can prepare for the auction
 - l. Auction theme?
 - m. Paul will ask for Philippe to give a membership update detail at the meeting.
 - n. Auction committee (Peter Connors, Jan Hodder, Paul Foster, Shorty Boucher) are working on a set of procedures for the auction and handling finances.
 1. Philippe: Need a determination on auction proceeds and IRS rules. If auction winners want to write off a donation/auction item on their taxes, the donation item needs to have a value. How shall OBFS handle the procedure when donators don't always value things fully? Board needs to discuss further.

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9. 2017 meeting update (Damon)
 - a. Itasca, MN will be at 2016 meeting and will present, also have special auction item
 - b. Sustainable biological infrastructure workshop - Hilary Swain will work with Paul Foster
10. Old Business (All)
 - a. Annual report – David White will have report by annual meeting. Stacy will send meeting minutes to David and prepare Secretary Report by end next week. Request for President's Report and RMBL meeting photos – Philippe and Mary can send some.
11. New Business (All)
 - a. Sharing documents (Jen) – how are we doing this? dropbox folder?
 1. Hard to find time to move files to Google Docs
 2. In 2010-12 OBFS used a Google Site as a wiki. Jason: suggest we revive it.
 3. Reid: however we do it, need a function to alert everyone of changes.
 4. Philippe: maintaining email lists remains a problem. The large OBFS mailing list is via Stanford, and he's the only one who maintains it, which isn't the best strategy to maintain security and completeness. Should we use a fee service via MailChimp or Constant Contact? Jen: those aren't good services to manage a contact database. UNH uses Box.com as do other universities for document sharing. Jason: Suggests a short business meeting at the annual meeting to sort this out.

Move to adjourn by Brian; seconded by Philippe. Board unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS

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 decades¹.

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.

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

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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

¹The 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.

The following article is from the *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*, (2016) 97(1):99-101.

NETWORKS, CENTERS, OBSERVATORIES, AND FIELD STATIONS

2014–2015 Report – Organization of Biological Field Stations

Sarah Oktay

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Hancock Biological Station, Murray State University, 561 Emma Drive, Murray, KY 42071 USA

Biological field stations are living, outdoor laboratories for students, researchers, and the general public to learn, explore, and discover ecosystems and learn ecology and other disciplines. Field stations are located from deserts to montane regions and include marine laboratories as well as terrestrial reserves. Field stations offer invaluable services by providing unbiased scientific information and facilities to help governmental and other stakeholders tackle critical environmental and societal issues at local, regional, national, and international scales.

The Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) was initiated in 1966 to assist directors and managers of field stations solve common problems and address environmental issues. The mission of OBFS is to facilitate the highest quality environment for scientists, students, teachers, and the public to pursue research and education, and to enhance biological and environmental understanding. OBFS pursues this mission in a manner that maximizes diversity, inclusiveness, sustainability, and transparency (see www.obfs.org). Present membership includes 228 stations representing 18 countries.

One of OBFS' goals is to streamline implementation of long- term research and education initiatives. Specifically, OBFS encourages collaborations across multiple platforms, helping to insure that our physical infrastructure, educators,

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students, and scientists are working on common goals with expediency and purpose. What follows is a summary of some of the key activities of OBFS in the past 24 months.

The 2014 OBFS annual meeting was held jointly with the National Association of Marine Labs (NAML) at the Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, September 20–24, 2014. Congressman Bill Keating (U.S. Representative, MA) addressed the attendees and remarked on the exponential advances in information technology that allow scientists to transmit data from field stations “instantly, accurately, and efficiently.” He also commended OBFS and NAML for their collaboration: “Working jointly, with the information you gather, creates enormous opportunities in the private sector as well as in environmental science”.

At the 2014 meeting, OBFS and NAML identified the urgent need to engage a broader audience to share the ideas put forth in the National Academy of Sciences - Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (NAS FSML) report *Enhancing the Value and Sustainability of Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in the 21st Century* (<http://dels.nas.edu/Report/Enhancing-Value-Sustainability/18806>). This report demonstrated the significant value of field stations to science and society, and provided recommendations to guide their future sustainability. The report grew out of a National Science Foundation- funded workshop that brought together many field station and marine lab users, directors, and stakeholders to evaluate the relationship of labs and field stations to science, education, and policy constituents. Given that today’s regional and global issues require a high degree of collaboration and communication, the report also explored what is needed to make field stations more relevant and responsive to current societal needs. To maximize the reach of the NAS FSML report, a brochure “From Science to Solution: Advancing the Role of Field Stations” was created. The brochure was a collaboration between OBFS, NAML, the American Institute for Biological Sciences (AIBS), and the Integration & Application Network of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

In December 2014, OBFS President Sarah Oktay participated in the AIBS policy meeting, and in March 2015 she attended the NAML annual policy meeting as an invited speaker. Together OBFS and NAML are working on the synergies identified in the OBFS strategic plan and further described in the NAS FSML report. Her talk can be found at <http://www.naml.org/meetings/2015%20Winter/OBFS%20Sarah%20Oktay%20Briefing%20to%20NAML%202015-03.pdf>

In May, AIBS provided support for the 2015 Congressional Visits Day for OBFS volunteers. Each year this event plants the seeds of the value of field stations to the nation into the heads and hearts of congressional staff. Our new brochure and copies of the NAS FSML report were also distributed. Later in summer, four OBFS representatives participated in a new Congressional Briefing Day organized with the help of AIBS. The objective of the Congressional Briefing was to communicate the potential of our national field station assets and to demonstrate the impact that strategic federal partnerships have in leveraging new research and funding opportunities.

The Organization of Biological Field Stations held its third annual development event in August on Nantucket, MA. The guest speaker was the renowned science writer and social media presence Andy Revkin who was inter-viewed by Wavemaker creator and former CNN producer Michael Schulder. Trips to member stations across the country were auctioned off to enthusiastic bidders; these field station visits help spread the word about the scientific vitality, value, and beauty of field stations.

The Organization of Biological Field Stations participated in the 100th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in August in Baltimore, Maryland. The Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC) shared a table with OBFS and the NAS report tri- fold, the NAS Report in Brief, and OBFS brochures were distributed to conference goers.

The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory hosted the OBFS annual meeting in September, 2015. The 118 attendees representing 75 field stations enjoyed a presentation by actor, director, and environmental activist Mark Ruffalo who talked about his commitment to water resources and how field stations engage the public. OBFS presented the inaugural Friend of OBFS Award to Miles O’ Brien, an internationally known science correspondent for CNN and PBS who was recognized for his efforts to create a lasting network of field stations devoted to the discovery and understanding of the environmental challenges of our time. The Mary Hufty Local Hero Award went to John Norton of Crested Butte, Colorado. This award recognizes an individual who exemplifies the ideals of OBFS and supports research,

education, and outreach through personal and/or professional actions, particularly in the areas of biology, conservation, or ecology.

The Organization of Biological Field Stations will have its golden anniversary September 21–25, 2016 at Sitka Sound Science Center in Sitka, Alaska where we will continue to connect field stations, local communities, users, and other stakeholders with shared objectives that strengthen our programs in teaching, outreach, and science.

2016's Top Presidential Science, Engineering, Technology, Health, and Environmental Questions

Scientific, engineering, tech, health and environmental issues now affect voters' lives at least as much as the foreign policy, economic policy, and faith and values views that candidates traditionally share on the campaign trail. America's leading science and engineering organizations are urging the candidates and the press to give equal priority to discussion of these important issues in the national dialogue, so that well-informed voters may continue to guide the democratic process. We offer twenty questions.

Category	#	Questions
Innovation	1	Science and engineering have been responsible for over half of the growth of the U.S. economy since WWII. But some reports question America's continued leadership in these areas. What policies will best ensure that America remains at the forefront of innovation?
Research	2	Many scientific advances require long-term investment to fund research over a period of longer than the two, four, or six year terms that govern political cycles. In the current climate of budgetary constraints, what are your science and engineering research priorities and how will you balance short-term versus long-term funding?
Climate Change	3	The Earth's climate is changing and political discussion has become divided over both the science and the best response. What are your views on climate change, and how would your administration act on those views?
Biodiversity	4	Biological diversity provides food, fiber, medicines, clean water and many other products and services on which we depend every day. Scientists are finding that the variety and variability of life is diminishing at an alarming rate as a result of human activity. What steps will you take to protect biological diversity?
Internet	5	The Internet has become a foundation of economic, social, law enforcement, and military activity. What steps will you take to protect vulnerable infrastructure and institutions from cyber attack, and to provide for national security while protecting personal privacy on electronic devices and the internet?

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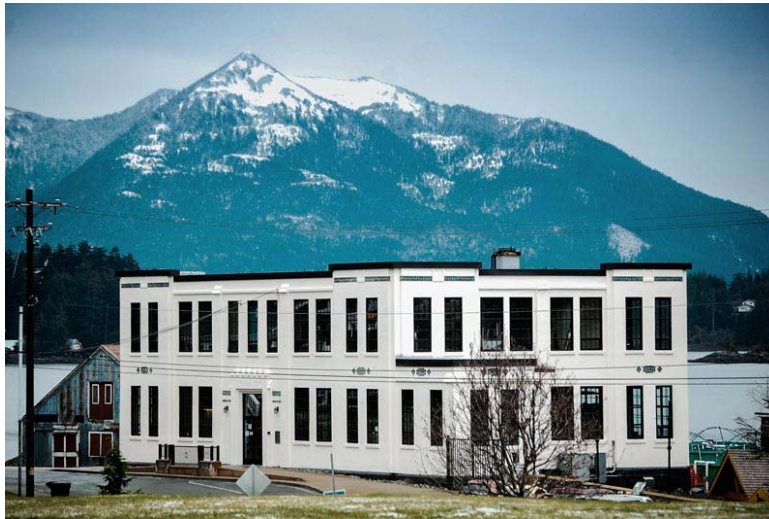
Mental Health	6	Mental illness is among the most painful and stigmatized diseases, and the National Institute of Mental Health estimates it costs America more than \$300 billion per year. What will you do to reduce the human and economic costs of mental illness?
Energy	7	Strategic management of the US energy portfolio can have powerful economic, environmental, and foreign policy impacts. How do you see the energy landscape evolving over the next 4 to 8 years, and, as President, what will your energy strategy be?
Education	8	American students have fallen in many international rankings of science and math performance, and the public in general is being faced with an expanding array of major policy challenges that are heavily influenced by complex science. How would your administration work to ensure all students including women and minorities are prepared to address 21st century challenges and, further, that the public has an adequate level of STEM literacy in an age dominated by complex science and technology?
Public Health	9	Public health efforts like smoking cessation, drunk driving laws, vaccination, and water fluoridation have improved health and productivity and save millions of lives. How would you improve federal research and our public health system to better protect Americans from emerging diseases and other public health threats, such as antibiotic resistant superbugs?
Water	10	The long-term security of water supplies is threatened by a dizzying array of aging infrastructure, aquifer depletion, pollution, and climate variability. Some American communities have lost access to water, affecting their viability and destroying home values. If you are elected, what steps will you take to ensure access to clean water for all Americans?
Nuclear Power	11	Nuclear power can meet electricity demand without producing greenhouse gases, but it raises national security and environmental concerns. What is your plan for the use, expansion, or phasing out of nuclear power and what steps will you take to monitor, manage and secure nuclear materials over their life cycle?
Food	12	Agriculture involves a complex balance of land and energy use, worker health and safety, water use and quality, and access to healthy and affordable food, all of which have inputs of objective knowledge from science. How would you manage the US agricultural enterprise to our highest benefit in the most sustainable way?
Global Challenge	13	We now live in a global economy with a large and growing human population. These factors create economic, public health, and environmental challenges that do not respect national borders. How would your administration balance national interests with global cooperation when tackling threats made clear by science such as pandemic diseases and climate change, that cross national borders?

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Regulations	14	Science is essential to many of the laws and policies that keep Americans safe and secure. How would science inform your administration's decisions to add, modify, or remove federal regulations, and how would you encourage a thriving business sector while protecting Americans vulnerable to public health and environmental threats?
Vaccination	15	Public health officials warn that we need to take more steps to prevent international epidemics from viruses such as Ebola and Zika. Meanwhile, measles is resurgent due to decreasing vaccination rates. How will your administration support vaccine science?
Space	16	There is a political debate over America's national approach to space exploration and use. What should America's national goals be for space exploration and Earth observation from space, and what steps would your administration take to achieve them?
Opioids	17	There is a growing opioid problem in the United States, with tragic costs to lives, families, and society. How would your administration enlist researchers, medical doctors and pharmaceutical companies in addressing this issue?
Ocean Health	18	There is growing concern over the decline of fisheries and the overall health of the ocean: scientists estimate that 90% of stocks are fished at or beyond sustainable limits, habitats like coral reefs are threatened by ocean acidification, and large areas of ocean and coastlines are polluted. What efforts would your administration make to improve the health of our ocean and coastlines and increase the long-term sustainability of ocean fisheries?
Immigration	19	There is much current political discussion about immigration policy and border controls. Would you support any changes in immigration policy regarding scientists and engineers who receive their graduate degree at an American university? Conversely, what is your opinion of recent controversy over employment and the H-1B Visa program?
Scientific Integrity	20	Evidence from science is the surest basis for fair and just public policy, but that is predicated on the integrity of that evidence and of the scientific process used to produce it, which must be both transparent and free from political bias and pressure. How will you foster a culture of scientific transparency and accountability in government, while protecting scientists and federal agencies from political interference in their work?

2016 Annual Meeting *Ocean to Alpine: Research Across Ecological Gradients*

The 2016 OBFS annual meeting is being held at the Sitka Sound Science Center in Sitka, Alaska, on Sept 21-25, 2016. For more information regarding the 2016 meeting go here: www.sitkascience.org/obfs.



OBFS 2017 Annual Meeting

The 2017 OBFS annual meeting will be held at the Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, on Sept 20-24, 2017. More information on Itasca go to <http://cbs.umn.edu/itasca>.



Lake Itasca