



Founded 1968

OBFS Annual Report 2011

www.obfs.org

OBFS GOVERNANCE

Elected Positions (Executive Committee)

President	Ian Billick	2010-2012
Past President	Brian Kloeppe	2010-2012
Vice President	Karie Slavik	2011-2013
Secretary	Greg Smith	2010-2012
Treasurer	Philippe Cohen	2011-2013
At-Large	Mark Schulze	2011-2013
At-Large	Sarah Oktay	2010-2012

Board Selected Officer Positions

Editor	David White	2010-2012
Network Coordinator	Gwen Pearson	2010-2012

Organizational Standing Committee Chairs

Human Diversity	Stacy McNulty	2010-2012
International	Deedra McClearn	2010-2012
Governance	Eric Nagy	2010-2012
Org Development	Ian Billick	2010-2012
Outreach	Philippe Cohen	2010-2012
Historian	Mary Hufty	(no term limit)

President's Committees

Annual Meeting	Karie Slavik	2011-2013
Nominating	Brian Kloeppe	2011 (Calendar year)

The OBFS *Annual Report* contains results of the 2011 elections, minutes of the annual meeting, list of annual meeting attendees, meeting exit survey, other meeting minutes, budgets, and other business of the organization.

The *Annual Report* is posted on the web site (www.obfs.org) as a PDF file. It, along with previous *Annual Reports* and *Newsletters*, is available to all members in good standing (log in required).

The OBFS *Newsletter* is no longer published but may be reestablished at some point as an OBFS blog.

The OBFS *Annual Report* is produced at the Hancock Biological Station by David White with assistance from Karla Johnston and Gerry Harris. All inquires should be addressed to editor@obfs.org.

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CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR 2011 OBFS ELECTIONS.

The election is held through SurveyMonkey and open to all member stations in good standing.
Polls were open from November 18 to December 18, 2011

PRESIDENT



Bill Schuster I have been Executive Director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium since 1992 with appointments at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (Senior Adjunct Research Scientist) and Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (Adjunct Research Scientist). My prior experience includes forestry, park

management, environmental protection, and teaching. I have a BA from Columbia, an MS from Penn State, a PhD from University of Colorado, and did postdoctoral work at University of Utah. I oversee the research, education, and conservation programs of the Consortium that operates the 1600-hectare Black Rock Forest field station in southeast New York State. The Consortium has 23 academic institutional members from around the New York region. In the past 20 years use of the field station has increased to 15,000 visitor-days per year with about 500 papers produced, construction of 1700 square meters of new "green" facilities, and a quadrupling of the staff. My research interests are in ecology, ecosystem management, and environmental change. I have authored or co-authored 50-some research publications, and I teach, lecture, and train students in forest ecology and environmental science. My field experience ranges from the Eastern Deciduous Forest to the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, Sonoran and Mohave deserts, Alaska's North Slope and the old growth Podocarp forests of New Zealand. OBFS has been outstandingly helpful in the growth of my station and is in position to contribute substantially to our nation's scientific understanding and dialog at a critical time. I am a passionate supporter of field stations, fully committed to OBFS, and would be most honored to serve a term as President if elected.

and I won't be nearly as efficient, but I'll do my best. I have a B.S. in Marine Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Chemical Oceanography from Texas A&M University-Galveston which is why I never understand what many of the biologists, botanists, and wildlife ecologists at OBFS are saying. I am a passionate believer in outreach and community involvement, and I dedicate approximately 30% of my time to working with students of all ages and the public via classes, workshops, citizen science projects, and via multiple media outlets. A serial volunteer, I serve on a half dozen or so other local committees, commissions, and environmental groups. I am very excited about the role OBFS has in fostering our collective research and education endeavors and would be willing to do all I can to work with my fellow draftees in furthering OBFS organizational goals. I believe coordinating and meeting with my colleagues in OBFS is one of the most efficient and fun ways of improving my own field station. I am currently the chair of the recently merged Small Field Stations/Member Support Committee. Last year I participated in Congressional Visit Day, which I highly recommend to OBFS members.

**MEMBER AT LARGE (Member Number 2)
Vote for one of the choices**



Jeff Brown Hi! My name is Jeff Brown and I am the Director of the UC Berkeley – Central Sierra Field Research Stations (CFFRS) and resident at the Sagehen Creek Field Station. Sagehen is located about 8 miles north of Truckee, California. CFFRS represents about 29,000 acres and covers a true trans-Sierra transect. This includes the entire North Fork of the American River (West

if the Sierra Crest), the Central Sierra Snow Lab (at the sierra Crest), and the Sagehen Creek Field Station (on the East side of the Sierra Crest). I am not an 'ologist; however, I have had a lot of experience working with and learning from scientists. I have over ten years of experience managing field stations and reserves, and my supervisor would say that I have been extremely effective. I have been active in the OBFS since 2004 and feel very strongly that it is an asset with tremendous potential, great member support, and an active and engaged board. Some say that my greatest strength is my enthusiasm for all endeavors that I engage in as well as my ability to get things done; some also say that every once in a while I actually have a good idea. These are traits that I think would directly benefit OBFS, and I am willing to commit to do my share in the interest of furthering the needs of its diverse membership as well as those of the organization.

SECRETARY



Sarah Oktay I am the Director of the UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station (zero industrial accidents since I started my tenure in 2003!), and I am the sole candidate (I think) for secretary. Greg has done a great job

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Jerald Dosch My name is Jerald Dosch. I have a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers and am the Director of Macalester College's Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area (aka, Ordway Field Station). I have over 20 years of research and teaching experience and first joined the OBFS a few



years ago. I co-wrote a successful NSF-FSML planning grant proposal for the Ordway station and have several years of board experience serving on the Friends of Fort Snelling/Fort Snelling State Park Association (an organization dedicated to the preservation of the historic and natural values in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area). Since becoming director of

Macalester's field station I have helped strengthen its commitment to its four pillar mission of education, research, sustainability, and civic engagement. In addition to reinvigorating the station's undergraduate research program we became a core network member of the NSF-RCN funded Ecological Research as Education Network (EREN) and a new partner with Discover Life. The station has reached out to the local elementary school (we began serving as an outdoor extension of their classrooms in 2011), scouts (Girl, Boy, and Cub), the local Sierra Club chapter, a local arts organization, and a regional citizens' organization aimed at protecting and enhancing the Mississippi River watershed. I would love to serve as an OBFS officer in order to represent the organization's small stations and liberal arts colleges. I believe these members with relatively little land and small budgets need representation on the board in order to achieve our big hopes.



Becca Fenwick During the last four years as the Director of the James Reserve, my appreciation of the vital

role that field stations play in the natural sciences has increased ten fold. My background as a tectonic geomorphologist has enabled me to spend extensive time in the field all over the world, working with many different types of field scientists and students. I have spent the last 4 years integrating technology, ecological research, and data management in a Mediterranean type ecosystem and across the UCNRS, learning new appreciation for interdisciplinary collaborations. OBFS is a network that fosters community spirit and support between the members and helps us do our jobs more effectively. If asked to serve as a member at large I look forward to helping better this process.



Deedra McClearn My early training was in mammalogy, and I am particularly drawn to small mammals such as bats, mice, and shrews. Recent research projects

in Costa Rica have taken me into the plant world, with phenological studies of big rainforest canopy trees and small understory ferns. For the past 15 years I have worked for OTS (Organization for Tropical Studies), coordinating graduate ecology courses in Costa Rica, developing an undergraduate study abroad program in South Africa, and then serving as director of the La Selva Biological Station for the past six years. One dominant theme of our work at La Selva for the past five years has been organizing our databases, gathering and creating metadata for hundreds of research projects, and updating all of the information about the station (species inventories, trail maps, bibliographies). Although I am leaving my job as station director in a few months, I plan to continue several OTS projects on a contract basis, including compiling meteorological data for tropical stations throughout Latin America. I'm looking forward to taking courses in web design and educating myself in areas where I need to reformat large areas of my cortex.



Stacy McNulty I have 15 years combined experience in field biology research, education and field station administration. My background is terrestrial vertebrate ecology, and I serve as Associate Director of the SUNY ESF Adirondack Ecological Center (AEC) in New York. In addition to

representing the AEC at many OBFS meetings since 2002, I served twice as a reviewer for National Science Foundation Field Stations and Marine Labs. In 2010 I became Chair of the OBFS Human Diversity Committee designed to promote diversity at FSMLs. In my time at the field station, I have been a graduate student, faculty researcher, teacher, field trip leader, event coordinator, editor, boat mover, budget planner, fundraiser, counselor, and macaroni salad maker. Field stations facilitate a transformative bond to place; like many OBFS members, it was at a field station that I found my passion. The combination of setting, facilities, data and especially the expertise of dedicated individuals at field stations provides a special opportunity to understand ecosystems and how humans interact with them. I endeavor to help OBFS showcase these strengths by linking field stations' scientific legacy with future societal needs, including creating openings for the next generation to become involved in OBFS. If chosen, I would be pleased to serve the organization with dedication and humor.



Tom Risch My career has been profoundly impacted by biological field stations both in terms of undergraduate education and research opportunities. Currently as a Professor of Animal Ecology, I am able to see these same positive outcomes of field station experiences on my students. Annually I teach a class, Neotropical Bat Ecology, at

a station in Nicaragua, where I have opportunity to introduce

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tropical ecology to students from Arkansas State University (ASU) and other institutions. In the past two years, while serving as Chair of my department, I have been instrumental in establishing two field stations for ASU. These stations are located in very different ecosystems: the Ozark Mountains and

the Mississippi Delta. OBFS is an organization that reflects my own personal passions for field station research, education, and outreach. It would be a privilege to be able to utilize my administrative experience and love of field stations to further the mission of OBFS.

BYLAWS CHANGES

Please vote yes or no on the proposed changes to the OBFS Bylaws

Proposed deletions are in red, insertions are in blue.

Article IV Section 5. Selection of Voting Member Elected Directors.

A) Nominations. Voting member elected directors shall be nominated ~~by the voting members~~ at the annual meeting of the voting members held for that purpose. Nominations may be made by the Board of Directors, by individual board members, by voting members, ~~or~~ by individual nonvoting ~~members.~~ ~~Or~~ members, ~~or~~ by an ad hoc "Nominations Committee" appointed by the President to serve the sole, and short-term task, of developing a slate for a particular election.

ELECTION RESULTS!!!

OBFS congratulates the newly elected officers from the 2011 ballot and thanks all who were willing to run and provide their services to the organization. Positions begin April 1, 2012.

President – Bill Schuster

Secretary – Sarah Oktay

Member at Large (2) – Stacy McNulty

Bylaws Changes – Adopted

Official Secretary Notes

OBFS 2011 Annual Meeting

Bodega Marine Laboratory and Reserve, Bodega Bay, CA

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Welcome Address (7:00 pm – 8:45 pm)

Suzanne Olyarnik welcomed OBFS and gave an overview of the BMLR facilities, programs, and policies. Suzanne introduced the BMLR staff. Combined, they had over 80 years of marine lab experience. Suzanne also thanked all of the people who helped make the meeting possible, and discussed the history of Bodega Head. (Bodega Ocean Observing Node www.bml.ucdavis.edu/boon/)

Marine Laboratory Director, Gary Cherr, gave an address to OBFS. He welcomed OBFS and discussed the Marine Lab

programs and research objectives. The lab is characterized by a "Point of Distinction: Multidisciplinary Approach to Complex Environmental Issues." Funding for the lab is 65% federal, 17% state 18% private. The lab also has a number of specialized facilities. The undergraduate research curriculum and the NSF GK-12 programs also were discussed.

President Ian Billick thanked Suzanne and BMLR for their work hosting the meeting. The membership then introduced itself. Brian Kloeppe announced that three offices are open for nomination: President, Secretary, and one Member-at-Large position. The Nomination Committee has received several nominations for each position but would like more. Eric Nagy announced that there would be a By-Laws change

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up for vote that would clarify that station members and individual members could nominate officers. Peter Connors made a few announcements about the upcoming auction. This year there will be a silent auction that will close Saturday afternoon, plus the traditional live auction Saturday evening.

This year's theme is "Facilitating Field Research and Education in Changing Landscapes."

President Billick then presented Tom Callahan's "Core Principles of the Callahan Academy for Interpersonal Sensitivity and Political Correctness" or the "Four Maxims for Conduct at OBFS Meetings:" "(1) treat everyone decently, (2) learn to laugh at yourself, (3) know that everyone makes mistakes, so **Get Over It!**, and(4) don't call the authorities unless there is fire or blood."

Friday, September 23, 2011

Strategic Planning Session Discussion (8:00 am – 8:45 am)

Future of Field Stations and Marine Labs: A Strategic Planning Effort (Ian Billick)

OBFS and NAML are leading the charge to discuss how to position field stations for the future. Ian presented some Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT Analysis) for field stations. Ian also mentioned the term "creative destruction." Difficult times can be creative times.

Critical Issues for the Strategic Planning Effort:

- How important are field stations and marine labs (IFSML's) as scientific platforms for addressing critical emerging issues in research, education, and management?
- (Innovation, Transformation, Translation)
- What are the most promising areas of research that could benefit from greater collaborations and networking among FSML's.
- What components of FSML's (living facilities, information technology, remote sensors, databases, field equipment, staff, etc.) are most critical to meeting those emerging trends?
- What is the current status of critical infrastructure components at FSML's?
- What investments in will yield the greatest returns?
- What are the critical best practices for management and operations of FSML's in order to maintain the long-term value of FSML's as long-term research platforms?
- (Assessment, financial reporting, sustainability plan)

Timeline:

Workshop – Where is research, education, and resource management headed?

November 1-18, 2011; Colorado Springs, CO
Survey – What is status of existing infrastrure?

Spring 2012

Final Report – Recommendations about future investments, best practices.

December 2012

Working Groups:

Macrosystems, Organismal Biology, Molecular Biology and Genomics, Environmental Change, Ecosystems

There are two web links for OBFS members to participate in the process.

fsmfuture.weebly.com

groups.google.com/group/fsml-general-comments

Plenary Session #1 (8:45 am – 10:15 am)

Adapting the Field Station Mission (Paul Foster, Karie Slavik, Jeff Brown)

Karie Slavik presented an overview of the Michigan Biological Station (<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/umbs/>). Funding is from UM, grants, and service fees. UMBS has adapted course offerings to the students curricular needs. Research support also has changed with the changing research climate. UMBS has also expanded its interaction with local land conservancies as well as with specialized outreach programs and technological workshops.

Paul Foster presented an overview of Reserve Ecologica Bijagual. The reserve was established 10 years ago. It is a private reserve managed by an NGO. Bijagual has adapted by increasing infrastructure (e.g., housing space). They are working on ways to participate in regional data sharing and increasing its influence on government agencies.

Jeff Brown presented an overview of the Central Sierra Field Research Stations (Sagehen.berkeley.edu). This is a series of six reserves, stations, and labs that are part of the UC Berkeley system. Jeff presented challenges and how the station adapted over its storied history. They put together "The Vision" that presented plans for Sagehen's future. Sagehen approached local agencies and groups and adapted projects to meet their needs. They also looked at ways to communicate results to a much broader audience. Partnering with a local watershed council (and NGO) enhanced their ability to collaborate. Education programs have expanded as well. As part of an outreach program, Sagehen has worked with local media to get broader coverage and established its own web-based "Sagehen TV."

The floor was then opened for discussion. A number of OBFS members contributed their thoughts, ideas, and questions

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about how to adapt strategic plans for changing research, education, and economic climates.

Bill Michener presented a brief introduction to DataONE – Data Observation Network for Earth (DataONE.org). One billion data sensors will be in the field in the near future. DataONE is an attempt to coordinate and integrate disparate datasets and to develop new techniques for exploration, visualization, and analysis of data. Cyberinfrastructure consists of all of the places where data are stored. The structure is built on member nodes (data repository), coordinating nodes, and an investigator toolkit. There will be a public release of DataONE in December. There are advanced search tools in the portal to help you find the data in which you are interested. There is also a tool that will help users build an NSF data management plan. DataONE is on Facebook and Twitter and has a Wikipedia page for more information.

Concurrent Sessions (10:45 am – 12:00 am)

Working with Volunteers and Citizen Scientists (Sarah Oktay)

Engaging Arts and Humanities in OBFS Programs (Mark Schulze)

A discussion of why, how, and for what outcomes do we engage the arts and humanities.

Macrosystems, Field Stations, and Strategic Planning (Jim Gosz)

Jim is leading the Macrosystems working group for the FSML strategic planning workshop. Art McKee provided feedback from his experience on the first NSF macrosystem panel. Successful proposals focused on theory, were collaborative, had clear education components, and had some sense of risk. Macrosystem includes large temporal and/or spatial scales. There was discussion of how to approach NSF funding for macrosystems work. Plugging into the goals of NEON might be a useful strategy for proposals. The working group will put together a bibliography of references that will aid future applicants. Researchers and stations should work to move their data beyond their laptop or desktop computers.

Concurrent Sessions (1:00 pm – 2:15 pm)

Phenology as a Tool for Science, Management, and Education in a Changing Landscape (Jake Weltzin) A discussion of the USA National Phenology Network (<http://www.usanpn.org/>).

New Member Roundtable (Sarah Oktay)

Outreach Committee Meeting (Philippe Cohen)

Philippe introduced Scott Loarie who presented an overview of iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org). iNaturalist is focused on: the importance of fine scales for understanding extirpation and colonization, repeated surveys across time, and the potential of crowd-sourcing (citizen science). Gwen Pearson also presented an update on the new OBFS website (www.obfs.org/), the website map, and the OBFS Facebook page.

Historian Report / Group Photo (2:15 pm – 2:45 pm)

New Facilities Slide Show (3:00 pm – 4:45 pm)

Several new facilities introduced themselves to OBFS and next year's host, Archbold Biological Station, informed the membership of what they could expect at our next annual meeting. The meeting will take place in Archbold's new Learning Center and Lodge. The buildings are on track for LEED Platinum status. The facilities can handle 140 people in meeting space and sleep 41 people. Other sleeping arrangements are nearby. The meeting will likely be 19-23 September, 2012.

Other facility presentations were given by

- Archbold Biological Station, FL (next year's host)
- Hastings Reserve, CA (updates to facilities)
- Kenneth Norris Rancho Marino Reserve, CA
- Sonoma State University Field Stations & Nature Preserves, CA
- University of Wyoming – National Park Service Research Center, WY
- OIMB's Remotely Operated Vehicle, OR (new equipment)
- Adirondack Ecological Center, Huntington Wildlife Forest, NY
- Kipili Research Station, Tanzania (on the shore of Lake Tanganyika)
- Pepperwood Preserve, CA (updates to facilities)
- Simonson Biological Field Station, AR
- Claytor Nature Study Center, VA
- National Great Rivers Research & Education Center, IL
- Chucanti Cloudforest Field Station, Panama
- Idaho Mountain Research Station, ID
- Taylor Wilderness Research Station, ID
- Lake Erie Center, OH (new sensor network).

Mixer with Posters (5:00 pm – 6:00 pm)

A number of great posters were on display for the OBFS membership.

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History of Hitchcock's "The Birds" at BMR (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm)

Jackie Sones presented a history of the filming of "The Birds" here at BMR. That was followed by the world premier of a film clip produced by Faerthen Felix celebrating the Leopold Family connection to Sagehen Creek and a screening of the Aldo Leopold documentary, "Greenfire."

Saturday, September 24, 2011

OBFS Business (8:00 am – 9:00 am)

President Ian Billick *finally* called the meeting to order with the Tom Callahan Memorial Big-Assed gavel.

Eric Nagy reported on the activities of AIBS. OBFS is a member organization of AIBS and there are some services OBFS members can receive from AIBS. It are a resource that member stations should take advantage of. OBFS has a seat on the OBFS Council. AIBS is reworking their governance and undergoing long-range planning. AIBS may also facilitate a paid staff person for OBFS in the future.

Mark Stromberg and Sarah Oktay discussed Congressional Visits Day (CVD). There were 5-6 people who attended this year's CVD. This is a chance to partner with AIBS and visit with your local Congress person, or their aides, for a few minutes and discuss important issues for NSF funding and general research. If you would like to attend CVD, contact Mark Stromberg. Members who have attended before shared their experiences and encouraged other OBFS'ers to take the time to participate. OBFS pays for 4-5 people to attend every year.

Greg Smith asked for members to share their notes from the concurrent sessions to incorporate into the meeting minutes. Also, the large OBFS display is available for OBFS members. OBFS will pay to ship it to you. Schedule the use of the display with Greg Smith or David White.

Peter Connors made some announcements about the upcoming auction. The auction will begin at 7:30 pm this evening instead of 7:00 pm.

Brian Kloeppe updated the group on LTER happenings. The LTER 30-year review has been submitted to NSF and is awaiting review. Once it is approved, it will be posted on the LTER website. The short grass steppe LTER is winding down. Its final year will likely be 2014. Brian thanked LTER for their support of the previous versions of the OBFS website and member database.

Sarah Oktay mentioned the OBFS social event Sunday night at Jasper Ridge. This is a "friend raising" event for OBFS. The purpose of the event is to let the guests know who OBFS is and possibly encourage participation at some level. There will be a program with food and music. The intent behind this event is to show OBFS members how to put together and host such an event. This may be something that OBFS decides to do again in the future.

Philippe Cohen reported on the outcomes of the Outreach Committee meeting.

Ian encouraged new OBFS members to get involved. It is also important to maintain membership and make the annual meetings effective. He also asked participants to complete the exit survey before they leave. He also made a plea for a full-time paid staffer to handle OBFS day-to-day activities. The way it will happen is to maintain, and increase membership, have strong meetings, and conduct development. Ian called for a strong, healthy organization because the things field stations do are critical in providing the knowledge our children and grandchildren will need to deal with the world we leave behind.

Plenary Session #2 (9:00 am – 10:30 am)

Dealing With Today's Fiscal Challenges

Shorty Boucher, Damon Gannon, Dawn Wilson, and Mark Schulze shared their experiences related to financial issues at their stations. Each person was asked to respond to three questions: Who sets the budget? What are income sources? Does your field station maintain cost centers (i.e. different areas have to cover their costs)? The floor was then opened for discussion of fiscal issues at field stations and many members shared their experiences in fund raising and budget issues.

FSML, NSF, and NEON Updates (10:45 am – 11:40 am)

Peter McCartney presented an NSF Briefing. The good news is that there will be an FSML deadline in FY12. The solicitation is not out yet, but will give at least 90 days for proposals to be submitted. The Education and Human Resources directorate will join the cross-foundation collaboration in this program, with BIO and GEO. NSF is committed to FSML's. The program continues to provide money for planning grants (\$25K) and infrastructure grants (up to \$350k). The most influential factors for success in a FSML proposal are: advanced capacity for priority research, high impact to NSF funded research, broad and diverse user community, and educational and public outreach. Peter again presented his top 10 weaknesses in proposals:

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- doesn't show advance over current capabilities
- limited benefit to NSF funded, basic research
- limited or declining visiting users
- limited research productivity
- request primarily serves PI's research or teaching
- limited institutional support
- missed opportunities in outreach
- request for multiple, disconnected items
(especially if need arises out of faulty maintenance, design, or planning)
- proposed action not well thought out in terms of sustainability, feasibility, or alternatives
- no data management plan in place.

The less than good news includes: the need for compliance with NEPA, crack-down on project management and oversight, crack-down and changes to NSF policy (indirect costs, cost share, common use equipment [see the most current GPG]), changes to BIO and DBI policy (deadlines not target dates, no letters of support, no corrections). Peter ended with some advice including: read the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) and the solicitation carefully, be "shovel ready," keep copies of documents and records that may help in the NEPA assessment process, and track down-stream impacts of FSML investments. The importance of field stations should be trumpeted by the researchers actually using the station, not only from the stations themselves.

Hilary Swain presented a NEON update. NEON, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and many field stations are involved, in some way, with NEON (<http://www.neoninc.org/>). There has been a leadership shift in NEON, Inc. They are hiring a new Executive Director (the previous one is now the Chief Scientist) and other positions. Besides the fixed arrays of terrestrial and aquatic instrumentation, there will be several aircraft with sensor equipment that will be flown regularly in each NEON domain. The protocols for Fundamental Sentinel Units (FSU's) are being developed and will be posted for others to copy.

Suzanne introduced John Wingfield, interim director of the UC Davis Natural Reserve System. He is also the new head of the NSF BIO Directorate. John addressed the membership and discussed some of the budget challenges and upcoming changes for NSF and fielded questions from the group. Check the NSF website for updates on the new changes, especially the changes to the submission process (pre-proposals are due Jan. 12, if invited full proposals are due Aug. 2). NSF is not

cutting the number of grants given by reducing the deadlines to one date. Only the timing has changed.

Presentation of the Diversity Award (11:40 am – 12:00 pm)

Stacy McNulty presented the 5th Annual OBFS Diversity Award to Sagehen Creek Field Station for its "Adventure Risk Challenge." This program works with primarily Latino students to help them get into college. Most of them that attend will be first-generation students. It combines academics and outdoor activities and provides a variety of services. Stacy encouraged stations to apply for the award. There are many different good programs that stations are doing and you should be recognized. You may nominate yourself and may continue to apply if you have not already won.

Concurrent Sessions (1:30 pm – 2:30 pm)

Financial Model and Fee Structure (Ian Billick)

Ian led a discussion on financial systems and how to achieve your financial goals. Your ability to raise funds is related to your exposure to people/groups that have capacity, but also your ability to sell your station needs in terms of "this is what will happen for the greater good if we get this." The group also discussed fee structures. The percent of budgets covered by user fees varied between stations. Raising scholarship money is often easier than raising money for operating costs and infrastructure. Working out a chart of accounts for your station is one way to get a handle on your finances.

Development (Dan Dawson and Claudia Luke)

Extending Outreach and Stretching Budgets

(Gregory Eaton)

BML&R Facilities Tour (2:30 pm – 5:00 pm)

Tours were provided of the BMLR facilities.

OBFS Auction (7:30 pm - ???)

This year's auction theme was, "Pirates of the Pacific: On Strangest Tides." The auction went well into the night, a good time was had by all, and \$7430 was raised for OBFS.

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2011 Annual Meeting Participant List

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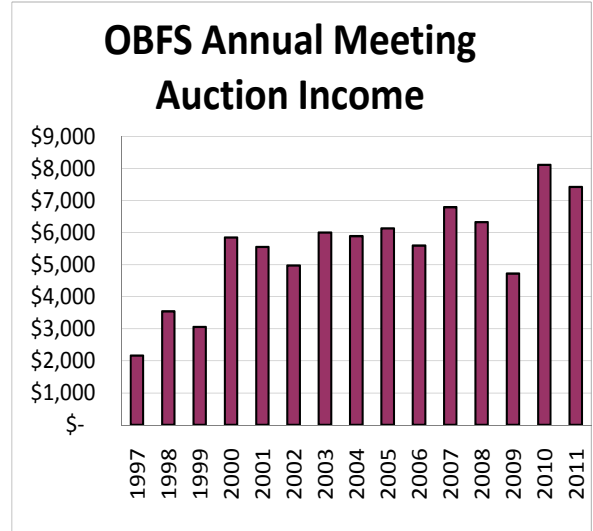
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ANNUAL OBFS AUCTION INCOME

Year	Amount	Annual Meeting Location
1997	\$2,164	Oregon Inst. 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	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	\$8,033	Michigan Biological Station
2011	\$7,430	Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve
Total 1997-2011	\$82,145	



OBFS 2012 BUDGET

I. Operating Funds

	2011 Year End	2012 Budget
Operating Fund Balance Aug 31, 2011:	\$ 0.00	
Income:		
Membership dues	24,000.00	27,750
Interest (CDs, checking)	243.63	200
Investment Dividends	178.01	175
OB support from reserves	-	-
Donations	-	-
Other income	100.00	-
Total Income:	24,522.64	28,125
Expenses:		
Dues - Organizations	4,310.00	4,000
Bank charges	-	-
Paypal fees	346.60	400
Missouri corporation registration	-	20
Travel OBFS BoD	500.59	1,500
Int'l travel support	-	1,000
Travel (Non BoD)	1,439.45	1,500
Congressional visits day	4,756.89	5,500
OBFS traveling exhibit shipping	-	150
Office and website	-	-
Treasurer support & reimbursements	5,182.65	5,200
MemberClick fees	-	1,620
Survey Monkey	200.00	170
Tax fees & preparation	1,569.50	50
Brochure mailing	-	100
Website maintenance & support (MemberClicks)	1,597.40	500

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Annual Report/Newsletter			-	-
Committee Expenses - Expendable			187.49	200
Materials and Supplies				
	Governance		-	
	Annual Meeting		-	
	Member Support		-	
	Common Interests		-	
		Diversity - travel	1,000.00	1,200
		International	-	
		Small Field Stations	-	
	Organizational Development		1,439.45	5,000
	Outreach		-	
Subtotal Regular Operating Expenses			22,530.02	28,110
Committee Project Proposals (Contingent Upon Review by EB)				
	Common Interests			
		Diversity - workshop		
		International - travel		
		Small field stations		
	Outreach Committee - brochure			100
		Website and db upgrade		
Other Non-Budgeted Expenses				
Subtotal other expenses				100.00
Total Expenses:			22,530.02	28,210
Expense Variance				(85)
Projected Operating Fund Balance August 31, 2009				(85)
Balance		checking	8,594.47	8,500
		PayPal Balance	2,089.70	2,000
		CDs	33,155.06	29,000
Beginning OB Reserves			43,839.23	39,500.00
Sentinel Sustainable Core Opportunities Fund	4,954.606 as of 11/30/11	12.57/share =	57,889.31	68,689
Sentinel Sustainable Growth Opportunities Fund	2,529.633 as of 11/30/11	15.43/share =	34,813.30	45,613
Auction Proceeds			8,113.00	5,000
Auction Expenses			750.00	150
Total Restricted Funds			101,565.61	119,303
Total Assets			145,404.84	158,803
OB support from reserves				\$ -
Total Net Assets			\$ 145,404.84	\$ 158,803

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OBFS 2011 Annual Meeting Exit Survey Bodega Marine Reserve and Laboratory September 22-25, 2011 (Suzanne Olyarnik)

Survey Summary

The 2011 Annual Meeting at Bodega Marine Reserve and Laboratory was well attended with 110 participants representing 81 different stations/organizations. Thirty-eight attendees completed exit surveys. We received suggestions topics attendees would like to see addressed at future meetings, feedback on how to best allocate time, thoughts on the overall conference structure, services that OBFS could provide, and information on attendees and their field stations.

The programmatic theme of the meeting was **facilitating field research and education in changing landscapes**. There were two plenary sessions: 1) Adapting the Field Station Mission and 2) Dealing with Today's Fiscal Challenges. Feedback regarding the plenary sessions focused on plenary #2 and was a mix of positive and negative; some responders found it informative and relevant while others found it to be weak and disorganized. The program included nine concurrent sessions related to the plenary sessions, as well as three other unrelated concurrent sessions (Phenology Network, New Member Roundtable, and Outreach Committee). Some

respondents felt that three concurrent sessions at a time offered too many choices.

Two of the sessions that were highlighted by the survey responses were Bill Michener's "Practical Data Management and Intro to DataOne" and Gwen Pearson's "Social Media". The most frequently listed topics that respondents would like to see addressed in future meetings were science at field stations, funding, social media, and expanding and integrating educational programs. The majority of respondents agreed sessions and social networking opportunities were allocated the right amount of time. In summary, 87% of respondents felt the meeting was useful enough to send a representative in the future.

Moving beyond the meeting feedback, respondents reported that organizations are primarily facing challenges related to funding, staffing, and use levels (both too high and too low). Both educational and research use is increasing at the majority of stations, while less than a quarter reported an increase in their funding. Respondents would like to see OBFS provide more data management services as well as more resources on the website, including strategic planning and development tools, documents from other field stations, forms, and more networking opportunities.

Exit Survey Results (38 Responses out of 110 attendees)

1) What topics would you like to see addressed in sessions at future annual meetings?

Funding

- How to build an endowment (bring in non-OBFS speakers).
- Ideas on funding always useful.

Science

- Visionary talks about great science at field stations.
- I think a couple of visionary talks about how field stations can contribute to future science (e.g., Dave Schimel).
- Highlights/case studies of major contributions to science or scientific studies provided by field stations.
- Science in the reserve. More opportunities to explore. Learn more from successful stations.

Education

- Integrating field station with home institution's education programs.
- More on collaborations bringing arts and sciences together for credited courses.

Social media

- Gwen's social media session was fabulous and could easily be a plenary as well additional concurrent. Our station is very involved in the children and nature network and this could also be a good conversion for a plenary and or concurrent. (What is going on, how to get involved, how to use C&NN to grow visitorship and outreach).
- Using social media, general field station challenges other than funding.

Other

- Strategic planning.

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- How to deal with a resistant administration.
- Increasing active representation of high school-college, early career professionals in OBFS: starting an “ambassadors program”.
-
- Regional field station networks (among institutions).
- Because instrumentation is always changing & developing, it seems worth addressing every year. Especially with NEON growing & changing, this seems appropriate.
- Form exchange; navigating the NSF programs.
- Field station role in regional conservation efforts.
- Small station lunch/breakout; organized meals (breaks by short topics/needs).
- Long term habitat monitoring programs/strategies; more concrete ideas of how to evaluate merit (need list of suggestions).
- Technical web issues/tools for use in outreach & tracking: with changing technology available, would be useful to have annual session providing information on tools as they develop. Would be helpful to have breakout sessions based on tech competence: novice, intermediate, advanced.
- Perhaps providing some financial support for new station startups to visit other stations; mentoring program – lists of those who are willing to mentor & area of expertise.
- Field Station Management: can a field station director also teach & perform research & still make the station’s programs successful?

2) Evaluations of the informational sessions and suggestions as to how often they should be addressed at OBFS meetings

USEFULNESS	USEFUL	SOMEWHAT	NOT VERY	NA
Adapting the Field Station Mission and Discussion	63%	5%	5%	26%
Dealing with Fiscal Challenges and Discussion	58	24	5	13
Working with Volunteers and Citizen Scientists	26	5	0	68
Engaging Arts & Humanities in OBFS Programs	29	5	0	66
Macrosystems, Field Stations & Strategic Planning	29	16	8	47
Using Social Media and Other Programs for Outreach and Tracking	29	5	0	66
Increasing Diversity of Field Station Users	26	11	0	63
Practical Data Management Tips	37	11	3	50
Financial Models & Fee Structures	34	18	0	47
Development Issues	45	3	0	53
“What is Beyond Our Mission?” Discussion	13	11	0	76
New Member Roundtable Discussion Session	34	5	0	61
National Phenology Network	37	16	3	45

RECOMMENDED FREQUENCY	YEARLY	OCCAS'LY	RARELY	ONCE WAS ENOUGH	NA
Adapting the Field Station Mission and Discussion	21%	32%	3%	0%	45%
Dealing with Fiscal Challenges and Discussion	42	13	5	0	39
Working with Volunteers and Citizen Scientists	5	32	0	0	63

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RECOMMENDED FREQUENCY	YEARLY	OCCAS'LY	RARELY	ONCE WAS ENOUGH	NA
Engaging Arts & Humanities in OBFS Programs	21	18	5	0	55
Macrosystems, Field Stations & Strategic Planning	8	34	3	0	55
Using Social Media and Other Programs for Outreach and Tracking	26	11	0	0	63
Increasing Diversity of Field Station Users	16	21	0	0	63
Practical Data Management Tips	29	16	0	0	55
Financial Models & Fee Structures	24	21	3	0	53
Development Issues	32	8	0	0	61
“What is Beyond Our Mission?” Discussion	8	13	0	0	79
New Member Roundtable Discussion Session	32	3	0	0	66
National Phenology Network	11	32	8	3	47

Comments about sessions

- If possible, fewer choices per session so we don't miss out on good topics. I'm sure many feel the same way although it's a challenge to create a longer meeting. More free time to meet with colleagues would be great too.
- I was interested in attending almost all of the concurrent sessions. I would be happy if successful concurrent sessions were scheduled (even without change) for 2 meetings in a row.
- Please make sure we have material from all the workshops online as I was sorry I couldn't attend them all!
-
- I really appreciate the presentation of other stations.
- Arts & humanities session was great.
- How about a poster that documents how OBFS functions – governance – who is secretary/treasurer etc. Committees & their missions; Web site address – Activities – Congressional visits etc. This would be useful for new stations & a reminder for older ones.
- Session for undergraduate stations.
- Excellent social media session – plenary session for 2012 meetings. Financial models & fee structures could have been more productive if it were a bit more organized or provided a comparison of the different types of models/fee structures the various field stations implement.
- Data-One, a plus!
- Bill Michener's session was excellent – structure of meeting was better this year than past two. Best to focus on organization needs rather than themes like International Stations or Sensor Networks – more low key – broader interest.
- Bill Michener's data management session was thought provoking & provided great step-by-step information as well.
- Speaker-dependent usefulness; sometimes learned more from comments than speakers; Sessions/Plenary #2 some not very useful – misery poker (this may be the hangover talking!) more helpful would have been successful models – again session got very good at end – discussion groups.
- Plenary #2 I found informative, but all over the place.
- I was surprised but I thought the plenary sessions were weak. I think the program committee should provide more structure and direction.
-
- I liked the questions asked at Plenary #2. It's a great way to highlight how different stations are run & you get a deeper picture of each station that presents information. I get the most out of small group sessions that allow introduction time for the participants, which allows the opportunity to express why they are in the session. This allows the speaker some perspective for driving the rest of the discussion. If that's not always possible or not the intention, then plenty of time should be left in small sessions for questions.

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- Meal sessions at the table for small stations were excellent for networking. Would love to see more small station (small capacity) sessions.

3) Was the time allocated to the following sessions adequate?

	Too long	Just right	Too short	NA	Adjust time by __ min
New station & facilities session	8%	58%	16%	18%	10, 15, 30 min longer; 15 min shorter
Field trips	3%	76%	3%	18%	2 hours longer; Split up trips to multiple days
Panel discussions	5%	68%	3%	24%	20 min shorter; 15 min longer
Annual Updates (e.g. FSML, congressional visits, nominations, etc.)	5%	79%	0%	16%	
Committee meetings and reports	3%	68%	0%	29%	
OBFS (plenary) business sessions	3%	55%	0%	42%	
Informal “networking” time	0%	74%	13%	13%	60 min, 1 day longer

4) Did you find the Committee/Subcommittee Meetings that you attended to be well organized and worth your time?

Yes: 59% No: 3% NA: 38%

Comments:

- Informative, however unclear ultimate direction, nothing tangible, eg. Action items.
- They were great, managed the time very well, and I learned a lot.
- Outreach was helpful & informative.
- Interesting and organized.
- Organization was impeccable.

5) Please provide any additional specific comments that might help us in organizing future meetings.

- This, I think, was the best meeting I’ve been to.
- Planning was good, food was good, wine and beer good.
- Keep up the great work.
- This was my first meeting but found it to be well organized and informative.
- I would like to see some target initiatives addressed that can be engaged by large & small stations – I think this would bring together the organizational whole.
- Specific to running the meeting: well run meeting; Dining hall services could be improved – quantity was rather limited – food/milk/coffee/tea choice often ran out

before I got through the line. No toast option at breakfast? Would be nice to have coffee/tea option available all through the meeting.

- Auction was fun, but too long.
- Acoustics for auction not good.
- Reorganize small station comm.
- Themed sessions & plenaries are great, concurrent sessions are a great idea.
- Dining tables by topic of discussion like at 2010 meeting – use table tents.
- Larger font size for names on badges. Each committee should give a report, however brief so that names & faces can be matched – some committees seem dormant (international).
- Handouts of powerpoints – like FSML funding.
- Topic tables for meals? Survey members pre-meeting to find topics of general interest that people would be willing to discuss or problem-solve over meals. Or choose topics people would like to use to network more effectively/efficiently. Announce topics in the meeting schedule and organize the seating at meals to accommodate the topic tables.
- Breakout sessions for non-profits.
- Short overview of all diversity award submissions would be helpful (or top 3-4) by candidates. These could generate ideas and discussions for others wanting to develop these programs.

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- Get the flip charts for questions up ASAP & announce throughout the meeting they are available. Did they go up? I looked for them a few times but never saw them.
- The rideshare website mostly didn't work but let's choose another way to carpool for next year.
- Let's find funds to bring some students from local schools/community colleges to a poster session/mixer.

6) What services would you like to see OBFS provide, either through its annual meeting or through additional activities, to assist your field station?

Data management

- Data management, business plan.
- Data management!
- Data management resources (database for met data, etc.).
- Help with station IT & data management.
- Keep inform of activities and help put together or motivate more the stations to continue sharing data among field stations.

Web resources

- Web resources: - Strategic planning information & tools. - Examples of documents from field stations (legal waivers, management plans, etc.) - Tools & examples to facilitate data management. - Tools & resources to facilitate development activities.
- The forms folks are using will be nice to be able to access on line.
- Website is critical. If it is too much for a volunteer to handle we should pay someone. We need the field stations manual there & all the data on all the stations. This is the best way for people to find us or for us to find like stations. Let's get that fixed.
- Provide a draft or "dummy" of a DMP (OMP?) on your website.
- Improve stability and reliability of website.
- Increased opportunities for field station networking, collaboration, etc. (maybe through website tools?)

Other

- So far, you guys are helping us a lot.
- More lobby/awareness activity through AIBS & other professional organizations. We need to have a strong showing at ESA, SWS, & other meetings as OBFS.
- More integrated science planning.

- Teams of reviewers to do site visits.
- Best practices manuals for waivers/emergency plans; recruitment liaisons for previous members to recruit more members.
- People announce informally at sessions that they are available to field questions but we can't be at all sessions at once. Create a list of members who are willing to be a resource or a point person who can better direct us to resources pertaining to various topics: event planning, computer/web issues, development ideas, etc. Send out a general request for people who have a talent/specialty and are willing to share it. Create a list of these people with their name, email, institution and specialty. Distribute to the members.
- Perhaps some structured guidelines for different programs; outreach, etc.

7) Demographics

Previously attended an OBFS meeting?

Yes: 63% No: 32% NA: 5%

Field station previously represented at an OBFS meeting?

Yes: 71% No: 18% NA: 11%

Was this meeting useful enough to send a representative in the future?

Yes: 87% No: 0% NA: 13%

Gender

Female: 37% Male: 61% NA: 3%

Highest degree:

PhD: 19 MS/MA: 10 BS/BA: 5
MD: 1 Other: 2 NA: 1

Job Title:

Director: 15
 Director of Natural Laboratories
 Field Station Director
 Program Director
 Faculty Director
 Executive Director
 Director and Adjunct Asst. Prof.
 Director & Operations Manager & Staff Manager
 General Services Administration Director
 Assistant Director
 Station Manager/Facility Supervisor
 Chairman of the Board
 Service manager of security
 Outreach coordinator
 Projects Manager
 Asst. Manager
 Site manager

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Head of Scientific Services
 Manager of field stations operations
 Conservation & Academic Affairs
 Administrator
 Dept. Chair and Organizing Committee
 Member
 Ops manager
 Coordinator

Field Station Status

- Operated by a college or university: 27
- Stand-alone not for profit: 5
- Operated as part of a larger not for profit: 2
- Operated by a museum: 0
- Other: 4 (Government agency, in construction, consortium of stand-alone non-profit, colleges and universities, none)

Field Station Programs:

1. Research, education, management
2. Research mostly, education/outreach during “fringe seasons”
3. Undergraduate internship training in 1) environmental education 2) grassland management 3) insect biology
4. Restoration, cattle & land management
5. Research, education, management, conservation
6. Research, outreach, conference center for corporate and other internal dept.
7. Research, education
8. Major purpose research followed by education
9. Research, education, management
10. Major program is undergraduate research but we have community programs, college courses & art, etc.
11. Research, education, management, some outreach
12. Full spectrum
13. Research, monitoring, education, outreach, conferences/symposia
14. Research, education, management
15. Education, research, conservation
16. Research, education
17. Research, education
18. Research, education, conservation

19. Research, education, management
20. Research: long-term data on permanent plots; invasive plant spp program; bird counts; data base management.
21. Research facilities = dataset long-term; education – biological science
22. Research, hosting courses, conservation
23. Research, education, management
24. Research, education
25. Conservation, education, research
26. Research
27. Outreach, K-12, stewardship
28. Research, education, management, conservation
29. Research
30. Research, education, management
31. Year-round outreach & research, summer courses only
32. Research, education
33. Research, education, just getting started.
34. NA: 4

Is educational use of your station

Increasing: 67% **Decreasing: 6%**
Stable: 19% **NA: 8%**

Is research use of your station

Increasing: 46% **Decreasing: 16%**
Stable: 32% **NA: 5%**

Is funding for your station

Increasing: 22% **Decreasing: 25%**
Stable: 47% **NA: 6%**

Comments: Depends – Institutional funding decreased 20% in 3 years; external is increasing.

What is the primary challenge your organization is facing?

Money

- 1) Utilization and defraying costs of new buildings; 2) Meeting the cost of our expanded mission in education & restoration & agriculture.
- Funding for long-term.
- Decreasing institutional funding, under staffed.
- Money.
- Need major donor(s) for new building.

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- The economic downturn (we have a large endowment).
- The California fiscal crisis.
- Funding.
- Money & ideas.
- Basic operating expenses! Especially how to afford proper data management & web site costs.
- Funding; data management.
- Funding, declining university funding.
- We are attempting to secure funds to erect our first building.
- Funding.
- 1) Workload, 2) Finances.
- Lack of university participation; limited funding by supporter.
- Database management; finance, operating budget; finance for keeping ongoing research.

Staffing

- Finding a site manager & salary – someone who can take over duties such as “the toilet’s broken,” etc.
- Staffing. We have just 1 full-time employee (plus seasonal/part-time staff). Limits what we can accomplish.
- Reducing operational funds & understaffing; departure of 70-80% of management team (retirements) in next 18-36 months.

Use

- We struggle most with data management & leveraging info (long-term) to create greater station use.
- Demand for use exceeding capacity of infrastructure.
- Structural deficit; positioning field stations as central to university’s mission; creating inter-disciplinary opportunities.

- Increasing use.
- Growth of overnight users increasing and we are not able to grow fast enough to meet user needs/pressure.
- Summer session enrollment in our courses continues to decline.

Facilities

- Renovation of our main research building and defining and reviewing master plan to define our renovation on our needs.
- Facilities maintenance (deferred maintenance).

Other

- New field station: expanding programming, and programmatic funding.
- Inertia! But I’ll try and take all the energy from these meetings home with me and be contagious.
- Not enough time in a day.
- No identity, no direction.

Overall/Miscellaneous Comments about 2011 Meeting:

- I very much enjoyed this meeting. Found it (&OBFS) to be extremely useful & relevant to our field station & hope to attend next year!
- Thank you!! Loved it.
- Thank you to the Bodega crew, OBFS officers, and volunteers for putting on an excellent meeting.
- I loved the topics included in meeting. I wish I could have been at more session simultaneously. Information was excellent and the format for open exchange was valuable!

Friends of OBFS Special Event Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve September 25th, 2011 (Sarah Oktay)

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on September 25th, 2011, the Organization of Biological Field Stations and hosts

Stanford University’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (JRBP) and Mary Page Hufty held the first ever “OBFS Friend Raising” event. Approximately fifty people enjoyed an afternoon of music, wonderful food and cocktails while learning about the role OBFS member stations in education and research across the country. First class catering was provided by Karen Bevels

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and her amazing catering crew and sound engineer Scott Loarie insured that the world famous slide guitarist Ellen McIlwaine's music rang loud and clear. The event team of Philippe Cohen, Ian Billick, and Sarah Oktay were assisted by volunteers Mary Hufty, Hilary Swain, Karie Slavik, and Bill Schuster. Costs for the event were offset by generous donations not the least of which were given by Mary Hufty and Jasper Ridge's staff support.

Guest speakers included Dr. Mary Page Hufty, OBFS Historian and President of the Board of the Archbold Biological Station, Dr. Philippe Cohen, Administrative Director of JRBP, and OBFS President and Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, Dr. Ian Billick. The event was held on the grounds of JRBP's beautiful Leslie Shao-ming Sun Field Station which allowed attendees to tour the facility and learn about station research and habitats. This "test run" showed that a fundraising event associated with our yearly meetings could be done relatively easily and would serve a new purpose for OBFS by encouraging new members to join and station enthusiasts to learn more about the OBFS mission. Ellen McIlwaine eloquently sang and spoke the praises of our organization and electrified listeners. She came away with a deep appreciation of our mission and shared OBFS and JRBP links on her web site which created a unique opportunity to reach new audiences.

A "how to" protocol should come out of this experiment for OBFS member stations to use when they wish to have a similar event. OBFS may want to consider holding an event like this each year either in conjunction with the host station for the annual meeting or at a location that is closer to potential donors.



OBFS President Ian Billick welcomes guests



Ellen McIlwaine

Congressional Visit Day - OBFS with AIBS

(Mark Stromberg)

AIBS hosted a variety of biologists in a two-day effort to inform various senators and congress members about field stations, and to help deliver the message that through supporting the National Science Foundation, better science and education can be improved at field stations.

OBFS had several members attend March 30 and 31. AIBS staff, led by Robert Gropp with Nadine Lymn (ESA) held a half day training session at the ESA offices in Washington, D.C. We went through a training to give background on how legislation worked, at least in theory. At the time, Congress was (as now) at an impasse on passing budgets. But, we argued for an increase in NSF funding. We were able to throw in a few bits of support for our individual field stations. After

this half-day session, many of us visited our congressional staff as individuals, or with local University representatives. Some universities have staff assigned to Washington, D.C.

AIBS arranged a series of meetings for us the second day. We started early and would visit as many congressional offices as possible, up to 8 or 9. We were able to actually talk to a few congress members, but we generally spoke with younger office staff. You spend a lot of time walking back and forth across the Capitol park between the House and Senate office buildings. That is probably good; these office staff members are the people who spend time listening to constituents and advising the congressional member later on. We focused on visiting staff from our local delegations but also went along with other OBFS members to lend support. OBFS was represented by Damon Gannon (Bowdoin, Maine), Deedra McClearn (La Selva and OTS), Mark Stromberg (Hastings,

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California), Knute Nadelhoffer (University of Michigan Biological Station), Kim Crews (Reelfoot, TN), Chad Jemison (Huyck Preserve, NY) and Sarah Oktay (Nantucket Field Station). This is a large group and many of the OBFS participants paid their own travel or hotel costs. We expect to have 5 OBFS member, all of whom have not done this previously, visiting March 28 and 29 later this year.

NAML and OBFS Cosponsored Workshop

(Ian Billick)

On November 17th and 18th the NAML-OBFS co-sponsored workshop "Future of Field Stations and Marine Labs; a Strategic Planning Effort" was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado and featured two days of dynamic discussions. The workshop focused on identifying the emerging science needs that FSMLs can best address in several broad categories including environmental change, ecosystem dynamics, macrosystems, organismal and population biology, and molecular biology and genomics. There also were two cross-cutting themes of education and resource management. Each of these groups was led by a Working Group Chair and member of the workshop Steering Committee.

Throughout the discussions the diversity of FSMLs, from the smallest field station to large marine lab, was recognized and celebrated as strong contributors to the network.

The results of the workshop 1) defined many of the unique attributes of FSMLs that allow them to address research and education needs, 2) generated examples and scenarios of how these attributes apply to address emerging science needs and grand challenges, 3) linked the science drivers to societal value and the emerging goal of global sustainability, and 4) framed a network architecture that would could connect the FSMLs together to form a more robust observing system to address the research, education and management challenges. We will generate a draft workshop report that will be circulated for comment within the OBFS and NAML communities.

Quite a bit of discussion revolved around the desire/need to have stronger networking – make it easier for scientists to find resources as well as to develop common best practices for a range of items (e.g., handling biosamples). The next phase of this project will be the development and dissemination of a survey to assess the status of the existing infrastructure and capacity of FSMLs to address the grand challenges ahead. This will be an important opportunity for us to better define the valuable assets offered by field stations and marine labs. Consequently we encourage you to participate when/if you are contacted about the survey.

We look forward to your continued participation and input in this critical process to identify and clearly articulate the role that FSMLs play – both individually and as a synergistic network spanning from the land to the sea.

Minutes of the 2011 Board of Directors Meetings

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting

Conference Call

March 7, 2011 – 3:00 pm (EST)

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Philippe Cohen, Brian Kloeppe, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, Greg Smith, David White

Meeting Action Items:

- round-up names of officers (Ian)
- update website (Gwen)
- collect nominations for the open Member-At-Large position (Ian)
- email the membership to ask for potential invitees to the development event (Ian)
- email the membership to ask for volunteers to help with the development event (Sarah)

- solicit proposals for 2012 meeting host (Karie)
- contact Canadian stations as possible meeting hosts (Ian)
- send Karie the meeting site wish list (Bill)
- talk with AIBS about FSML efforts (Eric)
- coordinate face-time with NSF during CVD (Sarah)

Motions:

- MOTION made (and seconded) to approve amended minutes from the December 6, 2010 Board Meeting passed unanimously.

1.) Approval of Minutes from 2010 Annual Meeting (Ian)

Sarah provided a few corrections to the December 6, 2010 Board Meeting minutes. Minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

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2.) Schedule for Next Board of Directors Conference Call (Ian)

The next BOD conference call will be June 3, 2011, 3 pm (EST)

3.) Board Elections (David)

Sixty-nine stations voted, up from 47 last year. SurveyMonkey worked well and seems to have helped increase participation. Karie – Vice President; Philippe – Treasurer; Mark Schulz – Member-At-Large. New members will take office April 1. That leaves one Member-At-Large spot vacant with Karie moving up. There was discussion about potential candidates. Ian will continue to ask and take nominations and present a slate to the Board at the next meeting.

4.) 2012 Annual Meeting Update (Karie)

The theme will be “Facilitating Research and Education in Changing Landscapes.” Karie Slavik sent out a solicitation for sessions around this theme. A registration form will be placed on the new website but money will not be collected online. There will be information for mailing a check or calling in to pay by credit card. The target for all information online is May 1 (http://bml.ucdavis.edu/bmr/obfs_2011.html). Philippe Cohen asked about stations in the Bay area that were willing to host field trips. Karie Slavik will check in to the response for host sites. The agenda is pretty rough at the moment. Karie Slavik will work on fleshing it out in the near future. Ian Billick suggested that a general agenda should be ready soon but changes could be made as the meeting nears.

5.) Development Event at the Annual Meeting (Sarah)

The event will take place on Sept. 25, 4 pm, at Jasper Ridge. The timing coincides with the Sunday OBFS Board Meeting. One limitation might be parking space. We would like to have 5-6 volunteers willing to share their station experiences and help set-up. There will be a small ask at the end of the event. There will be food, music, and socializing. Sarah, Ian, and Philippe are currently working on logistics for the event. We also need names of people/groups that we might want to invite. Philippe will maintain the invitee list. Ian will send an email to the membership asking for names of potential invitees. They can send the name and contact info. to Philippe (name, physical address, email). Bill suggested having a save-the-date card so that members could hand deliver them to people they might want to invite. The timing of the event will likely make it necessary for folks to fly home Monday morning. Sarah will work with the entertainment to arrange travel. Philippe may be able to reserve a block of

rooms at the Stanford House. Ian, Philippe, and Sarah will continue to plan and ask for input as needed.

6.) 2012 Annual Meeting (Karie)

There have been no proposals submitted for the 2012 Annual Meeting. Karie has had some discussions with potential stations. For now we should push to get as many proposals in as possible and then make a decision. Brian suggested we try to set ourselves up for the next 2-3 years so we don't have to scramble every year to find a site. Eric suggested we look at our “wish list.” Bill will find that list and pass it along to Karie. Philippe suggested we also consider Canadian stations. Ian will email a couple of people to see if there is interest. We should have the 2012 meeting decided on by the 2011 meeting. The host for 2012 will present their station at the 2011 meeting. As we get closer to the June Board meeting, if we do not have proposals submitted, Karie will inform the Board that we need to round-up potential hosts.

7.) NSF-FSML Update (Ian)

The FSML program for FY2011 has been delayed; it has not been canceled. NSF is working out how to properly manage construction projects. They hope to have a revised announcement at some point (September?) that detail how stations will comply with NEPA, among other things. Ian shared some concerns that FSML is not a high priority and with pending budget cuts FSML may be an easy target if we are not vigilant. There is some flexibility to delay the program but still spend from the current fiscal year. Philippe suggested that there is some feeling at NSF that they should not be funding construction projects at all. Ian asked if Eric could bring up this issue at the AIBS meeting. Eric said that he would do that and thinks that AIBS would be willing to stand up and support OBFS. Eric asked what we would want AIBS to do. Ian suggested an action alert and/or a skeleton letter that folks could modify and send to congressional offices. Ian also suggested that AIBS may be aware of NSF machinations that we are not. Brian said that he will be at NSF in a few weeks for a panel. Brian will ask Peter for a meeting and/or meet with personnel above Peter. The more face-time we get with NSF, the more we show how important the program is for OBFS and beyond. Ian suggested that others that will be in DC should also arrange meetings. Philippe suggested that participants at Congressional Visits Day (March 30-31) could take time to visit with NSF. Sarah, who is going to CVD, will pursue this. Mark Stromberg is organizing this and Sarah will touch base with him. Ian suggested that this issue should be one of the messages at this year's CVD. Eric will ask AIBS to see if this could be included. Philippe suggested we pass out our own OBFS material also.

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8.) Strategic Planning Proposal (Ian)

Ian placed a copy of the proposal on the Google Docs page. NSF will review it out of cycle and Peter plans to fund it as long as reviews do not raise red flags. The meetings will take place in October and will focus on science. We need to construct a science-based argument and detail how field stations play into that. The proposal also calls for extensive attempts to get feedback from the field station community (webinars, websites, surveys, etc.). Once the proposal is funded, it will be placed on the OBFS website for retrieval by the membership. (It turns out that the last-4 digits of Brian's cell phone # are the same as Peter's wife.)

9.) Website (Gwen)

The site has been transitioned for the most part. Gwen is waiting to hear from Discover Life about recreating the station map. This will take longer than expected. Gwen may be moving to a new position that will not be at a field station. She is committed to completing this transition. The new site has very good customer support and may not require a continuing webmaster. Philippe said that online payment is working well, save a couple of minor issues. As people pay online, the database gets cleaner and more manageable. It is now much easier to see the trail of payment and changes of information in the database. Gwen has done a great job

migrating the site! Philippe said that we have control over what information is visible and what isn't. If we see things that we think should be visible (or not) let Gwen or Philippe know. Gwen also needs an updated list of officers and committee members. Gwen will also work on providing information at log-in so that members know they are logged-in. Currently there is no indication that you successfully logged-in. Gwen can view traffic into and out of the site and can use this to make information more readily accessible. Ian suggested adding the new offices to the OBFS mailing list. Gwen will load instructions for members on the Google Docs page.

** Brian left the call at 4:03 pm.

10.) Other Items (Philippe)

Philippe will have the quarterly report out soon. There are not many changes except for an up-tick in revenue due to folks paying dues.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Smith

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call June 3, 2011 – 3:00 pm (EST)

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Philippe Cohen, Brian Kloeppel, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, Greg Smith, David White

Meeting Action Items:

- begin the nominating process for 2012 elected positions (Brian)
- provide feedback to Karie on 2011 Annual Meeting agenda (Board)
- organize planning call for 2011 Annual Meeting (Karie)
- discuss arrangement of 2012 and 2013 Annual Meetings with SWRS and Archbold (Karie)
- contact Arcadia to gauge interest in hosting the 2014 Annual Meeting(Ian)
- continue moving material from the old website to the new website (Gwen)

Motions:

- MOTION made (and seconded) to approve minutes from the March 7, 2011 Board Meeting passed unanimously.

- MOTION made (and seconded) to approve an arrangement for the wife of the Treasurer to help with OBFS duties passed unanimously, with one abstention.
- MOTION made (and seconded) to appoint Sarah Oktay to the open Member-at-Large position passed unanimously.

1.) Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2011 Board Meeting (Ian)

Minutes from 3-7-2011 were approved unanimously with no changes.

2.) Schedule for Next Board of Directors Conference Call (Ian)

The next BOD conference call will be September 2, 2011, 3 pm (EST)

3.) Nominations Process (Ian)

Ian suggested that the slate of nominees need to be approved by the membership. Perhaps this should occur on the Saturday of the annual meeting. Eric noted that the nominating committee needs to be very visible during the

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meeting so that the list of nominees could be finalized as soon as possible before/during the meeting. There will be a slot on the annual meeting agenda this year to make this happen. Nominations will be solicited before the annual meeting and during the meeting as needed. Traditionally, the Past President chairs the nominating committee and Brian has agreed to do this. Bill and Dave will round out the group. Does it matter if someone on the nominating committee is nominated? No, that will be fine. There will be an announcement at the beginning of the meeting soliciting nominations as well as an email sent to the membership prior to the meeting. The Bylaws currently read:

A) Nominations. Voting member elected directors shall be nominated by the voting members at the annual meeting of the voting members held for that purpose. Nominations may be made by the Board of Directors, by individual board members, by voting members, or by individual nonvoting members. Or by an ad hoc "Nominations Committee" appointed by the President to serve the sole, and short-term task, of developing a slate for a particular election.

The wording here is a bit confusing and should be revisited to make it more clear. The Nominating Committee will proceed as they have done in the past. If there is confusion during the process, we will figure it out as we go. Once it is set, the list of nominees will be approved and closed by the membership at the annual meeting. Brian will send an announcement very soon so that the membership will be able to discuss. Offices to be elected this year are: President, Secretary, and one Member-at-Large position. Ian suggested that the Nominating Committee will "meet" later this month to be sure the candidate slate is clear. Once the list of openings is clear, then Brian will send a solicitation email.

4.) 2011 Annual Meeting Update (Karie)

The theme will be "Facilitating Research and Education in Changing Landscapes." There is a draft agenda posted at <https://sites.google.com/site/biofieldstations/agenda>. Registration fee will be \$490 (with lodging at Bodega Bay) and the registration information is now online. Transportation from the airport is on your own. There will not be transportation provided by Bodega. It is still uncertain if Peter McCartney will have funding to attend. Claudia Luke will help with a regional emailing to increase attendance by local members. Karie asked for some clarifications on various items of the agenda. Committee meetings should be downplayed or pushed to an evening. Having these meetings during the main meeting time can be off-putting to new members. We should focus on concurrent sessions. The

Board should review the session ideas and get feedback to Karie. What are the most important items to be included? Try to get this feedback within the next week. Karie will then organize a follow-up phone call with Ian and Susan to finalize sessions. Ian would like an update on registration in July to see if a push is necessary for attendance.

5.) 2012 Annual Meeting (Karie)

SWRS and Archbold have contributed proposals to host the 2012 Annual Meeting. Dawn promises that housing will be available. Philippe suggested that given the tight timeline we go with Archbold in 2012 and SWRS in 2013. Brian suggested that this would lock us in for the next two years and take some pressure off when finding hosts. Karie will contact Hilary and Dawn to discuss this arrangement. Whoever is chosen for 2012 will be present at the 2011 meeting. The 2013 host will also be announced. Arcadia National Park also expressed an interest and might be considered for the 2014 meeting. Ian will contact Arcadia to see if they could send a representative in the next year or two.

Eric mentioned that the registration price has been going up, especially this year. He suggested that we might return to a suggested registration cap to try and control the rising costs. This may begin to have real impacts on attendance. Unfortunately, this also puts more burden on the hosting station to underwrite some of the cost. Ian suggested that we need more places interested in hosting so that we have more options. We could ask for potential costs upfront and use that as part of the selection criteria.

6.) Financial Report (Philippe)

Right now we are doing well. Our assets are up as a function of reduced spending, auction proceeds, an increase in investments, and an increase in membership renewals. We are in good shape for the moment. The projected net assets by the end of the year will be around \$150,000. There are some tax-related headaches that Philippe is dealing with: inconsistencies with filing date and some CA issues. Philippe has asked his staff assistant to no longer help with OBFS duties. Philippe's spouse is helping with these duties and he has reduced the amount of staff support he takes. Philippe will also document the time Cindy spends on OBFS duties. Philippe disclosed this conflict of interest, there was a MOTION to accept this arrangement (seconded), and it was approved unanimously (Philippe abstained). Philippe has set-up an automatic deposit of \$800 per month into investments and will also send a check in the amount of \$400-\$500 per investment until we catch up on our investment payments.

7.) Update on Website (Gwen)

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Gwen has settled into her new digs and will begin catching up on moving material from the old website to the new website. There will also be some updates on information for the Annual Meeting. Gwen will accept volunteers for help updating/editing pages. These people can be given admin powers but will not have access to everything. Sarah volunteered to help.

8.) Update on Strategic Planning (Ian)

The NSF planning grant was funded. The steering committee (Ian, Brian, Jan Hodder, Hilary Swain, and some NAML folks). The meeting will be held in mid-November in CO. There will soon be an announcement for workshop chairs and participants. A project website can be found at <http://fsmfoward.weebly.com/> (this url may change). The attempts are to diversify who participates. The focus is what is happening in science and how do field stations and marine labs facilitate these advancements.

** Sarah left the call at 4:12 pm.

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call September 2, 2011 – 3:00 pm (EST)

The crowing of the rooster heralded the start of business

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Philippe Cohen, Brian Kloeppel, Deedra McClearn, Art McKee, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, Greg Smith, David White

Meeting Action Items:

- confirm date for December conference call at the Annual Meeting (Ian)
- add a slot for the Nominations Committee at the Annual Meeting (Karie)
- put together a list of Board activities over the past year (Greg)
- check on video technology at Bodega (Karie)
- confirm housing for the development event musical guest (Philippe)
- investigate options for reincorporation and bank changes (Philippe)
- send OBFS display to Jasper Ridge (David)

Motions:

- MOTION made (and seconded) to approve minutes from the June 3, 2011 Board Meeting passed unanimously.

1.) Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2011 Board Meeting (Ian)

9.) Member-at-Large Position (Ian)

Ian nominated Sarah Oktay to fill the open Member-at-Large position. This nomination will fill Member-at-Large 2 and will be up for election next year. MOTION made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

10.) Other Items

Philippe asked for names for people that we might want to target for the September 25 event during the annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Smith

Minutes from 6-3-2011 were approved unanimously with minor typos corrected.

2.) Schedule for Next Board of Directors Conference Call (Ian)

The next BOD meeting will be held at the Annual Meeting. At that meeting we will confirm a date for the next BOD conference call.

3.) Update on Nominations Process (Brian)

The nomination process has begun. Anyone can make nominations and several nominations have been received. Brian will follow-up with nominees to see if they are willing to run. David would like to have the nominees by the Saturday of the Annual Meeting. At that point, the nominations will be closed. Brian, David, and Bill comprise the Nominations Committee. Elections will be done online again this year using SurveyMonkey. The annual license for SurveyMonkey is \$200. The Board approved the continuation of the license. Gwen mentioned that this could, in theory, be done through the new website. We will discuss this more at the Annual Meeting. Gwen can show the Board how this would work.

4.) By-laws Changes (Eric)

Eric suggested a clarification to the By-laws to clarify who could nominate and vote for officers. The suggested changes are below in brackets and bold.

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Section 5. Selection of Voting Member Elected Directors.

A) Nominations. Voting member elected directors shall be nominated by **[the voting]** members at the annual meeting of the voting members held for that purpose.

Nominations may be made by the Board of Directors, by individual board members, [or] by voting members, by individual nonvoting members, [O] or by an ad hoc "Nominations Committee" appointed by the President to serve the sole, and short-term task, of developing a slate for a particular election.

Eric will bring the proposed change to the membership and it will appear on the next ballot.

5.) Update on 2011 Annual Meeting (Karie)

There are at least 100 people registered so far for the Annual Meeting. All plenary speakers and concurrent session leaders are confirmed and will be attending. The agenda is final but Karie will add a slot for the Nominations Committee just before lunch on Saturday to present nominees. The nomination process and the By-laws changes will be announced at the opening session. Eric asked about, and Karie and Sarah confirmed, that there will again be a "New Members Roundtable."

Philippe asked about covering meeting expenses for an outside speaker to address the OBFS Outreach Committee. The specific committee funds could be used to cover this. The Board was comfortable with this use of funds.

Eric reminded the Board that major budgetary updates and Board activity must be presented to the full membership at the Annual Meeting. The membership should be apprised of Board activity. Greg will pull together a list of Board decisions since the last Annual Meeting.

Sarah asked about recording the meeting this year – it will not be webcast. Karie will check on video technology.

6.) Update on 2012 Annual Meeting (Karie)

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held at Archbold Biological Station, 19-23 September. There will be a presentation by Archbold at this year's meeting. SWRS will host the 2013 meeting but dates have not been confirmed.

7.) Update on Development Event (Philippe and Sarah)

There are 46 confirmations for the development event. The caterer has been arranged. Philippe would like to see 20-30 more people in attendance. Sarah has the invite that she can

send if there are others that should be invited. The event is Sunday, September 25, 4 pm, at Jasper Ridge. This is a "Friend Raising" event more than a "Fund Raising" event. There will not be a specific ask for money. Philippe will ask Peter Connors or Claudia Luke if the musical guest for the event can stay at their house.

8.) Financial Report (Philippe)

We spent less than we budgeted. We have more official station members (188) than ever before but not as many individual members. An increase of 15-20% Net worth has increased ~\$24,000. We were penalized by the IRS for a late filing (see letter attached to the end of the minutes). Philippe would like to reincorporate OBFS from Missouri from California and change the banks which OBFS uses. Philippe will investigate further. Eric suggested we take time to consider this because we do not want to keep reincorporating every time the Treasurer is from a different state. For now, Philippe wanted to simply make the Board aware of the issues. Philippe has been catching up getting auction proceeds invested and would like to liquidate some CD's and move that money into the checking account. The Board was find with this. We were under budget for the year.

Eric asked about membership approval and mentioned that there was a requirement for member approval. Philippe looks at new memberships as they come in but does not necessarily "review" the application. If Philippe notices any questionable new members, he will bring it to the Board's attention.

Philippe asked for discretion about membership expiration and pro-rating members that pay late in the membership year, especially new members. If it is very late in the year, the membership could be extended to the following year. Philippe will put this in writing and bring it to the Board for approval. This does not involve a By-laws change.

9.) Update on Website (Gwen)

The map is back, sort of. This has exposed some problems with the database, especially how members enter their geographic coordinates. Gwen will bring her computer to the Annual Meeting and will be available to sit down with members to help them correct their member data. If members want to email coordinates to Gwen she will make sure they are entered correctly.

** Gwen left the call at 3:52 and she prefers dark chocolate over milk chocolate.

10.) Update on Strategic Planning (Ian)

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You can follow updates on the planning process at <http://fsmfuture.weebly.com/>. Participants have largely been finalized. Given the focus of the workshop the focus on participants has been on scientists. Ian will be discussing the workshop at the Annual Meeting, gathering information and ideas. There will be a real focus at the workshop on the hot topics in science and how field stations and marine labs can tie into this. There are 60 people that will be at the workshop. There is a steering committee that meets every two weeks to continue planning.

11.) Other Items

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting OBFS 2011 Annual Meeting

(Board meetings were over three different times and were open to all OBFS members)

Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 6:00 pm – 8:00

Attending: Mark Schulze, Art McKee, Ian Billick, Deedra McClearn, Eric Nagy, Bill Schuster, Philippe Cohen, Larry Weider, Karie Slavik, Sarah Oktay

June 3, 2011, Board of Directors conference call minutes were approved with no changes (Philippe abstained)

Budget process: Philippe updated the Board that 3 new members joined in September. A brief discussion ensued about how formal we want to be regarding accepting new members. Philippe will work on drafting language for new members. Philippe will add budget issues to the ending board meeting agenda as they come up over the next few days. The following changes were proposed for the budget: funding should go up for Congressional Visit Day visits as they become available when some yearly expenditures are reduced (e.g., treasurer costs are going down). 3rd and 4th quarter budget: financially we are in really good shape. Philippe will work to complete the budget in time to be voted on by the members attending this meeting.

Bill S.: question for clarification: Do we have more income because we have more members? Philippe: that is part of it, but we also have more money because last year's auction was amazing; and investments are doing well.

Ian: do we know our annual surplus? Answer: Not Yet. Philippe has included end of year totals; we can see where end of year began in terms of net assets. One thing that is different about the newest budget is that he is capturing the fixed costs occurring on a yearly or monthly basis such as "Member Clicks", web server subscription, and various transactions fees; he will break those out so we can see how much of revenue went to pay those fees.

David asked if we still want to send the OBFS display out to Bodega. The Board agreed and David will send it to Philippe. It can be used for the Annual Meeting and the development event. Philippe will handle the return of it.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Smith

Art mentioned PayPal used to be a pain, in Member Clicks, Philippe gets a notification; it is easy to track what is going on; he does not have to do separate statement ticklers, credit goes to Gwen. Ian: tracking of dues and attracting new members point to a need to move to an OBFS staff person. Board talked about increasing membership and how strategic planning and tiered membership is helping. Some field stations are willing to give more to support the organization. Very good attendance this year, set a record, 110 attending; lots of new members; the web site is helping; agendas are more attractive to new members, and the exit surveys are really helpful both in planning and to ensure we listen to OBFS member stations feedback.

Ian: Jasper Ridge Event: 2-3 years ago when Ian was doing a strategic planning for a staff person he thought we should do foundation asks, this has changed over time to be more appropriate and successful to approach private donors; Jasper Ridge is a nice modest step to see whether we can develop a process for "marketing" or getting the word out about OBFS on a larger scale. Perhaps we can consider the reserve fund for providing a small amount that could morph into a staff position to pursue this and other initiatives. Bill Schuster asked if we can start thinking about doing a friend or fund raiser in Florida in Fall 2012?

Larry W. revenue question: Philippe - we have \$125,000 in investments; what is the return?; 5% of all other income rolled into maintaining purchasing value. Do we want to turn it into an endowment? Answer: a little unclear whether that is a good idea- both pluses and minuses; if we create one right now it is unrestricted funds; if it is permanently endowed, would be a restricted fund; we would need 1-2 million to set up an endowment; those funds should be to kick off larger efforts. Eric's comment: people assumed the \$\$ were for special projects not for an endowment or specific projects.

Philippe: we still have about 20 K to invest (being conservative on investments). Ian: This should be true for

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expenditures too; don't want to take it all out at one time. Ian: any other budget items? [NO]. We should look at amount needed for an event at Florida.

Speaking about Jasper Ridge: objective- information and networking; getting people to learn about OBFS; Mary Hufty and Jasper Ridge are the hosts; invitations; program Ellen Mcilwaine will perform for 45 minutes; wine, beer, and pisco sours; 65 people; still have room for more- \$2500 total costs; jasper ridge is donating stuff; Ian do we want to move from a friend raiser to a fundraiser?; contact attendees with a pledge form asking them to donate; need to follow-up; want people to become individual members. Useful for member stations to learn how to do this (fundraise); produce report for our policy and procedure manual to show people how to do it; goal of 25-50 K raised each year would be great. Create a template/protocol covering everything from developing an invite list to creating invitations to setting up the event. Larry's question: how did we solicit invitees? Philippe: from folks who had already expressed an interest in field stations or who had gone on trips to visit other field stations in the Jasper Ridge area; he specifically chose people who would not affect his local fundraising, i.e. should not have to worry that they would give less to Preserve. Mary Hufty put together her list of friends, he got names from Ian, Sarah, and Bill, and he sent out mailed invitations, and Sarah followed up with electronic invites; 35% return rate; lots of people who wanted to come who could not; lots of positive "nos".

Larry asked; can we do a template or a class for new people on how to host and co-host? Very important; follow-up is where we could fall down and we should continue to communicate with these people; need to have a regular communicator. Ideal: get field stations to send us news clips to send out to the attendees; target a newsletter to attendees, keep the communication going after the fact. Brian's comment: our member at large positions are amorphous- perhaps one of them could do that; constant contact is the way to go.

One of the committees is the development committee which Ian is the chair of; has not done much; be great to have someone to take over that committee and do the constant contact to send that out, get 50 word story to send out to the list regarding the event would be great. Hard to get field station manager to send them the information; don't want to have the same field stations every time; need to expand the reach.

Goals: work on setting up an event at Archbold; maybe one of the Members at large can do this; maintain momentum and forward progress- starting out it is critical to keep momentum going. Bill: what about doing an event at SWRS: Portal AZ field station?? Could also make up a fundraising trip out of a

"field station surfari" idea? develop a group of "field station interested" folks to go on a cross country trip to see field stations- too much for now; but maybe 2013. Need a big enough pool to get a decent mass of people. Lots of work to make it happen. Something money can't buy- more volunteers.

Brian gave us an update on nominees. 4 nominees for president: 5 nominees for members at large; 4 for president; all new contacts for Member at Large; is Greg staying on as secretary?? [No]. Bill and Brian are on the nominating committee. Regarding Member at Large; 4-5 nominees agree to serve on the ballot; do we want to limit the nominees? Should not limit the field and be willing to make suggestions and take self nominations, but could require that nominees submit their bios early to Brian. Ian: are people comfortable with going with the Sunday deadline?? [Yes]

We should make an announcement on Friday/or Thursday about the Sunday at noon deadline- if they need a couple of days to get it in, have discretion to accept them for a week; so stick with Sunday but take slightly later names. How are we going to hold the election- survey monkey? [Yes- working well]. Brian needs to renew survey monkey- he'll submit for reimbursement for the cost. Agreed to have statements on Sunday; Brian will have descriptions and might extend the deadline for a week.

Karie: on the agenda; there is nominations report on 10:00 on Friday morning- we will do it Thursday night; 5 minutes max; Ian will introduce Brian- and we agreed to use survey monkey- Philippe has created the membership list and reiterated that we have three new members who signed up yesterday; excellent news. Nothing else on nominations and elections.

Ian briefly talked about goals for the meeting; his are straightforward; have meetings that excite people and retain people and get them coming back the following year; theme is land use planning but kind of diffuse.

New member round table; big feedback to have member list available ahead of time; introduce around the room expertise; let people know what you are good at; think of one or two things to emphasize; hard for new members to know who to go to for advice: very helpful to keep it short; how do we structure it? Make an announcement to tell people to not to be shy about telling people to look for mentors and networking opportunities. And we will mention it at new member roundtable.

Any other agenda questions? [No]

Adjourned at 8:07 pm.

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OBFS Board of Directors Meeting (continued)

OBFS Business and Board meeting Sunday September 25, 2011

Attending: Ian Billick, Bill Schuster, Eric Nagy, Philippe Cohen, Sarah Oktay, Deedra Maclearn, Jeff Brown, Jerald Dosch, Karie Slavik, Art McKee, Brian Koepple, Mark Schulze, Claudia Luke, Gwen Pearson, Mark Stromberg, Jan Hodder.

Nominations for officers; Bill Schuster the only one running for President; currently, Sarah Oktay is the only candidate for Secretary. Other nominations: Member at Large: Jeff Brown, Jerald Dosch, Becca Fenwick, Deedra McClearn, Stacy McNulty, Tom Risch.

Ian: Reminded everyone that we have quarterly phone calls in which anyone can participate. We need people who want to volunteer time; someone who is interested in taking on a recruitment committee- need help with that. Gwen wants to add to his list; in terms of the recruitment committee; if someone could find her the info of the non member stations- that would be a great project for someone. Claudia said that info is in the old newsletters. Ian has funding to do a survey in the strategic plan; Art- Mark Stromberg sent around a cd with pdfs of old newsletters- he will forward them.

Philippe, treasurer's report:

He projected the results on the spreadsheet; fiscal year end is august 31st and projected draft budget;

- ◆ First the good news; we are better than solvent; did not spend as much as projected.
- ◆ As of today we have 195 field station members (New high)
- ◆ ended with \$24,000 in member fees
- ◆ so total revenue \$24,552 expenditures \$22,530 (budgeted 32,000)
- ◆ largest expenditure congressional visit day (\$5500 budgeted) see sheet for specifics
- ◆ no unusual aspects to our new expenditures
- ◆ tax penalty, we were moving from calendar year to a fiscal year- and Philippe had to miss the filing; Jan Hodder said she always files an automatic extension- good idea
- ◆ he is projecting only expense for tax filing next year is \$50.00 (registered mail fee)
- ◆ Philippe points out one of the things that expedites filing is Urban Institute has a automated way to help non profits submit tax info
- ◆ this evening's event will be around \$2500 (we have already gotten a donation for \$2000)
- ◆ no money requested by any committee;

- ◆ projecting a budget of \$24,xxx ...net assets \$100,000 invested; 33 K in CDs, most of those are auctions monies; he is trying to get those \$\$ invested; \$145,000 total net worth; should be \$158,000 net assets

- ◆ \$ 6832 in auction proceedings
- ◆ he is slowly but surely refining budget categories
- ◆ recurring expense member clicks memberships- maintains our website \$2120.00
- ◆ Peter Connors will provide an investment committee report- two green funds managed by Sentinel investments- have done well, beating bench mark average; \$92,712 invested; 18.7% gain from investment doing well; will monitor the performance. Investment criteria established in previous meetings.

Ian would like to insert an additional \$2500.00 for the strategic planning effort (might not use it but would be good to have; total of \$5000). Philippe: the organizational development slot would be the best place to put that line item.

Question- did we do the internal audit? (no, not yet- Philippe needs to finish getting materials together- will include bank statements and receipts) tricky part is a protocol to send to Karie.

Congressional Visit Day Budget:

Bill Schuster: even though we squeezed under budget for CVD- we should raise the total. Ian: that makes sense if we had new people who wanted to go.

Claudia: See if there is a greater recruitment need then we currently have funding for, then we should bump it up. Otherwise, leave it alone.

Philippe: can he just have the description to increase the allocation or do we have to do it now? Ian- better to do it the same way and bump up if need is evident.

Deedra- some folks paid their own way (Deedra and Sarah).

Income from dues- why does it seem low?; Philippe because the way the FY falls- many stations paid after end of FY.

Ian next question; is there any other unfinished business?

Small stations subcommittee: table topics is a good idea; people like it; talk to Gerald.

Karie has done a great job, recognized her hard work.

Adjourned at 10:18 am

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Sunday September 25th, 2011 OBFS Board meeting (continued)

Attending: Ian Billick, Bill Schuster, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Deedra Maclearn, Jeff Brown, Jerald Dosch, Karie Slavik, Art McKee, Philippe Cohen, Gwen Pearson, Mark Stromberg, Claudia Luke, Jan Hodder, others?

Called the meeting to order at 10:31 am: we have a quorum.

Ian: any changes to the budget? Philippe: he will put in \$100 for the outreach committee in case there are any costs. Member clicks is \$135 per month- \$2120 total per year Provides 24/7 tech support. The Member Clicks ledger gives us useful information and generates receipts with a quick turn around.

Deedra: I am still interested in getting more international field stations to come to our annual meeting. Can we put in \$\$ to help someone come from Africa for instance? We discussed the issues involved, we would need to administer it and set a deadline and have someone run the application process. Phillippe: will add \$1000 for international travel.

Other budget suggestions: \$ 2500 added for strategic planning (added it to organizational development). Line 13; why are dues less? Answer: tied into cash flow; special request from AIBS for \$200. CVD day; will let that float- if there is new interest, can provide more money.

Motion to accept budget moved seconded and passed

We discussed as a group how to work with lapsed and or late payments from stations and stations who list the cost as a hurdle. Not many station requests for leniency on dues, few enough for Philippe to handle. Philippe has new language for dues payments and timing.

Moved to adopt the new language, seconded and adopted. [Note, Philippe will provide the new language via email]

Deedra: Chair, International Station committee: Two things the committee has done recently are database related: one was successful and one was not. What they tried to do was to go back to the list of international field stations that Rick Weimer surveyed; started first with Latin American field stations; sent 300 emails, got 20 responses; still interested in developing a list of international field station but it is a challenge- need to figure out a good way to get there. Second item is a RCN grant which includes a "cross station" data base (meteorology) staying with the neotropical stations and emphasizing weather- Bill Michener and Steve Patton are on the committee and they are putting together the web site and the protocols; they used this meeting to have their

bioinformatics meeting for that grant, got more done in 3 days than in the previous year; perfect time to be doing this as Bill is working on Data One. They want to finalize by Christmas time and then open it up to other tropical field stations; idea to have good meteorology and species data for these field stations and eventually hand over to Data One (using LTER standards). She has not been concentrating much on member recruitment; she is still committed to the idea of expanding the membership.

Ian's question: is there something we should be doing with our annual meeting agenda to make it more productive for international stations? Answer: she'll ask the people who came to this meeting if it is helpful; may not need special sessions the immersion is helpful. Ian: let us know if there is something we can do

Discussion about whether we should do an event next year and if we did should it be in conjunction with the OBFS annual meeting. Some worries that central Florida is not the best place. Ian's suggestion is to write up a formal proposal for Hilary to review and if she thinks we should, then we should. Talked about whether we should do one instead in the Northeast perhaps near NYC at a time other than the annual meeting. Of course, that route eliminates the advantage of showing attending field members how to do development. Another option is to do it in Miami. Either way, we would have to be more active in generating names (Philippe provided most of the names for Jasper Ridge) and we should do it close to an optimal donor base (vacationers, resort, or high income part of the country. We'll know better how these might go after the event today.

Important to manage expectations and if possible tie it into a meeting location and date to capitalize on us being in the area to work together on an event. Also important to have co-hosts and contacts in the area, whether it is Miami or closer to Archbold or wherever we hold it. Deedra knows some folks in the Miami area and we might want to talk to the Disney Preserve. Brian and Bill offered to help the development committee and said we should put this on our "to do" list to start the process.

Bill's questions: as incoming president can he make committee assignments?; need to be clear. Every April we update them; that is when Bill comes in for incoming president

Other New Business:

Bill wants to spearhead a membership drive; some logical candidates out there; LTER sites have dropped out and should be approached; lost 4-5 Canadian stations who are lapsed members; Art would be willing to get the Canadians back into

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the mix. What is our point of entry for NEON? Both Jim and Hilary are on the NEON board and would champion it.

Geographically need to reach out; do we want to have 6 Members at Large? Either expand Member at Large positions or assign them specific tasks. Mark is happy to have a task like helping with new member solicitation; or maybe give someone the job of generating newsletter content. What do people think? Don't need to create new Members at Large, instead create as many committees as we want and add them to the board (Eric's reminder- can have 16 people max). Discussed the other committees and their efforts and spoke briefly about the ad hoc nature (which seems to be working) for this year's small field stations committee. Do we need additional committee for constituents like profit groups, undergraduate only institutes? Committees need to be functional.

Is there an IT data management committee?

Gwen will eventually have to back out; needs to pass to someone else; currently she is the network coordinator. Art discussed Bill Michener's role in data management services for OBFS. Suggested that maybe the historian position could be tasked to do a lot more including but not limited to capturing data of/for OBFS. Jerald mentioned that the historian could do that (post meeting information like handouts); or post it as a newsletter. Ian: until we get to the point that we have a staff person, people can upload their own PowerPoints. Should suggest to presenters to upload to the OBFS Google sites. Need to start thinking about how to manage this content; how and who? Eventually will need a person or ½ a person; we have solved the pressing need, now we can chip away on things like archival data and member services type documents. There is a series of pages that she has not reproduced because there are some old messy files (like the history of the gong) that needs to be incorporated into the site; need a history and big picture page; also should

upload oral interviews of long time members. Ian: Keeping some type of continuity is tough. Lost tie with the web and with changes in personnel; plan for digitization up front; say it as an expectation ahead of time; build it in ahead of time; capture all the info. Bill: Is outreach doing that?? Gwen: sort of; Eric is checking out the website and looking for things that don't logically flow, now that we can find the lost content.

Still have trouble making it obvious where documents like "how to run a field station" are. They are on the website but people are complaining that it is hard to find. Key documents used to be pretty easy to find; (now that is very easy to find annual meeting documents on our annual meeting page). Peter: at least the agenda for each year should be on the web page. How do we manage it when Gwen is gone?

Ian: we should talk about some kind of staff position. Do you have thoughts about that Bill??

Bill S.: will they be our representative or our worker? 2 very different skill sets, someone like an Exec. Director versus web designer. Discussions ensued about how to set a goal and attain it of raising dollars to pay for an Executive Director/Staff person. In 2-3 years we should have enough from yearly events, donations, or other means to fund a person to be our representative and help grow and administer to the OBFS. Need to facilitate external communications like a newsletter that targets the names at the event tonight; start with those of us who have time to volunteer now and grow it into a job that someone can do.

For our next event: does it coincide with the 50th anniversary of when was OBFS founded?: OTS and ATBC also their 50th (AIBS is their 65th year)

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Smith and Sarah Oktay.

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call December 5, 2011 – 3:00 pm (EST)

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Philippe Cohen, Brian Kloeppel, Deedra McClearn, Art McKee, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Mark Schulze, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, Greg Smith, David White

Meeting Action Items:

- combine meeting minutes and send around for approval (Greg, Sarah)
- set Art up for logging into the OBFS website (Philippe)

- develop theme ideas and agenda for 2012 Annual Meeting (Karie)
- news item on OBFS website from the 2011 development event (Sarah, Gwen)
- organize a meeting to discuss the 2012 development event (Bill)
- remove attendee lists (or put them behind a log-in) from minutes of Annual Meetings (Gwen)

Motions:

- MOTION to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting was withdrawn.

1.) Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2011 Board Meeting (Ian)

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Some corrections were submitted. Minutes will be combined and voted on as a single set of Annual Meeting Minutes via email.

2.) Schedule for Next Board of Directors Conference Call (Ian)

The next BOD meeting will be held at the Annual Meeting.

3.) Election Update (David)

Elections will close on December 18. So far 66 stations have voted. Reminders have been sent out twice and will be sent out two more times. The election will have been opened for one month. Gwen added a field in the OBFS database to identify a single email as the voting member. This is so a voter can be identified by SurveyMonkey.

Art mentioned that individual members should be kept in-the-loop and feel like their contributions are appreciated. Philippe will send Art a username and password.

4.) Financial Items (Philippe)

Philippe sent around a 2012 Q1 budget. The auction this year raised \$7430. Philippe is waiting for one more check and the auction proceeds will be cleared. Membership dues are front-loaded in the first quarter. There are still about 70 stations that have not yet paid dues. When memberships expire the stations will receive an automatic notice. Tax costs will be down this year because there will be no penalty. Website costs are down this year as well because the set-up has been completed and now it is just maintenance. Since the internal audit has not yet been completed, Ian asked Philippe for bank statements and reviewed OBFS accounting. He did not identify any issues. The audit is typically done by the Vice-President after the Annual Meeting.

5.) Workshop Report (Ian)

The OBFS/NAML workshop was held in mid-November in Colorado Springs. About 65 people participated in two days of conversation. There will be a draft report out in the spring. A survey will also be developed to identify resources and help increase networking. A final report will incorporate the workshop report and the survey results. All reports will be posted on the website: <http://fsmfuture.weebly.com/>. Art asked if Ian had received any guidance from NSF about the report. The group is trying to identify target audiences using NAML's lobbyists in order to expand the reach of the report. We cannot make recommendations about specific NSF programs. NSF has specific ways in which they do this. Ian

has been working with NSF to frame the executive summary. There will also be an attempt to develop a complete list of field stations and marine labs, even if they are not members of OBFS and/or NAML.

6.) Potential Joint OBFS/NAML Meeting (Brian)

In order to bring the organizations of OBFS and NAML closer, there has been discussion of a joint meeting between the two. Brian asked if the Board was interested in such a meeting. There was discussion of whether the two meetings are compatible. The Annual Meeting of 2014 would be a possible meeting opportunity. We could still do our usual September meeting and invite NAML to join us. The general thought was that it would be an experiment, but we should give it a shot. It would likely be of little risk to us and we would have time to identify an appropriate venue and tweak an agenda.

7.) Discussion of 2012 Meeting and Workshops (Karie)

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held at Archbold Biological Station in Florida. Karie will be talking to Hilary later this week to discuss a theme and theme ideas are welcome from the Board. Karie will shoot for having information available by mid to late January and registration will open in May. The host will work to help develop the agenda based on the previous year's agenda. Any suggestions are welcome. Brian suggested using the exit survey to help craft the 2012 agenda. The 2011 exit survey has not yet been compiled. An email can also be sent to the listserve to make agenda suggestions.

8.) Discussion of 2012 Development Event (Bill)

The development event in 2011 went well and it is something we might consider doing every year. Before or after the 2012 meeting we might consider a meeting in the Miami area. Philippe will be talking with Mary Hufty about possibilities. Also, 2013 is the 50th Anniversary of OBFS and we should take advantage of this. Brian volunteered to help with the event. We should try to have musical entertainment also. This year the musical guest was fantastic. We did receive donations as a result of the event even though we did not actively solicit. There was discussion about how to make OBFS members more aware of such events. Gwen will post a news item on the OBFS website if someone will send her content.

** Ian left the call at 3:51 pm (EST). Karie facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

9.) Update on Website (Gwen)

Most of the back content is now online again. Gwen asked if Board Meeting minutes from the Annual meetings from years

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ago should be published online. The notes should be reviewed to be sure they are appropriate to post. The attendee lists from the meetings has also been posted as part of the minutes. These attendee lists should be removed or be available only to people that log-in. We will wait until we are finished with the current payment cycle before changing how stations pay online.

10.) Pending Retirement of OBFS Display (Philippe)

Philippe proposed that the large OBFS display be retired permanently. The Outreach Committee could look at other options for a smaller, more portable display. The Board agreed.

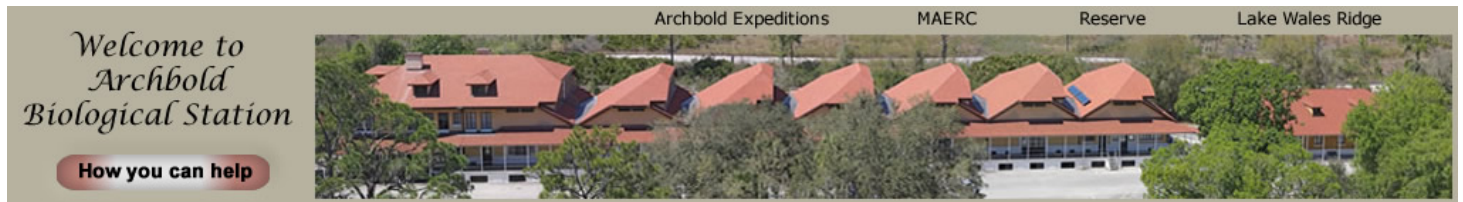
11.) Other Items

There were no additional items discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm (EST).

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Smith



Archbold Biological Station, site of the 2012 OBFS Annual Meeting, 19-23 September

The meeting theme will be "*Full STEAM Ahead: building bridges between science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics at our field stations.*"