



Founded 1968

OBFS Annual Report 2010

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OBFS GOVERNANCE

Elected Officers (Executive Committee)

President: **Ian Billick** president@obfs.org
 Past President: **Brian Kloeppe** past-president@obfs.org
 Vice President: **Bill Schuster** vice-president@obfs.org
 Secretary: **Greg Smith** secretary@obfs.org
 Treasurer: **Philippe Cohen** treasurer@obfs.org
 Member at Large: **Karie Slavik** member-at-large1@obfs.org
 Member at Large: **Deedra McClearn** member-at-large2@obfs.org

Appointed Officers

Network Coordinator: **Faerthen Felix** network-coordinator@obfs.org
 Editor: **David White** editor@obfs.org

Committee* and Subcommittee Chairs

Governance*: **Eric Nagy** governance@obfs.org
 Finance: **Peter Connors** finance@obfs.org
 Elections: **Brian Kloeppe** nominating@obfs.org
 Annual Meeting*: **Bill Schuster** annual-meeting@obfs.org
 Member Support*: **Sarah Oktay** member-support@obfs.org
 Common Interests*: **Art McKee** common-interests@obfs.org
 Diversity: **Stacy McNulty** diversity@obfs.org
 International: **Deedra McClearn** international@obfs.org
 Organizational Development*: **Ian Billick** org-development@obfs.org
 Outreach*: **Philippe Cohen** outreach@obfs.org
 Webmaster*: **Gwen Pearson** webmaster@obfs.org
 Historian: **Mary Hufty** historian@obfs.org

The OBFS *Annual Report* contains the minutes of the annual meeting, other meeting minutes, budgets, meeting attendees, and other business of the organization.

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

The OBFS *Newsletter* is no longer published but will be established as an OBFS blog.

Hard copies will be sent only to members who specifically request them. A reminder to specifically request hard copies will be e-mailed to all members at the time of publication.

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CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR 2010 OBFS ELECTIONS. The election was held through SurveyMonkey and open to all member stations in good standing. *Polls open from December 2-24*

VICE PRESIDENT



Sarah Oktay I am the Director of the UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station (zero industrial accidents since I started my tenure in 2003!) and am, by far, less qualified to be Vice President than the extremely competent and talented VP candidate Karie Slavik below who I hope you all met in Michigan. I will also be no where near as good a VP as Bill Schuster was, so by all means set your sights low; my only saving grace is I think I know what will be expected of me. 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 the local Conservation Commission, as President of the Nantucket Civic League and the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative, and on a half dozen or so other local committees, commissions, and environmental groups. When not plotting world dominion, 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.



Karie Slavik Over the past 18 years I have been a student, staff member, researcher, and now administrator of a field station. Like so many students who spend time at field stations, what I learned about the natural world and myself during my first summer at a field station was life-changing. That first experience working and taking classes as an undergraduate at Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie in 1993 still counts as the best summer of my life. I went on to work as a Research Assistant for the Arctic Long-Term Ecological Research project at the Toolik Lake Field Station for six years where I coordinated the arctic streams portion of the project based at the Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. For the past eight years I've served as the Associate Director of the University of Michigan Biological Station. It has been a pleasure working with fellow OBFS members while serving as a Member-at-Large and planning the 2010 Annual Meeting in Michigan. If elected to serve as Vice President, I would look forward to the opportunity to help plan the 2011 meeting at Bodega Bay. In the role of Vice President, I would like to help develop activities and programs to promote and enhance field stations through annual meeting planning with the goal of helping to create a new generation excited about field stations. But I might not be as good as what's-her-name above.

TREASURER



Philippe Cohen These words should be proof of my willingness to serve. But there are a couple of things you should consider before casting your vote for me. First, at annual meetings I will be unavailable to share that cold beer on some evening get-togethers, so Art won't have me to kick around. So WHICH do you prefer, having me there to pontificate and be the foil for Art's rapier wit, or providing me with access to the organization's bank account? Second, the truth is, I can do this because unlike many of you, I have an administrative associate that keeps me honest and will likely do the real work. Of course, she has her own peculiarities, but then who associated with OBFS doesn't? Finally, ask yourself, would electing Philippe to be treasurer meet the high fashion standards that future treasurers will have to live up to? So, if you find this combination of benefits and constraints appealing, if you can see the inherent trust in my face, then by all means, vote for me. Otherwise, you may find yourself having to drink a beer and listen to me (and Art) each and every evening of the annual meeting. If there are any Tea Party candidates in the membership, please feel free to run against me.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (Vote for one)



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. 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 will begin serving as an outdoor extension of their classrooms in the spring of 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.



Bohdan "Bo" Dziadyk I am a professor of biology at Augustana College, Illinois where I have taught botany and ecology for 30 years. Since 1991 I have been director of the Augustana field stations that include Green Wing Environmental Laboratory, Collinson Ecological Preserve and Beling Ecological Preserve, all in northern Illinois. A Field Stations Governing Board and I emphasize the big three activities of teaching, research and outreach at the field stations and interact regularly with organizations such as the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Natural Land Institute in wild lands protection. The field stations complex has been a member of OBFS since 1992. I served as an early member of the International Committee that activated the International OBFS, was chair of the Small Field Stations Committee (that held a winter 2006 meeting near Cleveland, OH) and most recently served as chair of the Common Interests Committee. I earned my Ph.D. from North Dakota State University studying the dynamics of primary production in tall grass ecosystems in western Minnesota. For 20 years I have been involved in international education, having taught Applied Ecology to hundreds of students during six international programs in Latin America and India.



Chad Jemison I came to my position as the Executive Director of the Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station with a keen focus on organizational development and social entrepreneurship in the environmental field. While not a scientist, during my tenure at the Huyck Preserve I worked with the Board and Staff to increase the annual operating budget by 50%, double the organization's membership, diversify and secure grant funding, engage senior researchers to become more actively engaged, develop new revenue generating courses, add two new properties to the Preserve, help lead a new strategic plan initiative, work on branding, and raise the regional profile of the organization through outreach to regional colleges, universities and the media.



Mark Schulze I have spent much of my career conducting research and education at remote field camps and stations. In the process, I have experienced, witnessed, and (I hope) facilitated the transformative effect of immersion in natural systems. I currently live in and serve as Director of the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest in the Oregon Cascades. The Andrews Forest has a long history of benefitting from and serving the OBFS. I have been impressed by the spirit of collaboration and mutual support that OBFS fosters. By functioning as a network and a community we are all better able to meet our respective missions. Our community depends on the efforts of its volunteers. If I am called, I will be happy to serve the organization.

ELECTION RESULTS!!!

OBFS congratulates the newly elected officers from the 2010 ballot and thanks all who were willing to run and provide their services to the organization. Positions begin April 1, 2011.

Vice-President Karie Slavik
Treasurer Philippe Cohen
Member at Large Mark Schulze

Official Secretary Notes

OBFS 2010 Annual Meeting University of Michigan Biological Station, Pellston, MI 22-26 September 2010

Wednesday, September 23, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)
(open to all members)

In Attendance: Ian Billick, Bill Schuster, Eric Nagy, David White, Brian Kloeppe, Deedra McClearn, Karie Slavik, Gwen Pearson, Faerthen Felix, Sarah Oktay, Philippe S Cohen, Art McKee (who mentioned that he believed the Common Interests committee position should be eliminated)

- Introduction by Knute; 91 official registrants + MBS staff
- Introductions around the table of board members and their roles/jobs.

Meeting Action Items:

- Continue to work on website and database fixes (Gwen, Philippe)
- Prepare for Bodega Bay meeting and fund raising event (Bill, Sarah, Ian, Philippe)
- Continue to investigate opportunities for a full-time OBFS staff member (Ian, Eric)
- Continue work on NSF planning grant for OBFS (Brian, Jan)
- Take OBFS display to next year's ESA meeting (Deedra)

Motions:

- MOTION made (and seconded) to approve the 2011 budget as amended passed unanimously.
- MOTION made (and seconded) to accept the new slate of nominees for the upcoming elections passed unanimously.

Introduced the Agenda (see below)

- 1). Approve the budget
- 2). Discuss the website
- 3). OBFS development

- 4). Bodega Bay (+ theme for Bodega Bay Meeting)

Item: Website (Gwen Pearson)

Many features are not working. On Sunday we'll need to vote on how to proceed with the website regarding hiring assistance and what product/service we'll need. Obviously this is a time sensitive issue. First of January is when we send out dues renewal notices. We need to decide exactly what the site should be doing for both the public and our members. Currently, the public part is so-so while the member pages are dismal. Functionality is essentially dead. Gwen has been getting cost estimates from a variety of membership management plans and page developers. Trying to decide what to purchase that will work best for us. Member clicks (<http://www.memberclicks.com/>) has been most responsive; it will let us outsource our membership management and use data to create a map, feed into a database and act as a listserv. SQL commands links database to the listserv which is working occasionally.

Philippe: there are two issues: 1) won't work for OBFS to continue maintaining its website in an ad-hoc manner-volunteer basis not working and 2) association with LTER is not free ... Brian: mentioned he had spoken to both John VandeCastle and Bob Waide and he said as president of OBFS there were times he was not getting listserv emails possibly due to the person at Coweeta whose name was associated with the listserv; need to come at the problem from a usability approach. Gwen: options 1) use desktop software for membership database and/or 2) hire a drupal developer to fix site and do what they can do to improve usability. Gwen has been soliciting prices and working on obtaining admin access to the previous site. There are 78 modules on the site that need to be made to work together. She is getting quotes for annual maintenance contract. We can use something as simple as Word Press for content management.

Recall that PayPal comes with a 1% transaction fee/ Trick is to get the station membership ties to one individual and find a clear way to verify payment from the institution, for instance we can do this by having a required field listed in order to pay that is only linked to one institution address and primary account. Art feels we should reconsider and/or reevaluate our relationship to LTER in regards to the website considering issues to date with communications and the amount of time involved. Board would like Gwen to lay out 2-3 options on how to best proceed. She'll have final price estimates by Sunday morning's business meeting. Her position as website manager/coordinator should be a board position.

Item: Next year's meeting at Bodega Bay

Suzanne Olyarnik was available to answer our questions and give us an update on their proposal. We also talked a bit about possible themes. Suggestions: - Invasive species and restoration - Land Management.

Could have guest speakers, tie in to networking possibilities and how to communicate to the public. Balancing land management with public use. Discussed how this year's theme involved; Bioll, Karie and Knute and Ian worked together to get where we are at as far as speakers, vendors etc. so it will be Suzanne's call essentially on how to best incorporate the program along with the VP (Bill S.) and the 2 members at large.

Discussed 2012 meeting and batted around possible locations: Illinois Rivers, The Konza Prairie Research Natural Area (KPRNA), an LTER site; National Great Rivers, INHS Ricik Sparks. We decided we wanted something more formal in mind by Dec conference call. Bill S. will follow up with all three as to logistics and find out if they will submit a proposal. We could send out a request to all the other field stations. Thought we should also approach people in the east to submit proposals.

Kicked around other names: Florida locations like Disney Archibald; foreign locales: Puerto Rico, Canada, or Montreal; Northeastern locations: Adirondacks, Suny Syracuse, Cranberry Lake, Shoals Maine;

Item: Nominations

What nominations are needed for open positions? Board will finalize on Sunday (see pages 2 and 13 for list of offices and candidates and the ballot)

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- One Member at Large

Item: OBFS Development:

A. Staff person for OBFS; Ian wanted to make sure we were still comfortable with the need for a staff person. Discussed sharing with AIBS who are still interested in a shared position that they could fund part-time. Important to position OBFS in the larger landscape with

more visibility. The new person would have to be willing to fundraise. Ian has done some financial modelling as to the benefit of such a position and some of the larger field stations might be willing to pitch in some \$\$ to fund a position. Should help increase membership in OBFS. Currently as a volunteer organization that is 2nd or 3rd on everyone's list, hard to keep up with evolving needs or to grow the organization. Need to demonstrate value added by position quantitatively.

- B. There are some real opportunities in San Francisco that dovetail with the Bodega Bay meeting to fundraise. Perhaps we should do an event targeting nonscientists and introducing them to our organization.
- C. Do we need an assessment professional that can quantify benefits of OBFS to other larger foundations and assist Peter McCarthy in his advocacy for FSML \$ in the NSF budget. Is there a need or basis to submit an NSF proposal for this? How do we get information to the decision makers? Someone suggested we use the RAMS tool that the UC system uses for annual reports. Should we tie into existing grants like the one for OTS? Makes more sense to do an executive position than a secretarial one. Brian mentioned that being the President of an organization with an exec director would be very different than being the president of a volunteer one. Possible partners: ESA/AIBS/Discover Life? Eric said it would be helpful to review NAML's foray into this realm. They had a high level lobbying firm which was not sustainable.
- D. Ian will explore the option of doing something for next year in the San Francisco area

Adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Oktay

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Welcome Address (7:30 pm – 8:30 pm)

President Ian Billick called the meeting to order with the Tom Callahan Memorial Big-Assed gavel. This year's theme is, "Advanced Sensor Networks for Field Stations." The membership then introduced themselves. President Billick then presented Tom Callahan's "Four Maxims for Conduct at OBFS Meetings:"

(1) Treat everyone decently,

(2) Laugh at yourself,

*(3) Know that everyone makes mistakes, so **Get Over It!** and*

(4) Don't call the authorities unless there is either fire or blood.

UMBS Director Knute Nadelhoffer welcomed OBFS and introduced the group to UMBS.

Friday, September 24, 2010 (1:00 pm – 2:45 pm)

OBFS Business (8:00 am – 8:45 am)

President Billick conducted OBFS business and made several announcements.

Concurrent Sessions (8:45 am – 10:00 am)

New Member Round Table (Bill Schuster, Sarah Oktay, Eric Nagy)

How to get the most out of your OBFS membership

Best way to get the most out of an OBFS membership is to get personally involved in OBFS (Eric Nagy). The strength of the organization is in the people. Bill Schuster spoke first about his experience at Black Rock Forest. Feels the networking of OBFS helps to combat the isolation that exists as a natural part of many field station operations. OBFS offered some benchmarks and standards for success that he could aim for during the development of BFR. The NSF connection and the ability to meet with Peter McCartney and learn about the FSML proposal process is invaluable. When possible, bring staff to the OBFS meeting if funding allows. If you wish to see specific sessions at the meetings suggest them to the OBFS Board. Eric and Sarah added some comments about their own experiences and how OBFS membership helped them at their respective field stations.

Here are some other suggestions of things to get out of OBFS membership

1. Take part in FSML proposal process and overview
Visit other stations
2. Take part in Congressional Visits Day
3. The website is normally a very good resource for sample documents, operations manual, institutional history and other publications
4. Just being involved in a national organization leads credence to your field station and efforts
5. Hosting a meeting is really a good idea if you can swing it.

Discussion and suggestions from the audience (audience size about 30-40) that are listed below:

- List of attendees very important to have (Karie will get one ready by end of the meeting)
- Several international directors at meeting emphasized how helpful it was to have international

opportunities highlighted- we mentioned the international committee (Deedra)

- Chad Jemison said the most helpful thing for him was the policies manual – how other station approach getting things done: examples of useful documents: personnel management, risk management and data management; user manuals
- Mel brought up that it was very hard to search online through the website for similar field stations
- Several people reinforced the usefulness of the listserv option and that we should make sure people using the OBFS web site are aware they can post questions that way
- Denise: new director, first time at OBFS; would love to hear how other stations do an assessment of their educational programs; “telling our story: and how they developed a research agenda for the next 5-10 years
- Several people mentioned that they want information on innovative funding – setting up endowments
- Dan Dawson: water system based on snowmelt; had students make a quick time movie for YouTube that was very helpful and popular PR took for the field station
- Chuck would love to have us share a lab safety handbook and other safety training manuals other stations might use; a document on how to deal with common hazards encountered in field work would be a great
- Bo: many of these items are scalable issues; most of us have the same problems that simply vary with the size of the field station
- Zach: we are working on a new education building and hoping to grow into a larger facility and what I could use is a standard business planning assistance; would love input or feedback on transitioning from a small to a large field station (SOktay note: this was mentioned in other sessions and conversations throughout the conference). Would be great to survey all the larger stations and see what advice they have on growing programs and facilities.
- Larry W: would be really helpful to see a list of attendees each year and their contact info when we check or even in advance so we can plan who to talk to; someone else mentioned it would be even better to have a list printed up and handed out in the packets with pictures (face with a name) →this evolved into a list of concrete suggestion on how we could make THIS conference and upcoming conferences even more practical and useful for attendees

We decided we would like a series of white boards at the dining tables with a topic for discussion listed at each table so folks would know where to set to discuss each item- this would improve one of the best functions of OBFS yearly conference which is to share info with other station directors and get advice [SDOkay note; we did this for the very next meal and subsequent meals; in some cases it worked well, in others not as well; possible tweaks: should have one meal a day as a “business meal”, perhaps lunch? Or make sure everyone knows what we are doing and that we survey attendees to see how they liked it or not]

Here are the table tent subjects for discussion:

1. FUNDING (Public and private)
2. STATION GROWTH
3. K - 12 OUTREACH
4. VOLUNTEERS
5. ENERGY CONSERVATION/GREENING YOUR STATION
6. SECURITY
7. RISK MANAGEMENT AND LIABILITY ISSUES
8. OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY
9. UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

We could write question on the white board during lunch and discuss them table by table. We assigned two volunteers to write this up and implement it asap with Karie’s help (Jerald Dosch and Amie-June Trimble- thanks guys!)

Next Items:

More discussion on possible topics and things that have been successful for other field stations (we asked members of the audience to share what had worked well for them and what questions they had)

Suggestions for stations:

- o hold an evening “star party” great for all ages and can be a successful fundraiser too-show visitors another reason to love open space
- o host Elderhostel groups
- o Questions/ Requests/comments from Station Directors
- o Would love a list of terms for new directors
- o Also could use a primer on how to approach funding opportunities
- o How do other stations deal with public visitation
- o How do they obtain software from their host university

- o How does FSML grant program work (Eric gave a quick overview)
- o French students (forestry, environmental studies, etc.) and some other nation’s students (Scotland) are required to go overseas to study for a few months; they can be extremely good interns and they are funded
- o Important for stations to document users clearly for fundraising and budgeting purposes
- o Someone was concerned out how to fill a dormitory once it is built and how to learn to survey potential users, we talked about Survey Monkey briefly and other online tools that allow you to reach a potential user group quickly and determine need
- o Dan mentioned a link on the Storm Peak Lab web’s site (also a student made video) called “Living at Storm peak” which is extremely useful (great way to solicit student input and viral PR)
- o Web site mentioned during the discussion: techsoup.org for tech questions
- o Liked idea of “nuts and bolts” breakout sessions and also having open Q&A sessions; expand table top idea into conference programming somewhere

Introduction to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Steve Paton)

Introduction to the STRI field stations by Steve Paton, Director, Office of Bioinformatics, STRI).

Committee Meetings

Optional time set aside for committees to meet in person. Several committees did meet to plan their activities for the next year. An update from the International Committee is attached (Appendix A).

New Facilities Slide Show (10:30 am – 11:45 am)

Several new facilities introduced themselves to OBFS and next year’s host, Bodega Marine Lab, informed the membership of what they could expect at our next annual meeting.

Advanced Sensor Networks Symposium (1:00 pm – 2:45 pm)

The advanced sensor networks symposium presented cutting-edge research and applications for sensors. The symposium was followed by a round table discussion.

Speakers / Topics:

“Beyond NEON: Soil Sensor and Ecological Monitoring / Long-term Research. Mike Allen, University of California - Riverside

“Wireless Sensor Networks: Past, Present, and Future” Prabal Dutta, University of Michigan

“Advanced Aquatic Sensors for Biological Field Stations” Guy Meadows, University of Michigan
(<http://uglos.engin.umich.edu>)

“Networking Across Biological Stations” Susan Hendricks, Murray State University. Kentucky Virtual Observatory and Ecological Informatics System (Hancock Biological Station and Flathead Lake Biological Station)
<http://explorekentuckylake.com/weather.htm>

“Toward a Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network: A Role for Field Stations” Tim Kratz
<http://gleon.org>

Discover Life: A Brief Introduction (2:45 pm – 3:00 pm)

Nancy Lowe presented information on Discover Life
<http://www.discoverlife.org/>

Discover Life provides three main webtools:

1. Albums for storing photographic data
2. Global mapper connected to data
3. Identification guides

All of these data and guides are linked and customizable. Field stations can customize their own guides for various taxa.

The website was created to support the All Taxa Biotic Inventory of the Great Smoky Mountains. It has grown and expanded from that.

Concurrent Sessions (3:15 pm – 5:00 pm) **Advanced Sensor Networks Panel and Discussion** (Knut Nadelhoffer)

Panel discussion as a follow-up to the previous symposium.

Discover Life: Inventory and Monitoring Technology (Nancy Lowe and John Pickering)
Ready-made outreach projects; Large scale ecological analysis

Mixer and Vendor Displays (5:00 pm – 6:00 pm)
More discussion of advanced sensor networks for field stations and visits with technology vendors.

Saturday, September 25, 2010

OBFS Business (8:00 am – 9:15 am)

Ian Billick brought the meeting to order. An invitation was extended to visit various field stations in the CA region while at Bodega Bay next year. Also encouragement for OBFS'ers to visit other stations throughout the year. Art McKee took some time to explain the history of various OBFS iconic symbols: the Tom Callahan “Big-Assed” Gavel and the Gerald Selzer Memorial Gong.

Secretary – Greg Smith asked committees, and volunteers within each session, to take notes and get those notes to him.

Treasurer – Philippe Cohen presented the OBFS budget. We did not spend as much as we budgeted. We had ~\$27,000 in total expenses while we budgeted ~\$30,000. Revenues were down but expenses still did not outpace the budget. We seem to be in good fiscal health. Philippe can send the budget to anyone who would like to see it. Philippe reported that we have >160 current member stations. Database problems have prevented accurate counts. We are up to 18-20 individual members, which is up from last year. Membership provides \$25,000-\$30,000 of income annually.

Vice-President – Bill Schuster reported on his audit. All expenses were appropriate. There were a couple of minor errors that were corrected. We have an operating balance of ~\$45,000 and reserves of ~\$71,000.

Finance/Investment Committee – Peter Connors reported that this was a good year for investments. The goal is 4.5% over the consumer price index; our return this year was 6.0%. We will stick with the current socially responsible funds in which we have invested.

Congressional Visits Day – Knute Nadelhoffer reminded us of the important opportunity available through CVD. OBFS will pay for your trip. Ian will collect names of people that are interested and will find someone to arrange the next CVD in the spring. We also participate in Reverse-CVD day in which Senators and Representatives are invited out to their field stations. This year, seven OBFS members were visited. Jeff Brown reminded that this is not a lobby effort, it is information sharing. Universities will hopefully be very supportive of this effort.

ILTER Update – Brian Kloepfel reported that OBFS website is hosted through LTER. The OBFS Board is discussing the continuation/discontinuation of this relationship. John VandeCastle reported that LTER has opportunities for legacy datasets, not just for LTER sites, other sites might be included. OBFS has the opportunity to attend the LTER All-Scientists meeting, held every third year (next up in 2012).

AIBS Update – Eric Nagy reported that AIBS can be individual or organizational. OBFS has a strong relationship with AIBS. OBFS supports the Public Policy Office of AIBS and

therefore, OBFS member stations can use AIBS as a resource. OBFS should also take advantage of Action BioScience (<http://www.actionbioscience.org/>) and COPUS (<http://www.copusproject.org/>). The BioScience papers in the field station series can be found on the Documents page of the OBFS webpage.

NEON, Inc. – Hillary Swain reported on the governing body of NEON. The NEON, Inc. Board is not about the science, but governs the financial responsibilities of NEON. NEON is based in Boulder, CO. Preparation for NEON has changed the way we think about systems ecology. Hillary encouraged us to be proactive in taking advantage of opportunities to be involved in NEON. Hillary asked for feedback about NEON, positive or negative. Email her (hswain@archbold-station.org) or speak with her during the meeting. NEON is actively hiring; approximately one person per week.

Presentation of the Human Diversity Award

Stacy McNulty presented the 4th Annual OBFS Diversity Award to the Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans (CEDO). Peggy Turk Boyer and Richard Boyer accepted the award. CEDO is incorporated in Mexico and the US and their programs embrace a wide-variety of cultures. Peggy presented a short video that highlighted some of these interactions. CEDO is celebrating its 30th Anniversary. Stacy reminded OBFS to keep this in mind and look for an announcement in February. You may nominate yourself and may continue to apply if you have not already won.

How Field Stations Fit Into Science Funding and Agendas (9:15 am – 10:15 am)

Ian Billick presented ideas about how to think about fund raising as it relates to field stations and how we should view the value of our stations. In 1999, Costanza et al. (in *Nature*) estimated that the value of ecosystem services was almost double of the US GDP. Pollination alone is valued at \$217 billion per year. Natural ecosystems are changing dramatically. Promoting the value of field stations can take advantage of our role in investigating these changes. Field stations are about generating knowledge and information and, “Knowledge is Power!” NEON will change the way field science is done; the questions asked, the methods used, and the scales investigated. The focus will be macrosystems. NSF has a new call for proposals in this area. On the other extreme, genetic techniques will continue to be valuable and fundable. Field stations are focused on “place-based research.” We need to find ways to generalize insights from very specific places. Field stations serve as organizing agents for the growth of knowledge. Stations should be more than the sum of the parts. Stations can be prisms for understanding the world. Stations can also contribute to

cross-generational collaboration among and across researchers as well as loose consortiums of scientists. Stations are ready-made to get research off the ground quickly, partly because of the oral history tradition of stations.

The specific role of OBFS in helping stations Ian Billick.

Strengths: social networking among 300+ stations; priceless data and resources; substantial “accumulated intellectual capital”; core group of dedicated OBFS’ers and field station “junkies”

Weakness: lack of dedicated staff (e.g. full-time Executive Director); many stations lack a sustainable financial plan; inability to position stations within scientific landscape; lack of OBFS’ers making a compelling case for field stations; stations overly dependent on NSF and fail to leverage NSF funds

Opportunities: increase in the importance of monitoring change in ecosystems; NEON and breakthroughs in sensing equipment; increased demand for educational programs at stations (e.g. “No Child Left Inside”); ecosystem services are worth a lot of money and stations can take advantage of this.

Threats: FSML budget is static or declining; budget crunching is hitting universities and stations must sell their value; US investment priorities are not focused on field research (e.g. more is spent on investigating other worlds than investigating our world)

OBFS must continue to work to increase membership and hold strong, productive meetings selling the value of OBFS to members, and selling the value of field stations to individuals and entities outside of the field station community.

Ian will make his presentation available to those that want it and it will be posted on the OBFS website.

NSF: FSML and NEON Updates & Discussion (10:30 am – 11:45 am)

Peter McCartney presented an update on NSF happenings. NSF is waiting for appointment of a new Director. There is also a search underway for a BIO Director. NEON is in construction now. We should now start seeing the science emerge. Hence, the macrosystems call for proposals. Think about how to make this an opportunity. Peter gave an overview of the FSML program. Successful projects have: high potential impact, a broad and diverse user base, advanced research capability, education and public outreach, and a demonstrated infrastructure need. Remember that planning grants are available...use them.

Funding Opportunities:

Planning Grants - \$25,000; Infrastructure Grants – Up to \$350,000. The program is housed in BIO (\$3.2M) but is a cross directorate activity with GEO (\$0.5M). Related programs include: Major Research Infrastructure, REU (and supplements to REU, RET, ROA), IGERT, COSEE, LTER, and NEON. FY10 spending on FSML was >\$4M, down from >\$6M in FY09. Budgeted amounts were relatively stable between FY09 and FY10.

Peter presented his “Top 10 Weaknesses in FSML Proposals”:

1. doesn't show advance in research
2. limited benefit to NSF funded, basic research
3. limited visiting users
4. limited research productivity
5. request primarily serves PI's research or teaching
6. limited institutional support
7. missed opportunities in outreach
8. solution not well thought out in terms of sustainability or feasibility and alternatives
9. need arises out of faulty maintenance, design, or planning
10. no data management plan in place.

Trends in funding: collaborative projects with other stations; instrumentation, facilities, and cyberinfrastructure; green/sustainable construction; education (engaging Education and Human Resources); NSF Data Management Policy; common use equipment.

Peter mentioned that two big changes are coming down. The first is the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). NSF must make sure that projects do no harm. Research grants, including FSML, have been excluded for the most part. However, more stringent compliance with NEPA may soon be required. For example, a requirement within NSF for an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement for proposals. It is NSF's responsibility to do this and must assume the cost of doing it. Peter is optimistic that solutions can be found that will have minimal impact on available funding. PI's may be asked to help with this process for their various proposals. The second major change has to do with budgeting and oversight procedures. Again, PI's may be asked for more documentation and oversight of their funded grants.

For FY11 there will be a hard deadline and there will be required supplementary documents (letters of commitment; extra budget docs for construction), as well as a clarification of review criteria.

Concurrent Sessions (1:00 pm – 2:30 pm)

Perspectives from Other Field Stations (Hillary Swain, Sarah Oktay, Philippe Cohen)

Philippe Cohen described how Jasper Ridge Biological Station operates. He has a staff of six. Jasper Ridge is not housed in a Stanford University academic department, it answers directly to a dean. Funding is primarily from the university and from endowments. Seventy to seventy-five percent of his budget is from endowments. Annual budget is ~\$850,000 per year. Jasper Ridge does not have housing.

Hillary Swain gave an overview of Archbold Biological Station. Archbold is a non-profit organization, not affiliated with a university. Archbold manages ~20,000 acres and has a staff of ~50 people. There are three land divisions: the station, an agricultural research center, and the Archbold Reserve. The station is governed by a Board of Trustees. An endowment pays for about half the cost of the operations, the ranch pays for more. There is some flexibility with being a non-profit, but Archbold does rely on grants and contracts. They do have programs for K-12 and attract a large number of visiting scientists.

Sarah Oktay described the Nantucket Field Station, part of the University of Massachusetts – Boston. On the property there are four buildings, including: a classroom, a dorm that can sleep 14, and a dining hall. There are also six condos that sleep additional folks owned by the government. There is now a K-12 program as well as a pre-school program. Volunteers are critical to the operation. Volunteers have the opportunity to work on projects that they are interested in. The operating budget is ~\$140,000 and is in a growth phase. The university model is changing to a consortium model as the land is no longer owned by the University. Fund-raising efforts have resulted in \$3-5 million for renovations; \$1 million from the University and the rest from a local conservation consortium.

There were numerous questions from the attendees and excellent responses from the panel members.

Advanced Sensor Networks – Vendor Panel and Discussion (Various)

NSF-FSML Grants Process Round Table (Kevin Smith)

UMBS Highlights and Facilities Tour (2:30 pm – 5:00 pm)

Knut Nadelhoffer provided an overview of UMBS operations and he and he and his staff provided a comprehensive tour of the UMBS facilities.

OBFS Auction (7:10 pm - ???)

This year's auction theme was, "Douglas Lake in da Moonlight." The auction went well into the night, a good time was had by all, and we raised \$8,033 for OBFS. A new auction record!! (See page 19 for auction results 1997-2010)

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Concurrent Sessions (8:00 am – 9:30 am)

Assessment of Field Station Success (Bill Schuster, Ian Billick)

Bill and Ian led a discussion about assessment at field stations and opened the floor to comments/questions. Some points from the discussion follow.

- Assessment is critical in selling our field stations to funding agencies, universities, boards, and donors.
- You have to consider your target audience. Different tools will be necessary for different audiences.
- Stakeholders come to the table with different assumptions.
- Assessment can take the form of (1) did you do what you said you would do, and (2) what were the outcomes of these programs?
- How does the campus experience differ from the field station experience? For example, track hours spent on academics on campus vs. at the field station.
- The NSF-REU program now has online surveys available that can be modified for specific uses.
- Is it possible that OBFS could develop an assessment tool that could be modified and shared? If so, how do we accomplish this? Could we pursue NSF money to fund the development of this tool.
- There are connections that can be made within other organizations (such as ESA) where people have been fine-tuning assessment tools in our field. This is an education exercise, not a scientific one.
- Field stations sometimes fall into the crack between formal and informal education. This can make it difficult to sell yourself as one or the other.
- OBFS might be interested in collaborations with the North American Association for Environmental Ed. (<http://www.naaee.org/>).
- Ian has presented a survey to track how field stations are doing assessment. He is also interested in who the assessment is for.
- There are also struggles with tracking where students go once they leave our field stations. Facebook pages have been successful keeping tabs on students. Some have also used their alumni office to help follow former students.

- Friends groups can also help; highlight those individuals that have been successful.
- Requests for updates on the web or in paper newsletters can allow you to follow some of them. Also, reunions can bring people back and allow you to gather information.
- Follow-up is nice but in order to quantify these data, you need information prior to their entering your program. What were their attitudes and levels of understanding before and how did your program influence the after results?
- OBFS could at least develop a best-practices model for assessment; a list of standards, perhaps. Even if we do not develop the tool ourselves, we could provide input to the development of a tool. OBFS could provide some assessment for individual stations.
- OBFS could oversee some sort of "certification" process. We could develop a principles and practices document. Stations could self-assess and then agree to abide by the principles and practices document. They would then be certified.
- We can get students to practice self-authorship and learn to define how their experience(s) have shaped them.
- One thing we all have in common is the need, at a very basic level, to track users. We need to know how many students enroll in our courses and how many users come through the doors every year. We could put this information together and gauge the impact of OBFS in total as a measure of user days. Do we reach 1 million people annually, or is it 3 million?
- Another suitable model for us might be museums. Museums are quite varied and learning more about assessment in these institutions could help OBFS.

If we are not able to evaluate our success, we are in trouble. It is important for our future.

Vendor Sensor Network Demonstration

OBFS Business (9:30 am – 11:00 am)

There are three board positions up for election this year. The nominating committee was Brian Kloeppel, David White, and Karie Slavik. The nominees are:

1. **Vice-President:** Karie Slavik and Sarah Oktay
2. **Treasurer:** Philippe Cohen
3. **Member-at-Large:** Mark Schulz, Tom Risch, Chad Jemison, Jerald Dosch, Bo Dziadyk

Motion to close nominations was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Philippe noted that there was a request for budget modifications, including: Board travel to work on an NSF grant, and monies for the Outreach Committee to work on website issues. Total expenses for the coming membership is >\$30,000. Our revenue will be ~\$28,000. If the deficit is real, it will be covered by the reserves.

Gwen mentioned that the Board is looking at moving web services to a membership services site that services non-profits. The company would facilitate dues collections and would handle the transfer to their servers. What we should end up with is a site that we do not have to maintain and will provide customer service when needed. The fee is \$135/month, which has been budgeted.

Ian mentioned that the Board will be discussing an organizing theme for next year's meeting at Bodega Bay. There may also be a hosted event on the Wednesday before the meeting begins. Outside folks would also be invited to give us a chance to talk about what field stations do and see what a development event looks like. Networking will be required to get a full-time Director. If you know of people in the San Francisco area that might be interested in attending, contact Ian. OBFS will be submitting an NSF grant to provide workshops for strategic planning of the organization. OBFS'ers should be on the look-out for collaborative proposal ideas. OBFS might be able to provide travel funds for groups to gather and work on proposals. If you want OBFS to be involved, think clearly about what kind of support you want or need.

Ian thanked Knute, Karie, and their staff for a fantastic meeting in a great location!

Concluding Remarks (11:00 am – 11:45 am)

Knute Nadelhoffer thanked OBFS for making the meeting a real success. UMBS was pleased to host the meeting. Knute extended an invitation for OBFS people to work here or work with them, including teaching courses. Knute thanked Karie Slavik for her work planning the meeting and working with OBFS to make the meeting work. Knute thanked other members of his staff that worked hard this weekend for OBFS. Knute also thanked the multimedia team from UM for handling the live webcast of the meeting.

Ian closed the meeting with a strike of the Tom Callahan "Big-Assed" Gavel.

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Session II (11:30 am – 12:10 pm) (open to all)

In attendance: Ian Billick, Philippe Cohen, Faerthen Felix, Brian Kloeppe, Deedra McClearn, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Gwen Pearson, Bill Schuster, Karie Slavik, Greg Smith, Amy

Whipple, David White (plus several non-Board meeting attendees)

FSML Planning Proposal

Brian, Ian, Jan, Hillary Swain, and Peter McCartney met to discuss the FSML grant to continue work on the grant. The group, minus Peter, will meet in Denver in late October to meet and move forward toward finishing the grant. It will also include a representative from NAML. They are estimating ~\$1,500 to make this happen and are requesting the Board cover it. This needs to be broader than OBFS, starting with the science and education. It is important to position field stations within the larger scientific process. Field stations and marine labs are tools for getting science done.

Website

Gwen received estimates from five different companies that could host our webservices. The estimates range from \$4,000 and up for repairing the website. The best option is probably MemberClicks (<http://www.memberclicks.com/>), which will fix and transfer the site. They specialize in working with non-profits. They want \$2,000 up-front and then \$135/month. There will also be a charge to allow members to pay by credit card. We will have content management controls and the site does support listserves (including multiple lists). The service also includes meeting registration. Gwen would like to discuss this with them further, and view the contract, before we sign-on. If the contract looks good, Gwen will pass it along to Philippe and he will request permission from the Board for payment.

Eric reminded the Board that many stations are interested in getting help with their own websites. Opportunities for the OBFS website might also be useful to the subset of stations that need web help. AIBS is another partner that can help. Ian suggested that we make the process of solving our website issues transparent so that individual stations can duplicate, or not, what the organization has done.

Bodega Bay Meeting

Ian asked for theme suggestions for the Bodega Bay meeting in 2011. Ideas included: land use, invasive species, stations near large cities / urban ecology. Bill will begin working with Bodega Bay to plan the meeting. Concurrent sessions seemed to work well so it might be useful to again offer a variety of topics for attendees. This works if we can maintain meeting attendance. We need to be proactive in making sure attendance does not drop next year. The meeting committee includes the Vice-President, Members-at-Large, Host, and Past Host. The President serves *ex officio*.

Eric said that he thought this meeting was great, and worked very well, but he was worried about dropping the set time for committee meetings. Philippe said this is a committee chair problem and time is wasted if committee chairs are not

prepared. Eric said that this was a way that we got members involved and these meetings encourage participation. Brian echoed Eric's sentiment, that we might quickly lose committee members if the annual meeting does not remind them of their duties. Ian suggested that committee meetings might turn people off, and people want to know how to run their field stations. Eric suggested more informal ways to present the committees, such as a committees mixer.

Ian, Sarah, Philippe, and Bill are working on a development event that will take place on the Wednesday before the meeting starts. This will allow us to promote OBFS and field stations, and will allow individual stations to see how development events work.

Deedra asked if OBFS has purchased booths at large meetings like ESA. We do have a large display and a nice, new brochure. She volunteered to shepherd the display at next year's ESA meeting. Ian encouraged the Board to ask OBFS for seed money to help give OBFS a larger presence. David suggested that we return the large display to the OBFS meetings and work on updating it. He also suggested making this information available on the website so OBFS'ers will know it is available.

Committee Appointments

The Board discussed the structure of committees, elected and appointed positions, and upcoming vacancies. Standing committees can come and go. Chairs of those committees serve on the Board and should be invited to participate as a Board member. Ian will put together a list of committees and potential chairs to be voted on in the December meeting. Eric said that the maximum number of Board members allowed by the by-laws is 16. The Board suggested dissolving Common Interests and Webmaster and raising Diversity and International to the level of full committees. Brian suggested that Stacy stay on as Chair of Diversity, with the Boyers helping with the award for next year. The Board, and Stacy, agreed.

Budget

Philippe mentioned several changes to the budget: add AIBS contribution (\$2,700), NEON dues (\$1,000), increase Board travel (\$5,000), add \$4,000 for organization development, add \$1,000 for outreach, website maintenance (\$5,000). Our anticipated expenses are \$31,075. Eric suggested removing the line items for the Small Field Stations and Common Interests Committees. Brian reminded Philippe to keep a running tally on the budget of current and paid members. A MOTION to approve (David) the 2011 budget as amended was made, seconded (Sarah), and approved unanimously. Ian asked Philippe to send the approved budget around to the Board.

Other Business

Eric asked about the status of the online Policies Manual. Sarah said that this seems like a task of Member Support and she will take a look at it. Gwen will also help since it will be housed on the website.

A MOTION was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to accept the new slate of nominees for the upcoming elections. Brian mentioned that our SurveyMonkey account will renew on October 2 and money for that account has been budgeted.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Smith (and Sarah Oktay)

OBFS International Committee Report

September 2009 – September 2010

Prepared by Deedra McClearn

This report covers the period between the OBFS meeting at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica (24-27 September 2009) and the OBFS meeting at the University of Michigan Biological Station (23-26 September 2010). The theme of the 2009 meeting was "Internationalization of OBFS." Two important activities during the La Selva meeting were a half-day symposium with presentations by station directors from Latin American and African field stations and a committee meeting of OBFS members interested in international topics.

The efforts of the International Committee in the past year have focused on three major areas:

1. Consolidating the group that represents the Latin American field stations, including creating a working group and web site supported by an NSF RCN grant on long-term changes in tropical forests. The presentation by Steve Paton on the STRI field stations in Panama as a concurrent session at the UMBL meeting was a part of this emphasis on Latin American stations.
2. Mounting two expeditions to Botswana to create a master plan for establishing a series of field stations throughout the country.
3. Establishing working relations among US and non-US field stations to facilitate new programs and opportunities for research and education.

Latin American field stations and beyond.

Our core group of Latin American stations currently consists of the OTS field stations in Costa Rica (La Selva, Palo Verde, Las Cruces), plus Bijagual in Costa Rica (Paul Foster, director), the El Verde / Luquillo station in Puerto Rico (Alonso Ramírez, director), and the STRI field stations in Panama (Steve Paton,

Director of Bioinformatics Department). This working group, with the addition of Bill Michener (LTER, NEON, DataOne) has had several meetings over the past year to devise a plan for standardizing datasets across tropical stations such as weather data, species inventories, GIS maps, and general station information. We will have a web site ready in the next two months that will serve as the prototype for this effort. From this stage we will invite other tropical stations from Latin America, Asia, and Africa to become part of the network. We have also discussed with Rick Wyman the incorporation and upgrading of the IOBFS database as part of this network. This work is currently being supported by a Research Coordination Network grant from NSF. Our scope includes all of the tropical field stations of the world, but for reasons of logistics and practicality we have found it easier to start with a small core group of Latin American stations in order to define our objectives and standardize our protocols.

Botswana initiative.

At the behest of a private sponsor, a group of OBFS field station directors and representatives (Deedra McClearn, Al Muth, Violet Nakayama, Rick Wyman) spent the month of November 2009 in Botswana with a group led by Dr. Claudia Coen. The aim of this trip was to create a plan to establish a series of biological field stations throughout the country. Coen and McClearn returned to Botswana for the month of February 2010 to coordinate efforts with members of the University, NGOs, government, Bushmen, and corporations. A final draft of the proposal is nearly ready and will be used as the basis of negotiations with the government of Botswana and with external donors. The infrastructure would include a central field station in Francistown with several satellite camps located strategically throughout the country in unique habitats (Okavango Delta, Central Kalahari Game Reserve) and along a nation-wide rainfall gradient.

New programs and opportunities.

An interesting idea arose from a conversation I had with Joerg-Henner Lotze, director of the Humboldt Field Research Institute in Steuben Maine, when I was there on a fern course in August 2010. The Institute runs a series of summer courses of about one week each. This summer the list had about 40 courses and covered topics such as ferns, lichens, bryophytes, mushrooms, soil restoration, ethnobotany, marine invertebrates, and boreal forests. There were two Brazilian students on my fern course and a Panamanian student on the lichens course. Joerg is very interested in helping Latin American students in their professional development and he offers them free tuition and station fees if they can get the money to come to Maine. The Panamanian student was from STRI and he had put together a plan where he spent several weeks at the Field Museum and then did two back-to-back courses at Humboldt. The two Brazilian students got airfare from their graduate schools (in the US) and from the New York Botanical Garden. Joerg and I were talking about ways to build up this program. At the very least, OTS could advertize the Humboldt courses

to our OTS Latino courses so that our students know about this potential opportunity. A more interesting and ambitious project might be to create a working group with STRI, OTS, Humboldt, Field Museum, National Botanical Garden, and other institutions to offer career enhancing opportunities to Latin American students in museums, field programs, etc. Right now Joerg offers the free tuition and station fees out of the Humboldt budget, so he can only help a few students. We would have to look for funding if we were to expand the program.

Activities for upcoming year.

In the next year, leading up to the Bodega Bay meeting in September 2011, the international committee proposes the following:

1. Expand the RCN tropical field station web site, working closely with Bill Michener to ensure that our system is compatible with his global DataOne repository.
2. Encourage participation at the Bodega Bay meeting by additional international field stations. Contact Darwin Research Center in Galapagos, Pat Wright from Madagascar, someone from Kruger National Park in South Africa, and others. Encourage the hard-core regular members to bring in a non-US station (to join OBFS, to come to the meeting, or both).
3. Continue consulting on the Botswana project.
4. Follow-up on the Humboldt station plan to support Latin American students with career enhancing opportunities at fields stations and museums in the US.
5. Offer advice to Robert Foulkes and the ProSilva project for setting up a field station in Ireland.
6. Consider redoing the 1997 survey of tropical field stations that led to the publication of the 2002 article by Whitesell et al in BioScience. The original survey asked very pertinent questions and elicited a wealth of data and some revealing patterns of station use.
7. Investigate possible sources of funding for programs and infrastructure at the non-US stations that usually do not have access to NSF funds. Are there EU programs? Joint US/EU funding opportunities?
8. Create a list of ways in which OBFS members can help international field stations. Examples: form a research collaboration with a scientist at an international station, sponsor a non-US student at your station, or serve on an advisory board for an international station.
9. Propose a topic or concurrent session for Bodega Bay that would be of particular interest to the international field stations.

Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS)
2010 Annual Meeting at the University of Michigan Biological Station, Pellston, MI
September 23 – 26, 2010
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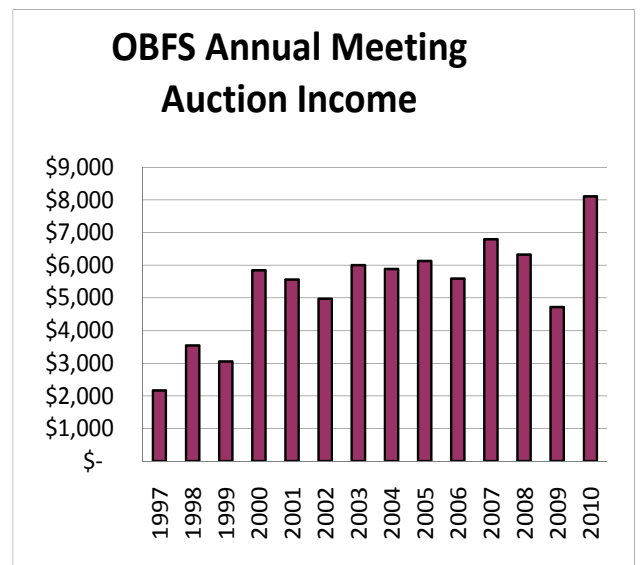
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ANNUAL OBFS AUCTION INCOME

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



I. Operating Funds

	2010 Year End	2009-2010							Annual Totals	Budget Variance	Notes
		2011 Budget	Q1 (Sep-Nov)	Q2 (Dec-Feb)	Q3 (Mar-May)	Q4 (Jun-Aug)	Encumbrances				
Operating Fund Balance Aug 31, 2009:	\$55,789.20										
Income:											
Membership dues	26,350.00	\$ 28,000	3,850.00					3,850.00	(24,150.00)		
Interest (CDs, checking)	86.98	\$ 90	53.28					53.28	(36.72)		
OB support from reserves	-		204.00					204.00	204.00	Q1: donations	
Other income	100.00								-		
Total Income:	\$ 26,537	\$ 28,090	\$4,107.28					4,107.28	\$ (23,982.72)		
Expenses:											
Regular Operating Expenses											
AIBS dues and public policy initiative	2,700.00		110.00					110.00	110.00		
NEON dues	1,000.00	\$ 1,000						-	(1,000.00)		
Bank charge	-							-	-		
Missouri corporation registration	-							-	-		
Travel OBFS committee	3,365.69	\$ 3,500	1,439.45					1,439.45	(2,060.55)	Q1: Jan Hodder& Brian Kloeppe travel for grant writing.	
Travel OBFS Board		\$ 1,500						-	(1,500.00)		
Congressional visits day	5,716.96	\$ 5,500						-	(5,500.00)		
OBFS traveling exhibit shipping	-							-	-		
Shipping	-		194.38					194.38	194.38		
Office and website									-		
Treasurer support and supplies	7,000.00	\$ 7,000		3,500.00		3,500.00		7,000.00	-		
Paypal charges	-							-	-		
Survey Monkey	200.00	\$ 200	200.00					200.00	-		
Secretarial and database support	-							-	-	Q1: Discover Life db work.	
Tax preparation	25.00	\$ 25						-	(25.00)		
Brochure mailing		\$ 200						-	(200.00)		
Website maintenance		\$ 1,650	135.00	405.00	405.00	405.00		1,350.00	(300.00)	Website hosting, \$150/month for 11 months.	
Annual Report/Newsletter	-							-	-		
Committee Expenses - Expendable Materials and Supplies	206.15	\$ 500	187.49					187.49	(312.51)	Q1: Human Diversity Plaque	
Governance	-							-	-		
Annual Meeting	-							-	-		
Member Support	-							-	-		
Common Interests	-							-	-		
Diversity - travel International	1,020.92	\$ 1,000	1,000.00					1,000.00	-		
Small Field Stations	-							-	-		
Organizational Development		\$ 4,000	1,439.45					1,439.45	(2,560.55)		
Outreach		\$ 1,000						-	(1,000.00)		
Subtotal Regular Operating Expenses	\$ 21,234.72	\$ 27,075	\$4,705.77	\$ 3,905.00	\$ 405.00	\$ 3,905.00	\$ -	\$ 12,920.77	\$ 14,154.23		
Committee Proposals Contingent Upon Review											

I. Operating Funds

		2010 Year End		2009-2010								
		2011 Budget	Q1 (Sep-Nov)	Q2 (Dec-Feb)	Q3 (Mar-May)	Q4 (Jun-Aug)	Encumbrances	Annual Totals	Budget Variance	Notes		
	Diversity - workshop		-					-	-			
	International - travel		-					-	-			
	Small field stations		-					-	-			
	Outreach Committee - brochure	2,895.58						-	-			
	Website and db upgrade	4,000.00	\$ 5,000	5,799.50				5,799.50	(799.50)	Q1: Database repair by Discover Life (\$1,000); website repair and redesign.		
	Other Non-Budgeted Expenses							-	-			
	Subtotal other expenses	\$ 6,895.58	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,799.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	5,799.50	\$ (799.50)		
	Total Expenses:	\$ 28,130.30	\$ 32,075	\$ 10,505.27	\$ 3,905.00	\$ 405.00	\$ 3,905.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 18,720.27	\$ 13,354.73		
	Expense Variance	\$ (3,985)	\$ (6,397.99)	\$ (3,905.00)	\$ (405.00)	\$ (3,905.00)	\$ -	\$ (14,612.99)	\$ 10,627.99			
	Projected Operating Fund Balance August 31, 2009	\$ 51,804										
Balance	checking	9,901.27	\$ 20,529	\$ 12,142.55								Q1: includes transfer of \$2,200 from PayPal.
	Online Payment	2,256.26	\$ 2,000	\$ 106.26								
	C Ds	32,849.32	\$ 33,260	\$ 32,897.50								
	Beginning OB Reserves	\$ 45,006.85	\$ 55,789	\$ 45,146	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					
	Sentinel Sustainable Core Opportunities Fund	4,409.544 as of 11/30/10	11.92/share =	45,550.78	\$ 49,691	\$ 52,561.76						Q1: 1,500 transferred from checking
	Sentinel Sustainable Growth Opportunities Fund	2,083.766 as of 11/30/10	14.00/share =	23,971.94	\$ 27,141	\$ 29,172.72						Q1: 1,500 transferred from checking.
	Auction Proceeds	4,587.00	\$ 8,113	\$ 7,848.00	\$ 265.00						Q2: Not yet received proceeds.	
	Auction Expenses	852.71	\$ 750	\$ 800.00								
	Total Restricted Funds	\$ 74,962.43	\$ 84,944	\$ 88,782	\$ 265	\$ -	\$ -					
	Total Assets	\$ 119,969.28	\$ 140,733	\$ 133,929	\$ 265	\$ -	\$ -					
	OB support from reserves		\$ -	\$ -								
	Total Net Assets	\$ 119,969.28	\$ 140,733	\$ 133,929	\$ 265	\$ -	\$ -					
	Net Change in Assets									\$ (6,804.65)		

OBFS 2010 Annual Meeting Exit Survey

Survey Summary

The 2010 Annual Meeting at the University of Michigan Biological Station was well attended with 100 participants representing 80 different institutions. Forty one attendees completed exit surveys. The respondents' comments provide some useful direction for next year's meeting planners. We received suggestions on new topics to consider, feedback on how to best allocate time, and thoughts on the overall conference structure.

One of the themes of the meeting, which was suggested during last year's annual meeting at La Selva, was advanced sensor networks for field stations for which. An afternoon plenary session was dedicated to the topic. Six sensor network vendors also attended the meeting. Almost all of the respondents found the sessions dedicated to advanced sensor networks to be useful or somewhat useful. They recommended that this theme be revisited only occasionally or rarely in the future. The most frequently listed topics which respondents would like to see addressed in future meetings were development and fund strategies, data management and information sharing, field station assessment, and tools useful for outreach and tracking alumni/students.

The majority ($\geq 70\%$) of respondents who attended the "Perspectives from Other Field Stations", "New Member Roundtable" and "FSML Process Roundtable" discussion sessions found them to be useful and thought they should occur annually. The "Assessment of Field Station Success" session was also thought to be just as useful, but respondents thought that this session should not be offered annually. In general, respondents appreciated the concurrent session format because they could choose the sessions they were most interested in attending.

The majority ($\geq 80\%$) of respondents agreed that the OBFS business session, panel discussions, annual updates, committee meetings and reports and information networking time were allocated the right amount of time. Comments were mixed regarding whether or not to require committees to meet annually. Most respondents, however, found the committee meeting they attended at this meeting to be well-organized, worth the time, and allocated the right amount of time. Several attendees made presentations during the new station and facilities session, and the majority of the respondents thought that the length of the session was appropriate. About a dozen posters were displayed throughout the meeting, and a few respondents suggested that we incorporate a separate poster session into the agenda in the future.

Finally, a few other aspects of the meeting and suggestions stood out from the exit surveys and comments received during the meeting. Ian Billick's presentation on "How field stations fit into science funding and agendas" was particularly well received. The station tour was also well received, though some thought it was too short to adequately tour the facilities. The OBFS annual meeting directory should be provided to attendees as they check in at future meetings. Meeting planners should consider administering an online exit survey in order to capture feedback from people viewing the meeting via online streaming.

Survey Details

1) Topics attendees would like to see addressed in sessions at future annual meetings

- Climate change – more specifically, adaptation
- Invasive species management, analysis of recent research
- *Specific programs (social media, etc.) useful for outreach and tracking students/alumni
- *Development (fundraising) and funding strategies, cost recovery ideas
- Community outreach/field station interaction with the public
- Legacy equipment and installations
- *Data management, archiving, and information sharing
- "Volunteer" Workshop led by Sarah Oktay
- Diversity issues in education and recruiting students
- Roles and identities of Field Stations over community – global scales
- Determining and maintaining priorities
- *Field Station assessment
- Education: environmental, college coursework in round table forum
- Organizational operations: maintenance, housing, infrastructure, etc..
- Mentorship programs between established and developing stations
- Communications/relationships with governing institutions
- *OBFS-level funding, non-NSF funding sources
- International issues
- Explore differences between campus and field station teaching
- Issues specific to field stations at small, liberal arts colleges; opportunity to connect

*Several responses indicated these topics.

2) Informational Sessions

Advances Sensor Network Information & Discussion

Number of respondents who found this session: useful – 16, somewhat useful – 19, did not attend – 3

Respondents felt this session should be offered: yearly – 1, occasionally – 23, rarely – 5

Perspectives from other Field Stations Discussion

Number of respondents who found this session: useful – 31, somewhat useful – 2, did not attend – 3

Respondents felt this session should be offered: yearly – 18, occasionally – 6, rarely – 1

New Member Roundtable Discussion

Number of respondents who found this session: useful – 23, somewhat useful – 6, did not attend - 10

Respondents felt this session should be offered: yearly – 20, occasionally – 6

FSML Process Roundtable Discussion

Number of respondents who found this session: useful – 24, somewhat useful – 4, did not attend - 10

Respondents felt this session should be offered: yearly – 16, occasionally – 7

Assessment of Field Station Success

Number of respondents who found this session: useful – 21, somewhat useful – 6, did not attend - 7

Respondents felt this session should be offered: yearly – 7, occasionally – 12

Additional comments about sessions

- Why was so much attention devoted to advanced sensors? I doubt this specialized topic was relevant to many people in a general meeting of this type.
- I didn't attend the Round Table Discussion, but I loved the "topic tables" at lunch. Let's continue those and have some small group workshops on those themes.
- Assessment of Field Station Success was a good first pass. Build on this and maybe bring together some broad stats on value of field stations.
- Please DO have OBFS work on a model for assessment.
- Ian's lecture was excellent, and very thought-provoking. This is an important topic right now.
- Ian's talk was terrific, focusing, and useful for all participants.
- New Member Round Table – great ideas generated at this meeting, but may not need yearly. Assessment should be yearly until we have a format.
- All were good – new member's round table, especially.
- I came to learn – most information come from direct interaction.
- Sensor speakers were not clearly informed as to who their audience was.
- Would like to see "true stories" session for evenings – tales of unusual field station events.
- OBFS swat analysis was great. Discover Life was a valuable contribution to the meeting.
- I really enjoyed the informal nature of the sessions.

- New Member Round Table was a good session. Perhaps a longer session with subgroups that deal with specific issues or ideas.

- Concurrent is good – not all stations are new...not all need FSML talks, etc...'

- New Member Round Table was especially helpful. Good to offer it early in the weekend.

3) Time allocated for following aspects of annual meeting

New Station & Facilities Session:

Just right: 22 Too long: 3 Too short: 2

Did not attend: 5

(1 for 15 min. longer, 1 for an hour shorter)

Field Trips:

Just right: 14 Too long: 2 Too short: 5

Did not attend: 11

(1 for an hour longer, 1 for an hour shorter)

Panel Discussions:

Just right: 21 Too long: 1 Too short: 3

Did not attend: 6

(1 for an hour shorter)

Annual Updates (FSML, etc.):

Just right: 28 Too long: 1 Too short: 1

Did not attend: 2

Committee Meetings & Reports:

Just right: 23 Too long: 1 Too short: 4

Did not attend: 4

(1 for an hour longer, 1 for 10 min. longer)

OBFS Business Sessions:

Just right: 27 Too long: Too short:

Did not attend: 4

Informal "networking" time:

Just right: 26 Too long: Too short: 6

Did not attend: 1

(1 for 30 min. longer)

4) Did you find Committee Meetings well-organized and worth time?

- Most were well-organized. All were worth the time.
- I attended no formal committee meetings, but several ad hoc and table tent meetings that were certainly worth my time.
- Unable to attend outreach committee; not sure what other meetings I might have attended not indicated on the schedule.
- Enough to meet the need.
- Were there meetings of committees?
- Very well organized – very worth my time.
- I did not attend because this was concurrent with other sessions.
- Yes, and funny as well.
- It was a good idea NOT to have every committee reporting this year.

- All committees need to meet.
- Yes, they went well with fewer committee meetings.
- There should be meetings of all committees.
- Yes, the outreach /new member session was very good.
- We need a formal reporting period, even if committees do not meet. But I think they should meet so new people can participate.

5) Additional specific comments to help organize future meetings

- This year's concurrent sessions worked well.
- Put the board meeting after the field trip day – present structure provide a long window of down time.
- Move meeting date earlier in September if possible.
- Placement of posters was not effective for sharing info. One mixer could have been with poster presenters.
- Organize a poster session for all with posters addressing specific topics for all attendees.
- Have reports back to entire group at end of day with a 10-minute summary of concurrent sessions and break-out groups.
- I do not know what the previous format was like, but I felt the current format was very useful and productive.
- Mentoring of new attendees by 1-2 seasoned attendees.
- The opportunity for more time in roundtable discussions would likely benefit new field stations and/or new representatives.
- More time should be given to the station tour – this is really interesting and a fun component of the meeting.
- This was my first meeting and I was disappointed – I thought the program was very weak. The FSML sessions were the only ones that were of much use to me. The auction is a silly, juvenile event that lasts much too long. I'd suggest that you have a silent auction for the smaller, lower-demand items, and a shorter oral auction in the dining room, followed by more social time. Skip the amateurish presentations.
- Please, just a little more "down time".
- I like the idea of using the meetings to also collect some more quantitative data like surveys. Do a poster session with posters from stations on the theme topic.
- Try to separate date from NEON.
- This format is better than all committee meetings.
- Have the roster in the registration packet even if it is not complete.
- Questions posted for answers and table topics were great ideas. Would be more effective if Director could remind people of these at breaks for questions, and before meals for table topics. Suggestion for next year

include a selection of table topics people could check, and space for others. Then have these ready the first business day.

- Consider a "speed dating" session which would further facilitate networking.
- Post-meeting field trip.
- Clear plan on how OBFS will fund an executive director, as this seems critical to functioning and sustainability of OBFS. Perhaps an annual fee of \$500 per institution for foundation support.
- I like the tours a lot. Seeing new technology and how other facilities are managed. I like hearing about different kinds of grants that other people are getting.
- REQUIRE committees to meet.
- Have a session for regional stations to be able to do a roundtable/break-out session.
- Keep doing what you're doing.
- Great beer selection. Very important.

6) Services you would like to see OBFS provide to assist field stations

- Greater contact throughout the year on items important to the station as a whole.
- List serve.
- Membership services – OBFS dues, etc.. online.
- Small workshops at Stations that excel in specific areas; housing, research, sustainability, etc...
- Links to websites of field stations. Jobs and educational opportunities at field stations.
- I think many of these services will be addressed once the OBFS website is ironed out, i.e. the networking potential of the OBFS.
- How can we collaborate to make data management better at individual stations?
- More integrated proposals. More general information/promotion about role of field stations.
- Full or part-time representation in Washington.
- Training – like the informative grants
- Continue and expand CVD.
- Get website services sorted out, expand outreach tools & materials.
- Data management tools.
- Group grants for large-scale projects across stations.
- Need to get the list serve working.
- Regional meetings?
- Website is critical, and should have pdf of not only operational manual, but also strategic plans, master plans, facilities plan, business plan, and examples of successful grants if people are comfortable, etc...
- Common information on the web would be useful. e.g. research policies, waivers, animal care issues.
- Listing REU sites on the webpage would be good.
- Links to funding sources besides NSF.

- I like the idea of an Executive Director who can promote our “brand”.
- I have yet to use all your assets that are available.
- Hope the website gets fixed – that’s critical.
- “Branding” FS’s in science landscape?
- Operations manual and other document updates and maintenance
- IT and database support and cooperation.
- Online repository for reference/shared/sample documents such as station policies, liability release forms, etc...
- Data archiving.
- Fundraising workshops for station directors and their University Development offices.
- Assessment tools.
- Review of NSF grant applications prior to submittal.
- Regional meetings focusing on more local opportunities and problems.
- Anything that can foster and help member-to-member communications.
- Keep the operations manual on the website and update every 2-4 years if possible.
- Co-op data management and storage.
- Class listings & job listings
- Some kind of forum online or at a meeting, through which stations that are trying to build more robust online education programs can learn from the experiences of other stations.
- More opportunities to have focused discussions on a variety of relevant topics.

More information on Field Stations and attendees

- Have you previously attended OBFS Meetings? Yes – 23, No – 15
- Has your station been previously represented at OBFS Meetings? Yes – 31, No – 6, Maybe – 1
- Would you recommend sending future representatives? Yes – 37, Depends – 1
- Gender of respondent: Female – 13, Male 25
- Highest Degree: BS – 3, MS – 9, PhD – 24, MD – 1
- Job Title: Director – 16, Exec. Director – 3, AD – 5, Station or Operations Mgr/Coordinator – 5, Faculty – 2, Advisory Board/Committee Member – 2, Education Director – 1, Science Director – 1, Environmental Research Director – 1, Pres, Board of Directors – 1, Land Use Planner – 1

Field Station Status

- 28 operating as part of a college or university, 1 of these in conjunction with the federal government, and 2 as part of a consortium.
- 7 operating as not-for-profit, with 3 of these identifying as “stand-alone”, and 1 as public.

- 1 is operated by the Forest Service
- 1 is “hoping to be born”.

Field Station Programs

Almost all responses indicated that their stations combined education and research, many along with outreach, and some with management as well. Here is the breakdown with some additional programs.

Research - 34, Education – 29, Management – 9, Outreach – 13, Eco-Tourism – 3, Integrating K-12 – 6

Additional programs mentioned

- REU
- Wildlife conservation & rehab
- Restoration/Agro-ecology
- Regional conservation
- Government – connections with ministries of environment & education
- Field trips for students/classes from sponsoring schools
- Hosting Sierra Club, Boy Scouts
- Research Programs such as LTER, CZO, NOAA

Educational Use of Stations Increasing – 27, Stable – 9

Research Use of Stations Increasing – 24, Decreasing – 3, Stable – 8

“use of data increasing, but field work decreasing”

Funding for Stations Increasing – 11, Decreasing – 8, Stable – 17

“What funding?”, “stable, but some historical key sources are decreasing”, “in negotiations to sell conservation easement”, “Recent FSML grant has made a temporary injection of funding.”,

Primary challenges faced by organizations

- Birth
- Reduced state funding.
- Identifying (realizing & making happen) education outreach programming in the face of a new facility with no staff and no budget.
- Too many infrastructure issues. Not enough staff. Need outreach and education ideas and more people to run programs.
- Need housing and expansion.
- Funds for capital investment for facilities.
- No \$\$ ☹
- Infrastructure – space and repair needs.
- Attracting students and researchers.

- Lack of time to advance mission. Minimum release time given by administration.
- Building maintenance and meeting the demands of increased use, i.e. shortage of housing, lab space, meeting space, and eventually dining space.
- Personal growth.
- Stabilizing undergrad education enrollment. Attracting & supporting researchers.
- Developing new programs/courses. Development
- Data management
- Funding
- Generating long-term interest from new researchers. Attracting a more diverse student enrollment and increasing overall enrollment.
- Too few dedicated staff to promote growth.
- Budget cut-backs from our “hard” money source (i.e. University).
- Providing enough up-to-date equipment and facilities for research. Equipment maintenance
- Stable core funding to replace state funds that have been cut.
- Funding...It has restricted our outreach and extension capabilities.
- Funding. Also trying to increase research programs.
- Long-term integration and coordination among our three units, and more utilization of each.
- Funding for long-term growth. Developing long-term impacts.
- Market fluctuations. Development challenges. Communication with alumni & donors.
- Flat funding
- Long-term funding. Maintaining senior staff on site. Border politics makes it challenging for US K-12 groups to travel to Mexico.
- Planning for everything.
- Funding, dorm space, need for a dedicated position for a facilities manager or associate director.
- Clear direction
- Maintaining continuity of leadership as one generation approaches retirement.
- Building field education and research training programs to fully utilize the site and facilities.
- Finances (level of OTS). Database management (level of station and whole organization).
- Role within the college as a field station or as a center of distinction.
- Lack of staffing and funding...we have a total of 2 part-time people.
- Funding, funding, funding. Many infrastructure and programmatic needs that are not being met due to lack of funds.

Additional General Comments

- Making new stations welcome is crucial to continue growing our organization.
- I think OBFS needs a good webpage and a working listserv.
- OBFS needs a full- or part-time director.
- OBFS seems to have ample cash reserves. We should use some of our funds to hire a part-time executive director. This would improve member services and the program at the annual meetings.

Minutes of the 2010 Quarterly Board of Directors Conference Calls

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call March 11, 2010 – 1:00 pm (EST)

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

Meeting Action Items:

- create invitation letter for Canadian and Great Lakes stations in advance of 2010 Annual Meeting (Brian, Karie)
- push for lapsed member to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting (Art)
- find time for Nancy Lowe’s presentation at 2010 Annual Meeting (Bill, Karie)
- continue working on Policy and Procedures Manual (Eric, Governance Committee)
- send out reminder about Human Diversity award to OBFS membership (Stacy)
- continue to seek solutions for hosting IOBFS webpages (Deedra)
- complete transfer of webmaster duties (John, Gwen)
- discuss hand-off of webmaster duties with John (Gwen)
- find someone to serve as Chair of the Organizational Development Committee (Ian)
- report on meeting with AIBS regarding hosting an OBFS paid position (Eric, Ian)
- provide call-in information for next Board of Directors meeting (Ian)

Meeting Motions:

- MOTION made (and seconded) to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2009 Board of Directors meeting passed unanimously.
- MOTION made (and seconded) to establish an Elections Committee. After discussion, MOTION was withdrawn.

-- MOTION made (and seconded) to rename the Nominations Committee the Elections Committee and establish the Editor, Past President, and Member-at-Large that is not up for reelection as members of the committee, passed unanimously.

A) Approval of minutes from the December 9, 2009 Board of Directors conference call.

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. MOTION to accept the minutes as submitted was seconded and passed unanimously.

B) Financial Items:

1) OBFS Treasurer Summary – Philippe

Most renewals have come in and we are pretty close to projections. Philippe moved travel expenses for Peter Connors to the correct category. Philippe will maintain the current budget format and split the quarters up with Excel tabs. Spending is below projected and we are in decent shape financially. Philippe did the OBFS taxes this year and that saved some money. Philippe also filed CA taxes and was late. The penalty was only \$15.

Eric asked about using auction funds to pay Peter. Peter's costs are now part of auction expenses on the budget. There are no other auction costs. The rest of the proceeds will go into the restricted fund. Philippe will note that on the budget just to be clear.

Philippe is investing monthly (2 checks of \$250 each) into the OBFS investments. We have been behind in investments and we are trying to catch up.

Philippe is hoping to submit quarterly reports within 72 hours of the end of each quarter.

2) Annual / Lapsed Member Follow-up – Art, Sarah, Greg

Art reported on his conversations with lapsed members. Some were having trouble accessing the site, problems with renewing, etc. Art suggested that this year's meeting is in a good location to push to encourage lapsed members to attend. Art will lead the effort to contact these former members and encourage attendance at the UMBS meeting. Brian also mentioned trying to reach out to Canadian members with an invitation letter from OBFS. Kari has already put together a list of Canadian stations and stations in the Great Lakes region.

C) Business Items

OBFS Annual Election – David, Greg, John

David reported that SurveyMonkey worked very well and was not a problem. The only issue was getting the appropriate list for distributing the ballot. Philippe pointed out that for some stations there are multiple contacts and it is difficult to sort out who the main contact should be. This is a database issue and has no clear solution at the moment. Overall, however, the online balloting worked quite well. There were 47 total votes from ~135 valid email addresses. Election results were as follows: President – Ian Billick, Secretary – Greg Smith, Member-at-Large – Karie Slavik.

D) Committee Reports:

1) Annual Meeting – Bill, Karie

Theme: Advanced Sensor Networks for Field Stations. There is a draft agenda. Bill asked for input.

When should BOD meet? Evening meetings are difficult but we should still have a meeting early and late in the meeting weekend. Bill will work to shift the time of the first BOD meeting to late afternoon instead of evening. Karie will check to see what flights will be available for early arrival at Pellston International or Travers City. These are local airports. Flying into the larger airports will require longer travel time.

We are trying to reduce committee reports to add time for more useful sessions for all members. One new session will be a new members round table. Bill asked for 2-3 volunteers to help run the session. Sarah and Eric volunteered to help with this session. Philippe suggested that it is still important to find time for committees to meet to keep things moving outside of the Annual Meeting. Karie pointed out that we do still have committee time, it is just reduced from previous years.

Nancy Lowe offered to do a session on her online education website. Bill asked if we thought this would be a useful session. Eric was in full support of this idea and thought we should take advantage of this opportunity. Brian pointed out that the website is designed to introduce students to keys and identification tools. Ian suggested that our members are interested in a wide array of talks. He suggested Nancy's presentation as a concurrent session with one of the sensor sessions. Some members may be less interested in sensor arrays. Karie and Bill will look for time for Nancy's presentation.

Art asked about a facilities and research tour. Karie has a tour scheduled and will cover all of the UMBS big research projects. Brian asked about webcasting. Karie said that the UM campus and the UMBS IT staff will take care of that.

Brian reminded the Board that the 2011 Annual Meeting will be held at Bodega Bay in CA.

2) Governance – Eric

Eric is working to develop a Board liability form and a conflict-of-interest form. The Governance Committee is also working to produce a policies and procedures manual. The Committee will have a conference call in April and will report back to the Board.

David pointed out that our bylaws state, "Section 11. Editor. The editor shall be responsible for editing and publishing the OBFS Newsletter, Annual Report, and other organizational publications as directed by the Board of Directors. The editor also shall be responsible for generating and disseminating information and ballots for the election of officers and other member votes." David suggested the following change, "All ballots shall be electronic (e.g. SurveyMonkey) and sent to all member stations in good standing. Voting shall be open for at least one month. The editor shall report the results of ballots to the president who in turn shall report the results to the organization." This is what we did this time, and it gets away from having the secretary report the ballot when that position is up for election.

David pointed out that we do not have an elections committee and suggested a way to do one. He suggested the newsletter editor, President, and Past President as possible members because they would not be up for election. Eric said he did not think this was a by-laws issue MOTION to create committee (seconded) and subsequently withdrawn. There was discussion about which members should be serving on the committee. Brian suggested the Nominations Committee be changed to Election Committee to more accurately reflect the role of that committee. The Board suggested the members now include the Editor, Past President, and Member-at-Large that is not up for election. None of these people would be seeking election while working on the ballot. MOTION to rename Nominations Committee to Elections Committee and appoint a committee including the Editor and Past President to oversee nominations and elections.

3) Common Interests – Art

Human Diversity – Stacy

The nomination form is online and two applications have been received. Philippe asked about a resubmittal and Stacy said that resubmissions would be encouraged. Brian asked if Stacy could send out another email reminder to see if we could get a few more applicants.

International – Art (for Deedra)

Deedra has been in discussion with Rick Wyman about moving the IOBFS website (<http://obfs.org/iobfs/>) under the RCN umbrella with which Deedra is involved (Appendix A). Art suggested finding an easy way to transfer the pages once the RCN wraps. We will continue this discussion as it develops.

Member Support / Small Field Stations – Sarah

Sarah distributed a member survey that the Member Support committee would like to send out to OBFS members via SurveyMonkey (Appendix B). Brian reminded the Board that OBFS has paid for a full SurveyMonkey account so we should use it as necessary. The proposed Nantucket meeting has been delayed due to budgetary constraints.

4) Outreach -- Philippe

Brian opened a discussion about website issues. This has been probably the most frustrating issue in OBFS over the past couple of years and we need solutions. The structure is confusing and Brian asked for feedback on how we can clarify this. Brian suggested we have one contact person for all web/database needs. It would then be up to that person to follow-up on and/or bring information to the Board for discussion. Philippe seconded Brian's frustrations. Philippe estimated that 70% of his and Carolyn's Treasurer time has been spent on database issues. Jan suggested a subcommittee to discuss these issues and bring a solution back to the Board. Brian pointed out that this might take a few weeks since several of the particulars are unavailable. Gwenn suggested that the scripting work required to make our database functional is very time intensive and may require us to hire out services for this. John is hoping to be finished with his work for OBFS by April 1. There was concern at how easily the databasing tasks could be handed off to someone else. Gwenn pointed out that a lot of the modules are pre-existing but there is still some back-end stuff that are bigger issues. Brian suggested that Gwenn contact John to figure out what some of the issues will be at hand-off and report back to Brian as to possible subcommittee members (Philippe, Gwenn, Faerthen, Sarah, and Brian or Ian).

Philippe left the call at 2:21 pm EST

5) Organizational Development – Ian

Ian asked how we decide who will take over the Organizational Development Committee? Brian said that Ian could continue to serve in this role as President but suggested Ian might just find someone to take his place on the committee. Ian will find someone.

Ian and Eric will meet with AIBS next week to continue discussions of a part-time or full-time OBFS employee. They

will report back to the Board and we can discuss how financing this position might work.

Eric thanked Brian for the fantastic work he has done during his two years as President! The Board agreed.

E) Next Board of Directors Meetings

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held via conference call on Thursday, 17 June 2010, time 1:00 PM (EST). Ian will follow-up with call-in information.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm EST
Respectfully submitted,
Greg Smith

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call June 17, 2010 – 1:00 pm (EST)

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

Meeting Action Items:

- confirm how many paid members we currently have (Philippe)
- convene working group to discuss website issues (Ian)
- work on possible solutions to database issues before Annual Meeting (Philippe)
- correct online meeting registration to indicate that flight information is not required to complete registration (Karie)
- contact Bodega Bay to be sure they will have a rep. at the Annual Meeting (Philippe)
- discuss listserve issues with Faerthen (Gwen)
- confirm the participation of a Smithsonian rep. at the Annual Meeting (Deedra)
- send planning grant ideas to Ian and cc:Brian (All)
- send suggestions for SurveyMonkey draft questions to Sarah (All)
- draft the BOD Annual Meeting agenda (Ian)

Meeting Motions:

- MOTION made (and seconded) to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2010 Board of Directors meeting passed unanimously.

1.) Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2010 Conference Call (Ian)

Discussion of minutes. No corrections. MOTION made (and seconded) to accept minutes passed unanimously.

2.) Review of Financials (Philippe)

Philippe provided a financial report for Q3. The budget can be viewed at <http://sites.google.com/site/biofieldstations/agenda>. Brian asked how many paid members we currently have. Are our attempts to contact stations paying off? Philippe will update us. Ian asked if it would be possible to also include quarterly membership reports with the budget reports. David suggested it could be included under the membership dues section of the budget. Ian also asked for year-to-year comparisons.

Philippe mentioned that California does not recognize federal 501(c)(3) status. He is currently working on the application.

3.) Update on Webpage (Gwen)

Philippe reported that the final payment to John Kim has been made for his contract work. The webpage continues to be a headache. People that pay by PayPal have no field station identifier. When they are indicated as "Paid," the information is not making it into the database. Philippe has a list of ~130 paid stations but money has been collected by ~170 stations. Philippe and Carolyn are working through the database to correctly associate stations with payment. Brian mentioned several challenges related to computer needs, especially for a volunteer group. Brian suggested one point person for computer issues that either solves the problem directly or finds someone that can fix it. Ian recommended a working group at the OBFS meeting to work on some solutions.

Philippe has thought about an offline database, not linked to the online database. There are Field Stations feeling improperly served and we do not want to alienate them and have them leave OBFS. Whatever we decided, implementation should happen rapidly. Our member numbers are probably manageable with a simpler database.

Philippe will work on solutions before the Annual Meeting. As we get closer to the meeting, we will decide if we need meeting time in Michigan. Philippe and Gwen will discuss specifics of the webpage and database. Ian said that the solution(s) should be as simple as possible and reflect the fact that we are a volunteer organization. A management plan could help, with a list of functionalities and who will be responsible for them.

4.) Update on OBFS Annual Meeting (Bill, Karie)

The Board meeting has been pushed back to 6 pm to allow time for folks to arrive. Nancy Lowe has been given time on the agenda: 20 minutes with everyone, then a longer workshop session. The website, including online registration, is up-and-running. About 14 people have registered so far and

everything has been working. Philippe mentioned that it should be clear that flight info. is not required to complete the registration. Karie will work on that.

Bill mentioned that webcasting will be available. There is nothing on the website currently that announces webcasting, but it will be advertised ~3 weeks before the meeting. Bill will announce that to the email list. Bill asked for help on a session on "Measuring Field Station Success." Ian suggested that this be more of a conceptual discussion on what defines success. This will help NSF as they continue to show progress in FSML and REU programs. The discussion could focus on, "What does success look like?" OBFS might have a slightly different focus than individual stations.

Bill asked if anyone had heard from Bodega Bay? They should be present and give a presentation at the Michigan meeting. Philippe will contact them to make sure they are present.

Karie asked if the meeting announcement had reached everyone? Several on the call said no. Bill will send an additional announcement. There could be some issues with the distribution list. Greg sent a test message during the meeting. That message did not arrive. Gwen will contact Faerthen to see if they can troubleshoot. In the meantime, we will use an "old school" approach and manually create an email list from current station email addresses on file. Ian will put the list together from a file Philippe will send him.

Karie has been lining up speakers for the advanced sensor networks session. Sarah mentioned that she is double-booked during the meeting. She asked about a work-around, using a round-table format. The Board agreed and the agenda will reflect that.

Deedra has invited a Smithsonian colleague to attend the meeting. It looks like he will attend and asked about giving a talk. Deedra asked if there was space on the agenda for him to talk about Smithsonian programs. Bill suggested he could speak at the new stations session, but time is limited there. Karie said there could be room for other presenters in the sensors session. Ian suggested another concurrent session to increase the offerings for the diverse interests of our members. Deedra will ask how he is interested in participating. Deedra will coordinate with Bill and Karie.

** Brian left the call at 1:38 pm (EST). **

5.) Discussion of Recruitment to OBFS Meeting (Ian via info. provided by Art)

From Art: Philippe has sent me an updated listing of paid-up and unpaid members, and that has been very useful in focusing on lapsed memberships. There are lots of reasons offered so

far but the most common is that to the Director's knowledge they have not received an invoice. When asked if they could check with their admin asst or accounting shop to see if they might have seen one, most have done so and allegedly report no one has rec'd the bill. Some admitted they might delete an email without looking, but even those thought they simply hadn't seen anything from OBFS which struck them as strange. Might be worthwhile to spend some time checking names/addresses. I'm now starting to ask for contact info when told they've not seen anything and will forward that info to Philippe.

Many of those contacted expressed interest in rejoining OBFS (if they hadn't already) and attending the 2010 meeting, but I heard a LOT of complaints about funding/budgets and having a hard time rationalizing a 2nd or 3rd professional meeting a year under current funding. A few also said they had experienced problems getting to an agenda and registration form via the OBFS web page, that they had rec'd messages that the UMBS site could not be accessed. One told me they'd gone directly to the UMBS web site via Google and that worked OK.

6.) Discussion of FSML Planning Grant for OBFS (Brian, Ian)

Ian said that Peter McCartney at NSF is wanting OBFS to help them justify the FSML program by showing the impact of field stations. Peter would like to see OBFS involved in a strategic planning session, perhaps with AIBS in-the-loop. This would be a series of workshops that would result in at least a white paper, perhaps a publication, to promote the needs of science and how field stations can help fill some needs. The request will likely be < \$100,000. The proposal will be submitted before the Michigan meeting. Philippe suggested a NEON representative be involved. It might be worth soliciting high profile researchers that are not associated with field stations. If you have ideas of workshop participants, let Ian know and cc: Brian.

7.) Update on Discussions with AIBS (Ian)

Eric and Ian met in D.C. with AIBS. They talked about what OBFS is trying to do, and discussed the staff position. AIBS is brainstorming possible roles for them in helping to position OBFS.

8.) Governance Committee Report (Ian)

Work continues on the OBFS Policies and Procedures Manual.

9.) Development Committee report (Ian)

Ian has discussed with Philippe on how to move development forward. Dan Dawson is willing to participated if there is a clear idea of how OBFS wants to move forward. Several ideas

have come forward. For example, a coast-to-coast field station “safari.” Donors could see what field stations do and why they are important. But the big question remains, “What do we want to raise money for?” The staff position is one possibility. Ian also mentioned an awareness event centered around the Bodega Bay meeting. Ian suggested making the role of field stations in research and education very clear and developing an action plan that move these goals forward. Sarah suggested outreach to the public...what is our public face?

10.) Additional Items

Sarah asked for suggestions on the SurveyMonkey draft that will be going out soon. She would like more specific questions that get at member needs, especially as it relates to the annual meeting. The survey is located on the meeting minutes from March 11, 2010.

A decision concerning an additional meeting before the Annual Meeting will be decided later. This will hinge on discussions between Philippe, Faerthen, and Gwen concerning the webpage and database. Ian will begin shaping the agenda for the Annual Meeting in August. Ian will decide if there is a need for a conference call.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm EST.
Respectfully submitted,
Greg Smith

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call December 6, 2010 – 3:00 pm (EST)

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

Meeting Action Items:

- look at GoogleDocs (All)
- provide feedback on website (All)
- coordinate with NEON for meeting dates (Art)
- finalize theme for the 2011 meeting (Ian)
- push for proposals for possible 2012 meeting locations (Bill)
- send out quarterly budget (Philippe)

Motions:

- MOTION made (and seconded) to approve the amended minutes from the 2010 Annual Meeting passed unanimously.

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

Eric corrected the bottom of the minutes for session 2 of BOD meeting: it should be Operations Manual, not Policy Manual.

Sarah was present at second meeting. Minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

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

The next BOD conference call will be March 7, 2011, 3 pm (EST)

3.) Budget Items (Philippe)

Philippe will send out the quarterly budget soon. There was a discrepancy that caused a delay. We will be slightly over the \$5,000 budgeted for the website upgrades and database cleaning. Discover Life will be given \$1,000 for cleaning the database and this was not budgeted. Assuming that memberships stay approximately the same as last year, we should be on budget for 2011.

4.) Website (Gwen)

Gwen reported that the website upgrades are moving along well. She was able to make an online donation and was given an invoice as well as an email to Philippe to report the donation. She is hoping that once our credit is checked, the PayPal connection should be enabled. All of the remaining upgrades are connected to the financial modules and so must wait until PayPal is ready. Philippe suggested that the PayPal fees are a real unknown. The PayPal charges are high but he chose an option that has the fewest contingencies.

Gwen has uploaded some documents to the OBFS GoogleSite. These are documents that should be reviewed. We need to establish which documents should be BOD/membership only or if they should be available to everyone. It might be best to default all of those documents to member-only. There is also a Picasa site with Annual Meeting photos.

Gwen would also like feedback on the design of the new website. We need to do this all at once which will be included in the price of the upgrades. She would prefer to have comments by the end of the week (Dec. 10). The map is offline at the moment, on purpose. Once Gwen gets the updated database, the new map will be recreated and hosted by DiscoverLife. Eric asked if there would be recurring costs to DiscoverLife. Philippe and Gwen said no. Beyond the up-front \$1,000, they will host for free.

Log-ins to the website will now be tied to the station, not a person. People move but the station does not. The station is the “parent” of all people associated with those stations.

5.) Annual Meeting Exit Survey (Karie)

Karie reviewed the exit surveys from the Annual Meeting. Forty-on surveys were returned. Overall, people liked the

meeting and thought it was productive. People like concurrent sessions and all sessions were well received. Not everyone enjoyed the “sensor network” topic. Ian’s presentation was very well received. Reviews on committee meetings were mixed and people liked the topics tables in the dining hall. Karie suggested for next year: a better poster venue and a dedicated poster session; more time with station tours; date conflicts with other common meetings; put Board meeting after the field trip instead of the day before the meeting. There were some suggestions of topics for future meetings: fundraising and development, data management, field station assessment, and outreach. Eric suggested keeping some consistency over the years in the Exit Survey so that we can track from year-to-year. Philippe suggested making the survey available online so that participants could respond after they were home. This might also allow us to figure out how many people were watching online.

Bill mentioned that the webcast worked well and his staff at Blackrock watched it. The sound was dramatically improved this year. Bill also asked if the UM tech guy could advise for next year. Karie suggested that that would be possible but his services were not free.

Art suggested that NEON might be holding their meeting one week later over the next couple of years. That would avoid conflicts with our Annual Meeting. Ian wasn’t sure about that. Art will coordinate with NEON to figure this out.

Brian suggested that mailings to regional stations that may or may not be current members worked well this year and should continue. The Board agreed. This method seemed to bring in many new stations which was considered a positive.

6.) 2011 Annual Meeting and Development Event (Ian)

A theme of, “Landscape Management,” has emerged for next year’s meeting. Art and Philippe suggested focusing on things like connectivity, climate change, land trusts, etc. “Facilitating Research and Education in a Changing Landscape” was suggested as a nice way to encapsulate this theme. Ian will send out an email with that theme idea and the Board can work on finalizing it.

Ian reminded the Board that a new Vice-President will be elected next year but we need to be working now on the meeting. Bill will continue to carry the torch until the elections and a new VP is in place. David said we will know the results by Jan. 1. Ian asked if Karie and Sarah would be willing to join a conference call with Bodega Bay to begin planning for the meeting. Philippe offered to help as well, given his contacts in the area.

Philippe mentioned that the development event planning is underway. Philippe plans to have the event at Jasper Ridge which will alleviate parking and logistical problems. Sarah has booked Ellen McIlwaine. She will provide transportation and lodging plus \$1,000 gig fee. Any funds that OBFS cannot pay, Sarah will cover. Sunday evening at the end of the meeting seemed to be the best date for the event (September 25, 2011). Ian suggested also adding a Jasper Ridge tour while we were there. Ian, Sarah, and Philippe will continue to talk about plans. The intent of this event will be to provide networking opportunities. This will also provide a model for OBFS members that would like to produce their own event as well as identify people that might be interested in OBFS stations. This might also lead into a “Field Station Safari” for interested parties. Ian suggested that a break-out session at the 2012 meeting could be focused on providing information about the event and how individual stations could have their own event.

7.) 2012 Annual Meeting Update (Bill)

Konza Prairie offered to host the 2012 meeting but had some constraints so this was not considered a viable response. The Southwest Research Station is interested and if upgrades to their housing comes through, they will submit a proposal. Cedar Point, Nebraska is also interested and will submit a proposal for 2012. They have some limitations space-wise and could not accommodate over 100 people. Pymatuning also expressed some interest but has not submitted a proposal. Sevellita is another possibility that we should pursue. Ian suggested that once the proposals were in-hand, we would be better able to evaluate the possibilities. Bill will push to get the proposals soon and will circulate them as he gets them.

** Eric left the call at 4:10 pm (EST)

8.) Election Update (David)

David reported that the OBFS election began Thursday night and is underway. The SurveyMonkey site will be available until December 24. We have 149 potential voters. Tom Risch was dropped from the ballot because he never returned his biographical information for the newsletter. As soon as the election closes, David will confer with Brian and Ian to confirm the results.

David will have the Annual Report ready in early January. David reported that he is getting less and less information for the Newsletter. Gwen mentioned that the new website will have a news blog. That may allow for real-time posting of station news. We might kill the print newsletter and do it electronically. David will work with Glenn to make the transition to an electronic newsletter or news blog.

9.) ESA Meeting on Sustainability of Bioinfrastructure (Ian)

Ian attended a meeting in D.C. focusing on data management of groups. NSF is foreseeing a brutal budget process over the next several years and needs input on sustaining projects. There will be a final workshop report. Ian will distribute that as he gets it. Peter McCartney is looking for better ways to review FSML proposals. There are probably no imminent changes, but over time there may be some changes. Art encouraged participation by OBFS. We need, and should want, to have input.

** Bill left the call at 4:20 pm (EST)

10.) Executive Council Appointment of Committee Chairs (Ian)

The Executive Committee stayed on the call and discussed the appointment of committee chairs. MOTION made and seconded for committee chairs was approved unanimously. The following chairs were appointed by the Executive Committee.

Governance – Eric
Member Support – Sarah
International – Deedra
Outreach – Philippe
Diversity – Stacy
Organizational Support – Ian

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm (EST).
Respectfully submitted,
Greg Smith



Bodega Marine Laboratory 2011

SEE YOU THERE