



Founded 1968

OBFS

Annual Report

2014-2015

www.obfs.org

OBFS GOVERNANCE

Email address available on the OBFS website

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

President	Sarah Oktay	2014-2016
Past President	Bill Schuster	2014-2016
Vice President	Damon Gannon	2015-2017
Secretary	Stacy McNulty	2014-2016
Treasurer	Philippe Cohen	2015-2017
At-Large (1)	Reid Bertone-Johnson	2015-2017
At-Large (2)	Chris Lorentz*	2015-2016
At-Large (Early Career)	Pat Oelschlager	2015-2017

**Serving as interim, position will be up for election in 2015*

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

Editor	David White	2014-2016
Network Coordinator	Gwen Pearson	2015-2017

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

Human Diversity	Damon Gannon	2015
International	Carlos de la Rosa	2015
Governance	Eric Nagy	2015
- Finance Subcommittee	Peter Connors	n.a.
Org Development	Brian Kloeppel	2015
Outreach	Chris Lorentz	2015
Historian	Mary Hufty	2015

President's Committees (appointed by the President)

Annual Meeting	Damon Gannon	2015
Nominating	Bill Schuster	2015

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

The *OBFS Annual Report* contains results of elections, minutes of the annual meeting, list of annual meeting attendees, meeting exit survey, quarterly meeting minutes, budgets, and other business of the organization. This report covers OBFS activities for the period of 8/1/2014 through 7/31/2015.

Photographs of Woods Hole meeting by Philippe Cohen

2014 Election for Board of Directors Positions

Candidate Profiles	2
Election results	3
Voting in previous elections	4

OBFS Report from the President

Mary Hufty Local Hero Award

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

2014 Auction Results

Pictures from the Auction

OBFS Budget Summary

Human Diversity Award

Results of 2014 Meeting Survey

Meeting Attendees

Minutes of OBFS Board Conference Call Meetings

October 27, 2014	27
December 12, 2014	30
March 20, 2015	33
June 12, 2015	36
August 10, 2015	40

2015 Annual Meeting

*Supporting environmental
research, education and public
understanding*

CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR 2014 OBFS ELECTIONS.

The election was held through SurveyMonkey and open to all member stations in good standing.

Vice President (vote for one) Damon Gannon



I have worked nearly my entire career at field stations and marine laboratories; from large institutions to remote outposts including Manomet Bird Observatory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Grand Manan Whale &

Seabird Research Station, Duke University Marine Laboratory, and Mote Marine Laboratory. Since 2008, I have been the director of the Bowdoin Scientific Station (BSS) in New Brunswick, Canada. BSS is a small station on a remote group of islands in the lower Bay of Fundy, roughly half-way between the coast of Maine and the southern tip of Nova Scotia. BSS is operated by Bowdoin College and has been a member of OBFS since the early 1990s. OBFS has been a tremendously helpful resource to me as I have been “learning the ropes” of managing a field station. I was elected to the OBFS board of directors as member at-large last year. When the previous vice president had to step down because of other time commitments, my fellow board members selected me to fill the vacancy. Although I am an incumbent candidate, I have only been on the job since late September. As vice president in 2015, I will work with the host institution (Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory) and conference committee to put on an annual meeting that meets the diverse needs of our membership. I will also try to foster research and teaching collaborations among our member stations, help new members take advantage of all that OBFS has to offer, and ensure the continued vitality of the organization. As the director of an island-based field station and a licensed boat captain, I also have a special interest in helping our member stations develop safe practices for small vessel operations.

Treasurer (vote for one) Philippe Cohen



I think we can all agree, that is the face of an honest man. But there are a couple of other considerations to keep in mind before casting your vote for me. As treasurer and member of the Board, I will be

unavailable to share that cold beer on some evening get-togethers at the annual meeting. So you must decide, do you prefer having me there to pontificate and exercise my rapier wit, or continue providing me with access to the organization’s bank account? Finally, ask yourself, would electing Philippe to continue as treasurer meet the high fashion standards of the organization? If you find the prospect of annual meeting evening soirees sans my presence while seeing the inherent trust in my face, then by all means, vote for me. I also encourage any Tea Party candidates that are OBFS members and who aren’t interested in being elected to congress, to feel free to run against me. Actually, I encourage any of you to run against me. Bad habits die hard and only you have the power to stop me.

Julia Pierson



You might not remember me because my previous job didn’t last as long as I had hoped, but you know how that goes. As Treasurer I will meet even a higher fashion standard for the organization. Further I know how

to deal with financial crimes, covering up bad debit, and cooking the books. It will be my mission to prevent and investigate all of this including the major coercion I know that is occurring at the OBFS auction. And, more than that, I also will be able to provide protection, more or less, ensuring the safety of current and former OBFS leaders and their stations, such as the President, Past Presidents, Vice Presidents, Editors, visiting directors at OBFS meetings, and foreign station dignitaries. Let’s see the other candidate try to do that! Give me the power to stop him. I am not a Tea Party candidate but can be one if you want me to be.

Member-at-Large 1 (vote for one)

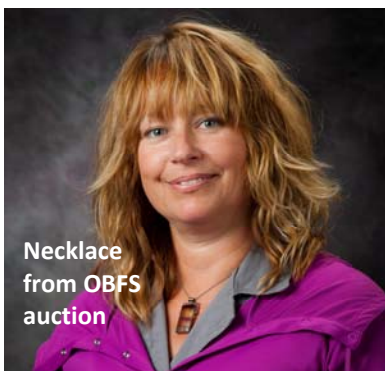
Michael Lannoo



Currently I am a Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Indiana University School of Medicine and have an adjunct appointment as Associate Director of Academics and

Research at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. I've been on the faculty at Lakeside since 1988; before that I spent two summers there as an undergraduate student, and two years after doing research for my M.S. In addition, I've spent a summer at MBL ('83, student), a winter at Scripps ('87-'88, researcher), and an austral summer at McMurdo ('97-'98, researcher). During October '14 I will be the Sitka Sound Science Center's "Scientist in Residence." I've published > 100 peer-reviewed papers and 7 books, including "The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory: A Century of Discovering the Nature of Nature" (U. Iowa Press) and "Leopold's Shack and Ricketts's Lab" (U. California Press). In 2001, I was awarded the Parker/Gentry Award for Excellence and Innovation in Conservation Biology by the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. I consider just about everything I've done professionally to have stemmed from my first summer at Lakeside Lab, back in '77, and plan on spending a portion of what's left of my career ensuring that future students have similar opportunities.

Sam Wisely



I received my Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming in 2001. After a post-doc in the Genetics Program at the Smithsonian Institution, I began a tenure track position at Kansas State University. I was an eager participant at Konza Prairie Biological Station. In addition to

mentoring graduate and undergraduate research projects on the Station, I volunteered my time on the fire crew and bison round up crew. I have participated in outreach activities and NEON planning meetings. Upon moving to the University of Florida in 2012, I became an Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and the Associate Director for Research and Education at Ordway-Swisher Biological Station

where I help administer user permits, recruits station users, and develops educational programming.

Reid Bertone-Johnson



I manage the Smith College Ada & Archibald MacLeish Field Station in Whately, Massachusetts. My background and expertise include geology, environmental studies, K-12 education, and landscape architecture. I work with my colleagues in

the Center for the Environment to encourage broad use of the 240-acre property by the entire Smith College liberal arts community. In addition to supporting research programs by Smith faculty, staff, and students and research of near-by Universities and colleges, I work to encourage use of the field station by visual artists, designers, writers, and various performing artists. I will bring a small-station perspective with and emphasis on outreach and engagement to the board. I also am interested in teasing out ways to integrate standard metrics with anecdotal and narrative-based evaluation of field station value and efficacy. I am fairly new to OBFS and manage a station that came on-line 6 years ago. I enjoys engaging with others around issues of developing sustainable models for field stations, encouraging undergraduate independent research, arts and science connections, sustainable food, and kite aerial photography (to name a few). I will enjoy helping others benefit as much as I have from membership in and involvement with OBFS.

Results of 2014 Elections

Vice President – Damon Gannon

Treasurer – Philippe Cohen

Member at Large (1) – Reid Bertone-Johnson

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Polls opened Monday 11/24/2014; closed Thursday 12/18/2014 (5:00 central time). Ballot sent to 210 member stations. 1 email bounced, 3 had opted out of Survey Monkey. Not every voter voted in all three contests. There were no write-in votes cast.

Previous elections (there are no data available for total number of ballots cast prior to 2001)

Year	No of voters
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2014	99
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2013	83
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2012	83
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2011	77
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2010	66
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2009	47	Electronic ballots begin
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2008	55	Paper ballots end
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2007	67
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2006	66
------	----

2005	52
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2004	41
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2003	54
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2002	38
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2001	59
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**Record number
of ballots cast
in 2014
election**

OBFS REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been an eventful and productive year since our 2014 annual meeting held jointly with the National Association of Marine Labs at the Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole MA. The meeting was a big success generating many positive comments from attendees who enjoyed the variety of topics and opportunities for members of both organizations to interact.

Congressman Bill Keating (U.S. Representative for the Cape and the Islands) addressed our assemblage remarking on the exponential advances in information technology that allow scientists to transmit data from field stations “instantly, accurately, and efficiently.” He also commended our two groups for collaborating. “Working jointly, with the information you gather, creates enormous opportunities” in the private sector as well as in environmental science”, Keating said.

The 2014 Annual Meeting identified the urgent need to communicate and engage a broader audience and share the ideas put forth in the National Academy of Sciences

- Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (NAS FSML) report *Enhancing the Value and Sustainability of Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in the 21st Century*. This report demonstrates the remarkable value of field stations to science and society, and provides recommendations to guide their future sustainability. That report grew out of a National Science Foundation funded workshop that brought together many field station and marine lab users, directors, and stakeholders to evaluate where these labs and field stations are in relationship to science, education, and federal and local policy constituents and what needed to happen to make them more relevant and responsive when regional and global questions require greater collaborations and communication.

An action item of the 2014 meeting was to create a brochure using infographics to describe exactly how we intertwine across the nation. Several OBFS members collaborated with NAML members to create a brochure

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

“From Science to Solution: Advancing the Role of Field Stations” which was created by Jeff Brown, Faerthen Felix, David White, Kathleen Wong, Ivar Babb and Rob Gropp of AIBS with editing and design by Jane Hawkey of the Integration and Application Network of the UM Center for Environmental Science. Within three months of the annual meeting the brochure was printed and distribution was initiated to field stations and marine labs.

The intrinsic value of an OBFS membership along with our growing presence in Washington has attracted new field stations. According to Treasurer Philippe Cohen, memberships have grown to 231 member stations and 27 individuals. The number of international members is also higher than it has ever been.

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

AIBS also provided critical support for the 2015 Congressional Visits Day for OBFS volunteers which was organized this year by Chair of Member Support, Chris Lorentz. This year the event was held May 13-14th and attendees included Ed Boyer, Brian Kloeppel, Jeff Clary, and Don Natvig. Each year this event plants the seeds of our value to the nation into the heads and hearts of congressional staff visited. Our new brochure and copies of the NAS/NRC report were also distributed.

In mid July, Tom Arsuffi, Jeff Brown, Faerthen Felix, and I participated in a new Congressional Briefing Day organized with the help of the American Institute of Biological Sciences(AIBS). OBFS, in partnership with AIBS, held the Congressional Briefing in order to communicate the potential of our national assets and to demonstrate the impact that strategic federal partnerships have in leveraging new research and funding opportunities. Our goal is to establish a working group/process to streamline the implementation of long-term collaborations with Federal Agencies and FSML's. Specifically OBFS would like to encourage and grow our collaborations across multiple platforms, helping to insure that our physical infrastructure,

educators, students, and scientists are working on common goals with expediency and purpose.

We held our third annual development event on August 3rd on Nantucket. Brian Kloeppel, Hilary Swain, Paul Foster, and Sarah Oktay represented our member stations at the Nantucket Hotel in a beautiful setting in front of a crowd of about 60-65 attendees. The guest speaker was the renowned science writer and social media presence Andy Revkin who was interviewed by Wavemaker creator and former CNN producer Michael Schulder. The event cost approximately \$20,000 and brought in about \$17,000. Many attendees bought field station auction trips generously provided by around a dozen field stations. The field station visits will continue to educate the public and spread the word about the beauty and scientific vitality of our member stations.

Last but not least, OBFS participated in the 100th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Baltimore, Maryland from August 9-14, 2015. Gene Rhodes, President of the Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC), and Paul Foster with OBFS shared a table and distributed materials including the NAS report tri-fold, the NAS Report in Brief, and OBFS brochures.

In just a few weeks we will be at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory for our 2015 annual meeting. We will be presenting the “Friend of OBFS” and “Local Hero” awards for the first time. In addition we will have a Skype presentation by actor, director and environmental activist Mark Ruffalo. The conclusion of 2015 and 2016 promises to be exciting years for OBFS.

Many initiatives started in the in the past 18 months are gaining significant momentum and include a Global Mountain Observatory Network launched by Jeffrey Brown and others, to the analytical and comprehensive assessment of our educational programs overseen by Jan Hodder, to the creation of a Arts at Field Station blog and committee by Faerthen Felix (<http://fsml-art.blogspot.com/>). These are evolving into larger efforts to connect field stations in shared objectives that strengthen our programs, teaching, outreach, and science. I hope you take advantage of these and other activities at the 2015 annual meeting.

Sincerely
Sarah Oktay, OBFS President 2014-2016

MARY HUFTY LOCAL HERO AWARD



Each year at its annual conference, the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) will recognize an individual who exemplifies the ideals of the organization and supports research, education, and outreach through personal and/or professional actions, particularly in the areas of biology, conservation, and/or ecology. The recipient of the award will be selected each year by the conference planning committee, with Board approval, and with the greatest input coming from the conference host, as the awardee is expected to be a member of the host institution's local community. The recipient will receive a plaque to be presented during the annual conference.

The 2015 Nominee is **John Norton** by the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab. The award will be presented at the 2016 meeting.

It is perfectly apropos that the *Local Hero Award* given by the Organization of Biological Field Stations OBFS is named in honor of Mary Hufty. The namesake movie *Local Hero* is one that she and all of us relate to—the sense of place, a slower-pace of life, eccentric residents,

quaint atmosphere, scenery that takes your breath away, and conflicts that may spell the end of tranquility.

Mary Page Hufty, niece of biological explorer Richard Archbold, the founder of Archbold Biological Station in Florida, has been an active member and stalwart supporter of OBFS since 1995, and our historian for many years. As a graduate of Stanford and a family physician in Palo Alto, California since the 1970s, her successful career has been in family medicine, but her natural history and field station roots run deep. Mary epitomizes her family's tradition of devoted support for biological research, education, and conservation, serving continuously on Archbold's Board of Trustees since 1976 and as Chairman of the Board since 2010. Neighbor to Stanford University Jasper Ridge Biological Station she has served as a docent since 1988, and played a role on the Stanford Red Barn Equestrian Program Board and Woodside Trail Club Board. Mary has been a donor and supporter of Archbold Biological Station, Jasper Ridge, and the OBFS. Together with husband Daniel Alegría, she instills enduring responsibility for field stations in the next generation including sons Dylan and Loren, nieces and nephews, and numerous other kin.

When Mary Hufty started coming to OBFS annual meetings in 1996, she discovered her army of kindred spirits. Since then she has attended, with gusto and unwavering bravado, all but three of our annual meetings. She has become our guardian storyteller. She knows that something magical is going on, even if that magic isn't easily explained. OBFS would not be the same without Mary, and her support for us is a love poem to all field stations.

Hilary Swain

Archbold Biological Station, August 12, 2015

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Joint OBFS/NAML Meeting

September 20–24, 2014

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution



OBFS Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday September 20th 7-8 pm

Attending: David White, Chris Lorentz, Mel Dean, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Philippe Cohen, Brian Kloeppel, Eric Nagy, Gwen Pearson, Stacy McNulty, Sarah Oktay, Bill Schuster, Eric Nagy, Ian Billick, Rob Plowes, Peter Connors, Eric Milbrandt

1. Agenda review and approval:

Brian K motion to approve agenda; P Cohen seconded; motion carried

2. Review and approve minutes from September 4th meeting: (Stacy)

a. Mel Dean motion to approve; Philippe seconded; motion carried

3. Treasurer's report: (Philippe)

- a. BOD needs to discuss use of restricted funds as we approach the original goal of \$250K to hire an exec director in Wash DC to raise \$750K and get OBFS self-sustaining; currently we have \$225K
- b. SM will look for 1996 White Mtns meeting notes – was that fundraising to be used for “special projects” ?
- c. Ian B – the restriction is not legal, but procedural –that BOD can restrict funds as it sees fit
- d. Bill S asks to see the numbers from Philippe's treasurer tenure to see the trend
- e. PC notes actual expenses are almost always under projected expenses
- f. SO: comments from laypeople at Nantucket friendraiser are in support of hiring an exec. dir – people see the value to OBFS
- g. BS: would like to use funds to match other giving to trigger large donations. Once we go into campaign mode, additional leveraging of funds would be triggered. SO: for example, we could set aside \$100K if we had a single donor (or multiple donors) to match
- h. DG: what's the rainy day fund to leave in capital? PC: we have \$35K in CDs and a balance between \$16-24K in checking. We never have stressed that balance
- i. Funding needs might include office space
- j. Note to bring this topic up in the upcoming members' business meeting**
- k. The FY begins just before the annual meeting. We budget for the annual meeting but the funding from last year's auction goes toward this year's annual meeting
 - i. However, this year's annual meeting involves NAML so the auction proceeds from 2014 will go toward subsidizing this 2014 meeting (OBFS is sponsoring this meeting at MBL)
 - ii. Keep in mind changing the timing of the budget requires refiling tax forms

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- iii. Q: what portion of the \$7K meeting sponsorships will cover the costs of the meeting? IB: We budgeted 125 attending and did better than that. We have not used the contingency budget approved by BOD
- l. Soon, transitioning to using new cloud-based version of Quicken will enable transition to a new treasurer someday
- m. PC reiterated surgery will require additional oversight on financial transactions this fall/winter (see Sept. 4 meetings)
- n. Reiterated changing banks from Jefferson
- o. SO encourages membership to check out treasurer report
- p. Peter C will recap the investment committee report at the business meeting
- q. Auditing will now be by Damon Gannon; PC sent audit materials to Stacy M and DG
- r. Dues-paying members: 194 field stations and 37 individual memberships
- s. Lack of renewals is usually because of a personnel change and reminder emails not getting to the new person. BS mentioned having Member Support reach out with a letter to those non-renewers?

4. Development Report (Brian Kloeppel)

- a. Recapped July Nantucket event – 60 new donors to OBFS; covered expenses
- b. Miles O'Brien donated a tour of CNN and also gave back his speaker fee
- c. Good media visibility
 - i. Podcast, articles in newspapers
- d. Miles is talking about doing a PBS special on field stations
- e. Planning a 2015 friendraiser event – consider possible locations/hosts

5. Current 2014 meeting- joint with NAML at Woods Hole 9/20-24

- a. Bill, Gwen, Sarah: any updates on schedule, additions, suggestions, help needed?
- b. NAS report and related meeting events - Nothing to report

15. Other Old Business

- a. Board membership
 - i. Vice President: Deedra McClearn stepped down as VP; DG will take over
 - Vote: PC nominates Damon; Bill Schuster seconded; passed unanimously.
 - Brian K nominates Damon for upcoming election
 - ii. DG resigned from Member-at-Large seat; Chris Lorentz will be new MAL
 - DG nominates Chris, PC seconded; motion carried
- b. Nominations: BSchuster (Ex-President) will oversee nominations at the meeting; Mel Dean will assist. All open elections will be held in December 2014
 - i. Treasurer, MAL are positions up for election; Network guru (board-appointed 2-year position) will also be open by April 1, 2015
- c. Conflict of Interest forms (Eric Nagy): all BOD and committee chairs please fill out annually; SM will file them
- d. International Field Station Travel Support: Eric is concerned about mission creep. Funds to help domestic U.S. stations travel should come from another line item in budget
 - i. Eric advises the board should make members aware that OBFS is giving money to other members during this annual meeting
 - ii. PC: we also need to make sure the word gets out about travel support adequately and in time. This includes advertising the early-career and young station awards also by end of December
 - iii. Paul Foster: would be good to have information on whether stations that have been travel-supported become OBFS members and keep coming to meetings
 - iv. Chair reappointment will be discussed as with all chairs

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

16. New Business – 2014 meeting details

- a. Scott Edwards from NSF will attend this conference, please make him welcome
- b. Congressman Bill Keating also attending (Mass)
 - i. SO will create a press release to give to other scientific journalists
- c. Ian: what is follow-up from this joint meeting re: another joint meeting? One benefit is increased visibility
- d. Meeting evaluation: would be good to get feedback; Damon will lead this initiative before meeting ends
- e. SO will make announcement to attendees about filling out the survey
- f. Additional board meeting will be held on Monday at 5:30 PM
- g. Lunchtime table topics will be put out each day at noon (e.g., Education)
- h. Question boards will be out at poster boards
- i. Sunday evening will be attendee introductions
- j. 2016 annual meeting: IB will contact Acadia National Park about hosting a meeting
- k. At this meeting EN will explain the board positions and committee chairs to increase transparency
 - i. Should the online OBFS policy document wiki be more visible?
 - ii. Create a PDF dated version on the OBFS website [who will do: GP?]

BK moved to adjourn; EN seconded

Meeting adjourned 8:15 PM

Submitted Stacy McNulty

OBFS Secretary

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting

Woods Hole, MA Monday Sept. 22, 2014

Attending: Philippe Cohen, Sarah Oktay, Brian Kloeppel, Mel Dean, Eric Nagy, Damon Gannon, Stacy McNulty, Ian Billick, Paul Foster, Bill Schuster, Gwen Pearson, Chris Lorentz, Jeff Brown (guest), Pat Oelschlager (guest early-career rep)

Brought to Order 5:42 PM

1. **Budget (PC)** \$15,000 for development set aside; real cash flow is closer to \$16,800 with the carryover from last year.
 - a. Motion to approve \$15K by PC; seconded (?), carried unanimously
 - b. International Travel support – need to advertise this opportunity to members (ideally by December with announcement of winner in March) and review proposals on a timely basis
 - i. Paul Foster is willing to chair or co-chair
 - ii. SO will check with Carlos on his willingness to continue as chair
 - iii. PC will send updated version of budget graph to BOD
 - c. OBFS support of US station travel to annual meeting – should we do this? If so, what are the criteria? EN champions transparency and clear criteria
 - i. Stations cannot support other stations institutionally, as they can with sponsorship memberships.
 - ii. Idea tabled until the international travel award is worked out
 - d. Early Career Representative and support for travel of students/early career: leave \$2500 in budget, will have criteria developed by December (SM, MD)
 - e. Budget \$250 for SurveyMonkey for unlimited online elections and surveying for 2015

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

2. New Initiatives

- a. Jeff Brown – Mountain Research Initiative (Switzerland) – interested in expanding the network of observatories, many of which are international. Discussion of OBFS forming a relationship with MRI and coordinating a meeting following 2015 annual meeting
- b. Art & OBFS ad-hoc committee – is there interest in forming such a group?
 - i. SM suggest these be called working groups as they are topical; if there is broad interest across time and stations consider committee formation in the future
- c. PC Suggest we buy enough copies of the NAS report to make available to all member stations; will ask for a discount and ability to give out coupon code. GP will talk to Adina who works with Jerry Schubel; Chris Lorentz will help

3. **PC – NSF proposal on evaluation metrics for FSMLs:** will solicit interest on Wed. during business meeting

4. **Member Support committee:** SO resigns; will seek new chair

Meeting Adjourned 6:35 PM

Submitted Stacy McNulty

OBFS Secretary

OBFS Business Meeting

Tuesday Sept. 23, 2014

Brought to order 3:30 PM

President's report: Thanks again to annual meeting program committee for the joint OBFS/NAML meeting.

Secretary report: Review of BOD meetings and availability of minutes to membership.

Budget report: This year we exceeded \$35,000 in fundraising this year from memberships, auction, fundraising donations and financial instruments. \$49K operating income for the year ending August 30, 2014 and expenses were \$41K for same period. Net assets = \$265K. FY2015 projecting a shortfall because PC not projecting any revenue from a future fundraising event, and it includes the cost of purchasing 500 copies of the new NAS report. Note PC anticipates a smaller number for expenses than is projected. Real shortfall is probably much less than \$32K.

Q: does IRS ask questions about having that big a balance as a non-profit? A: we are not bound by rules about under spending and are not in danger of raising red flag. Also, the funds may be spent soon.

Q: can you separate realized and unrealized capital gains? A: there are no unrealized capital gains shown in budget.

Q: cost of SurveyMonkey is \$250 next year.

Investment Committee report: (Peter Connors) Did well this year, 21.6% return on investment.

BS: have we had our investment policy reviewed by a financial advisor? A: no, but the policy was already in place when OBFS became 501-3(c) when legal advice was solicited. We may need to take other steps such as sending the statement out to the membership and other requirements. EN suggests we contact the lawyer to review. Peter Connors will send to David White to print in annual report.

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Annual report: (David White) Went from calendar year to fiscal year report, ending August 31. This coming report will have extra BOD minutes to catch up with the timing change. Public document on web, notification will go to members when available.

Congressional Visits report: (Chris Lorentz) Four OBFS met with AIBS reps and congress people, Chris from KY, Tom Arsuffi (TX), Margo (AK) and Don Natvig (Sevilleta, NM) attended on April 10, 2014. Asked for NSF funding support for research. Helps to remind elected officials about role of field science, plus experience of working with a representative's staffer to expose them to a field station. Mark Stromberg is retired so OBFS needs a new coordinator. Suggest the Outreach Chair coordinate next year.

Ian Billick: opportunity to get NAS report into hands of congress – can we do this by Congressional Visits Day, or tag onto trips to DC. What is the optimal time in the political cycle – Sarah Oktay will ask AIBS and SO and Bill Schuster offered to represent OBFS. Eric Nagy: AIBS might help assist the handing of the report to folks on the Hill; will discuss this week and coordinate with NAML (Joel).

Q: is there a possibility of AIBS putting the NAS report into public policy report or *BioScience*?

Also talk to NAML about publicizing through their channels.

OBFS members commit to getting the report to local representatives. Q: can the future host state of the OBFS meeting organize their representatives to visit with us during the annual meeting? A: Yes. Claudia Luke: organize FSMLs in your district and collaboratively work to communicate with congressional representative. Put together a tour of the various facilities. Political as well as other benefits to stations. Share bullets to OBFS members to encourage distribution of NAS report.

Q: should there be an OBFS working group for Public Policy that handles requests for statements on issues, information requests and other things that would benefit multiple stations/OBFS (e.g., a comment about UAVs/drones from OBFS)?

Hilary Swain: can we better utilize AIBS as the policy office for such support? Eric Nagy: yes!

Jeff Brown: also, take advantage of summer congress recess in August; AIBS coordinates scheduling of a visit by a field station's representative. Each FSML can create an event bringing in partners (e.g., NGOs, school district, agencies) as part of the visit to communicate importance of field stations and science.

AIBS Report: (Eric Nagy) Overview of purpose and relationship to OBFS. They have reorganized, including a committee on Leadership in Biology that asked scientists, entrepreneurs, writers etc. what transformative practices, infrastructure, opportunities and challenges exist now? Reengage effective professionals in training, skills, organized education and research, and recognized contributions.

Q: can OBFS send every AIBS board member a copy of the NAS report? A: Yes!

Long-Term Ecological Research Network Report: (Brian Kloeppel) Thanks to Bob Waide of LTER for suggesting OBFS meet with NAML. James Brunt described the Network Information System. NSF ARRA funds made NIS possible; though funding is tight the NIS is scalable and hopefully useful to OBFS. NIS is a pipeline for stored LTER datasets plus links with *Nature* publication, DataONE, Ecotrends, and growing. A proposal was submitted to NSF for venerated identity management to login from varied institutions and bring in volunteers to see if the data management system would work for some FSMLs. Portal.lternet.edu is the front end; OBFS could fund its own interface that would connect to the back-end repository. Model is a cooperative where producers, users and operators of data repository have equal control over system. NSF Macrosystems and LTREB are target grant programs.

National Ecological Observatory Network Report: (Hilary Swain) Sheer scale and complexity of the NEON initiative is huge. NEON's only priority is to get the domain network built on budget and on time; yet they are interested in collaborating with and helping FSMLs. Most of the 106 sites are on schedule. NSF completed a technical review to have NEON done and operational by 2017; a new project manager; is changing from a siloed approach to a deliverable-

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

focused approach. Some data collection is piloting in advance of the operations budget. NSF BIO budget will shift to accommodate NEON funding needs; this was planned. Recently there was some bad press/political oversight on potential misuse of federal funds on alcohol, but no wrongdoing.

Development Committee Report: (Brian Kloeppel): Nantucket friendraiser event – Miles O’Brien was the honored guest, made 60 new friends, plus donations, media visibility. A future event is planned.

Outreach Committee: (Chris Lorentz) Lunch meeting resulted in a desire to survey membership and develop best management practices for K-12 programs at FSMLs (assessment, funding, etc.). In future, at annual meeting OBFS can honor a local hero or mission to get media exposure, do press releases.

Governance Committee: (Eric Nagy) Recently finalized Conflict of Interest policy for board members, officers etc. There is a wiki document that will be converted to more publicly accessible form.

Webmaster: (Gwen Pearson) Good: increased visitation to web; Bad: speed and flexibility of website is not great, but we will not change companies (Memberclicks) until some other board-led changes are made to fiscal management etc. Note Facebook is penalizing those pages who don’t pay to promote posts, so less people are engaging with OBFS posts. People are also using OBFS’ LinkedIn and Twitter feed though not a lot. Members should post about OBFS meeting etc. on their social media.

Member Support: (Sarah Oktay) Seeking new chair.

Human Diversity Committee: (Stacy McNulty, for Mel Dean) 2015 award will be solicited in new year.

Other business:

Mountain Research Initiative (Jeff Brown): looking at a 1-2 day meeting tied into 2015 OBFS meeting; opportunity to tie into international activities.

2015 OBFS Meeting: (Ian Billick) Rocky Mountain Biological Lab. Bring layers for weather changes! Schedule: Wed. Sept 16 Mountain Observing Network (tentative); Thurs field trips; meeting Fri-Sat, depart Sun Sept. 20. Range of housing including offsite hotels, approx. cost \$400. Meeting website will be available in spring 2015.

Adjourned 5:16 PM

Submitted Stacy McNulty
OBFS Secretary

OBFS Open Meeting Sept 24, 2014

Called to order 9:01 AM

General comments, meeting synopses, and updates:

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

President Report (Sarah Oktay): meeting summary; thanks to all who contributed their hard work and energy especially Liz at MBL. Thanks to our sponsors also! Alan Kuzurian of Marine Biological Lab/NAML echoes comments and commends the program committee.

Exit survey will be emailed on the 25th.

Auction proceeds estimated at \$10K.

Next joint meeting OBFS/NAML: Bill Schuster proposes we meet together every 4-6 years.

Jeff Brown: comment about building a network of research places from Holly Bamford's talk about NOAA needing networks for federal agencies to do their jobs well. There was also a message in her talk about finding ways to get longer commitments to projects and funding.

SO: propose we invite those types of partners (e.g., EPA, NPS).

Knute Nadelhofer: Association of Ecosystem Research Centers – develop a relationship with OBFS. AERC meets once a year at AIBS and have congressional visits and a briefing. Meeting in Washington, DC Oct 8-9, 2014. Originally was created to raise the profile of federal research; we can engage them at their meeting for a chance to provide the NAS report, and this year the meeting includes a training workshop for the congressional visit. \$400/year membership. <http://www.ecosystemresearch.org/>.

Alan Kuzurian: NAML put language about long-term monitoring and research into the Federal Register and got appropriations to increase the NIH's budget. This is still a viable method to work with Congress and Alan suggests OBFS consider doing so.

Ivar Babb: recognizes that we are taking action from this meeting's discussion. NAML is forming a committee following the NAS report on education issues to identify what makes place-based education special. Advocates bringing the Education Research community into the dialog with FSMLs about metrics to measure impact and success of our programs and invites both OBFS and NAML to join together. Talk to Mike DeLuca about linking with NAML, and Hilary Swain, Paul Hai and Jennifer Seavey from OBFS among others. Kay Gross will help also and had initial dialog with Peter McCartney and Scott Edwards at NSF. Focus on "What is it about FSML that is life-altering?"

Isabelle Kay: Art at Field Stations table topic was engaging; people want to keep in touch. Both organizations can announce to the memberships to identify others interested in this, education, and other topics.

Brian Melzian, EPA: Partnerships – Federal Advisory Committees are a legal way for the government to ask ngos, states, federal departments, others to give written comments and formal recommendations to Dept of Interior, NOAA etc. Example: Marine Protected Areas Advisory Committee, has 20 members. This venue is open to the public and published in the Federal Register. OBFS/NAML could give presentations to these committees. Suggested OBFS write a letter to him to send to his supervisors thanking him for being an integral part of the program (Stacy McNulty).

Nominating Committee: (Bill Schuster) Announced slate and closed nominations.

NAS Report: more copies are arriving today; interested folks talk to Sarah or Alan for distribution. Ivar Babb: On Oct. 22 NAS is presenting the report in DC; encourages linking to the report video and other materials on FSML member websites. Will talk to Keagan (?) about creating a tri-fold version with a QR code that links to NAML and OBFS. NAML will reach to their 3 regional groups about contributing some funds to cover report printing and shipping costs.

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

End of open meeting 9:41 AM

Submitted Stacy McNulty

OBFS Secretary

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting **Wednesday September 24th 10-10:30 am**

Attending: Sarah Oktay, Mel Dean, Damon Gannon, Stacy McNulty, Ian Billick, Paul Foster, Bill Schuster, Gwen Pearson, Jeff Brown, Mary Hufty, Knute Nadelhofer, David White, Tom Bansak, David Pitts, Virginia "Shorty" Boucher

Called to order 9:55 AM

1. **New Business:** BOD meetings – schedule a follow-up meeting after Oct 17
2. **Meeting summary** (Gwen Pearson): In retrospect all issues were minor and most were solved early
3. **Auction:** Most items were over \$75; silent auction items were closer to \$20. Suggest making the price point distinction clearer to attendees. Length of auction: suggest 2.5 hours (about 3 min/item). Offering a trip or activity at a field station is a great idea
4. **Program:** All sessions were great – people wanted to hear more than they could physically attend. Stacy McNulty suggests next year we organize report-outs where the session moderator or a designee can take bullet notes to share with attendees and OBFS members during/after the meeting
 - a. PowerPoints from sessions: Gwen Pearson will send an evaluation email and after filling it out members will get access to the slides from various sessions. Stacy McNulty will type up notes from Staying off the Chopping Block session to PDF
 - b. Next year: We could record meetings by a designated note-taker, or recording equipment, or web-casting. Cost can be prohibitive
 - c. We should have an international FSML session, table topic, or other topics in 2015
 - d. How can we document the outcomes of the annual meeting?
5. **NAS report:** Voting on creation of a tri-fold version – can we put a placeholder in the 2014-15 budget for paying Bill Dennison to create it. We don't know the price; asked NAML to cover half and put both organizations' logos on it. Jeff Brown volunteers to get a quote and review the draft and work with Ian, Chris from Outreach, Faerthen and NAML. Ian motions we authorize up to \$5000 for tri-fold creation; SO seconds, motion carries
6. **Meeting costs** (Gwen Pearson): OBFS still owes MBL money (something like \$4K); total cost was underwritten by sponsoring and auction proceeds. We did come in under budget. Sarah Oktay will check with Liz on MBL's meeting feedback
7. **Metrics** (Ian Billick): Ian, Hilary and Mike DeLuca will talk about moving that NSF proposal forward
8. **Listserv:** GP will put a note about joining the listserv in the meeting summary email to attendees

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- a. OBFS Dropbox account: GP needs access from SO
 - b. FSMLs that are not OBFS members (Bill Schuster): Chris Lorentz would organize a reach-out effort encouraging them to join
9. **Chuck Yohn will become Member Support Committee chair immediately (thank you!):** Chuck will focus on what can OBFS do for you and how the annual meeting can benefit members. Pat Oelschlager will provide his view on how OBFS might serve early career level members. Put Jeff Brown in touch with Chuck about how OBFS is working nationally and in networks..."OBFS made that NAS report happen, so this is what we can do for you..."
10. **OBFS Vision and Mission** (Ian Billick): We can define what an Executive Director will do within a 5-year timeframe. Stacy McNulty suggests we examine this over the next year with a conversation at the annual conference. What OBFS and NAML needs is a way to interface effectively with other agencies and networks so we have the communication path and agencies have the data they need. This could be attractive to potential donors e.g., Kresge Foundation. Sarah Oktay will work with Outreach and Development Committees and forward Exec Dir job description to BOD prior to its Oct. meeting
- a. There is no interest in OBFS combining forces with NAML for an Exec. Director; should we ask for funds for two directors that are co-located? We do have similar, but not identical needs. NAML has Joel lobbying who has helped with visibility for marine labs, so they may be more focused on marketing than establishing an exec dir. OBFS is comparatively behind in visibility/lobbying but more focused on getting a presence in DC/nationally. Note funders care more about creating national infrastructure to deal with environmental challenges and not about the existence of OBFS per se.
11. **Next year fundraiser:** July/Aug in 2015? Aug might be better for people. Stacy McNulty suggested an increased international component (e.g. offer trips in auctions)
- a. IB suggest we invite donors/friendraisers to OBFS to be part of the organization team in this startup phase – somewhat of an executive corps, people who can advise us on philanthropy and business plan, raise funds and sit on other boards with leverage, and would enjoy being included. It's a two-way street of involvement. Michael Schulder (CNN producer and Nantucket friend) is a good example, as are Tom Quigley, Kathy and Teresa. Jeff Brown: would that be an advisory board? We could set aside a few registrations to encourage participation. Development Committee will send the tri-fold to that list of 60 donors/friends, and a small summary of the MBL meeting, to keep them engaged – ideally before Christmas when donation happens

David White moved to adjourn, Sarah Oktay seconded, motion carried

Meeting adjourned 10:55 AM

Submitted Stacy McNulty

OBFS Secretary

AUCTION RESULTS 1997 TO 2014

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

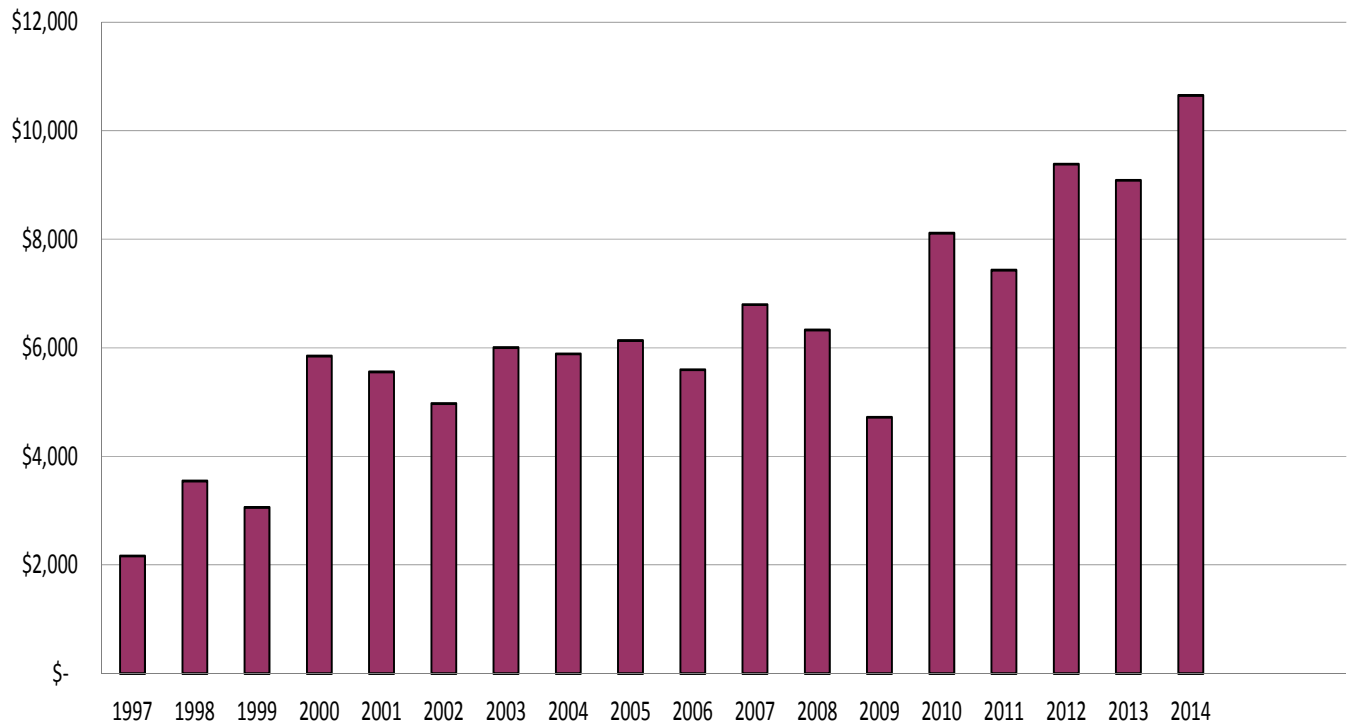
OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

2002	\$	4,973	Kellogg Biological Station
2003	\$	6,002	Kananaskis Field Station
2004	\$	5,889	Shoals Marine Laboratory
2005	\$	6,131	Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory
2006	\$	5,593	Flathead Lake Biological Station
2007	\$	6,793	Llano River Field Station
2008	\$	6,327	Black Rock Forest
2009	\$	4,722	La Selva Biological Station
2010	\$	8,113	U. of Michigan Biological Station
2011	\$	7,430	Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve
2012	\$	9,382	Archbold Biological Station
2013	\$	9,082	Southwest Research Station
2014	\$	10,650	Woods Hole

Total \$111,259

**AUCTION
BIDDING
EXCEEDS \$10,000
FOR THE FIRST
TIME!**

OBFS Annual Meeting Auction Income



PICTURES FROM THE EXHIBITION: THE 2014 OBFS AUCTION



"Did you REALLY buy THAT for \$100?"



OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

OBFS BUDGET

General Budget Categories	Category Details	2014-15 Budget Totals	2014-15 Budget Projections
I. Income:			
Membership dues		29,900.00	30,000.00
Interest (CDs, checking)		136.79	140.00
Investment dividends & capital gains		6,239.92	4,000.00
OB support from reserves		-	-
Auction		10,650.00	9,000.00
Donations		6,345.00	5,250.00
Other income		7,500.00	-
Total Income:		60,771.71	\$ 48,390.00
Total Operating Income		48,891.79	\$ 35,390.00
II. Expenses:			
<i>Organization Membership Dues</i>			
	AIBS	2,500.00	2,500.00
	NEON	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Other	-	-
	Subtotal	3,500.00	3,500.00
<i>Bank and transaction expenses</i>			
	Moolah	269.50	275.00
	Payscape	1,658.26	1,500.00
	Other	35.00	-
	Subtotal	1,962.76	1,775.00
<i>Travel</i>			
	Board of Directors	-	1,000.00
	Congressional Visits Day (CVD)	4,310.81	5,000.00
	AIBS - Briefing for National Decision-Makers	-	3,750.00
	Diversity Award	276.82	1,250.00
	Non-Board travel	2,500.00	1,500.00
	International travel support	5,590.27	6,000.00
	Student travel support	-	2,500.00
	Other	-	-
	Subtotal	12,677.90	21,000.00
<i>Administration</i>			
	EM&S	95.00	150.00

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Treasurer support	1,400.00	2,000.00
Tax fees and preparation	-	500.00
Survey Monkey	200.00	250.00
Subtotal	1,695.00	2,900.00

Communications & Development

Annual Report & Newsletter	-	100.00
Half funding for ESA booth with AERC		475.00
Friend of OBFS attendance		1,200.00
NRC reports + trifold	-	10,000.00
Committee EM&S	-	250.00
Subtotal		12,025.00

Website and data management

Website hosting service (MemberClicks)	3,000.75	3,000.00
BatchGeo subscription	499.00	500.00
Technical support	-	-
Website maintenance	5,455.00	4,000.00
Subtotal	8,954.75	7,500.00

Committee & Organizational Projects

Common Interests (Diversity, International, Small FS)	-	150.00
Outreach	-	150.00
Development	10,838.50	16,118.26
Subtotal	10,838.50	16,418.26

Annual Meeting

	-	7,500.00
Travel contingency	-	1,000.00
Speaker fees & expenses	-	2,500.00
Subtotal		11,000.00

Contingency (5%)	3,805.91
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Operating Expense Total	39,628.91	79,924.17
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Expense Variance (Operating Income-expenses)	(44,534.17)
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III. Assets

*Sentinel Sustainable Core
Opportunities Fund*

Beginning FY

Year-End Projection

Shares last quarter YTD = 6,266.850

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

	Share value last quarter YTD =	20.14	
	Total value last quarter YTD	126,214.44	136,255
<i>Sentinel Sustainable Mid Cap Opportunities Fund</i>			
	Shares last quarter YTD =	4,032.940	
	Share value last quarter YTD =	20.39	
	Total value last quarter YTD	82,231.63	90,513
<i>Jefferson Bank</i>			
	Checking account	22,715.59	(21,819)
	CDs	33,688.67	34,026
Total Net Assets		264,850.33	\$ 238,975

190	# of field station members =	190
37	# of individual members =	30

OBFS HUMAN DIVERSITY AWARD

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

2015 Award – Powdermill Nature

Reserve (Award to be presented at the 2015 OBFS meeting at RMBL) Particular strengths identified by the award committee included offering a unique temperate zone ecology course and fieldwork opportunities for Latin American students in partnership with the Instituto Nacional de Ecología (Xalapa, MX) and other partners; broadening educational and professional experience significantly in the field of ecology by bridging the disconnect between North American and South American scientific-education programs; and demonstrating strong support to operate the program for a lasting impact.
(<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/powdermill/>)



2014 OBFS-NAML MEETING EXIT SURVEY

All results based on 86 completed surveys. 53 provided written comments

Which organization(s) are you or your station a member of? OBFS 82.56% NAML 25.58%, Neither 2.33%
Previously attended OBFS meeting? No 32.56% Yes 67.44%
Previously attended NAML meeting? No 78.57% Yes 21.43%
Station previously represented at OBFS meeting? No 15.29% Yes 84.71%
Should OBFS/NAML hold joint meetings in future? No 13.25% Yes 86.75%
How useful was NAS plenary? Somewhat Useful 9.30% Useful 82.56% N/A 8.14%
How useful was Place Based Networks Plenary? Not Useful 0.00% Somewhat Useful 41.86% Useful 37.21% N/A 20.93%
How useful was Communicate Sci Plenary? Not Useful 2.33% Somewhat Useful 17.44% Useful 68.60% N/A 11.63%
How useful was Env. Change Plenary? Not Useful 1.16% Somewhat Useful 30.23% Useful 52.33% N/A 16.28%
Concurrent sessions: Creating Synergies? Not Useful 3.49% Somewhat Useful 18.60% Useful 25.58% N/A 52.33%
Concurrent Sessions: Networking education/outreach? Not Useful 4.65% Somewhat Useful 15.12% Useful 16.28% N/A 63.95%
Concurrent Sessions: Data mgmt? Not Useful 3.49% Somewhat Useful 13.95% Useful 8.14% N/A 74.42%
Concurrent Sessions: Staying off chopping block? Not Useful 3.49% Somewhat Useful 9.30% Useful 29.07% N/A 58.14%
Concurrent Sessions: NAS follow up? Not Useful 1.16% Somewhat Useful 11.63% Useful 36.05% N/A 51.16%
Concurrent Sessions: Environmental Networks? Not Useful 0.00% Somewhat Useful 13.95% Useful 26.74% N/A 59.30%
Concurrent Sessions: Communicating science? Not Useful 1.16% Somewhat Useful 15.12% Useful 33.72% N/A 50.00%
Concurrent Sessions: Biodiversity-Genomics? Not Useful 3.49% Somewhat Useful 8.14% Useful 5.81% N/A 82.56%
Alt sessions: Public Policy Holly Bamford? Not Useful 2.33% Somewhat Useful 9.30% Useful 34.88% N/A 53.49%

General Comments

Too many concurrent sessions. Too much content.
Excellent atmosphere of cooperation and interest in what others are doing, giving feedback and encouraging audience participation.
Awesome effort by the committee, Thank you!
I think a session on working with volunteers could be good next time
I really enjoyed the networking opportunities the meeting provided to get to know others doing similar work at similar facilities.
Much of the productive interactions took place during impromptu, informal meetings (meals, mixers, coffee breaks, field trips, etc.)
It was an excellent first joint meeting with NAML. I don't think there needs to be annual joint meetings, but perhaps a joint mtg every few yrs - say, every 4 -5 yrs would be very useful.
Maybe once every 3 years we should have a joint meeting. Input seemed lopsided. Or maybe we could fix that by more NAML speakers
Good job all
Liked the busy agenda but the 4 x concurrent sessions was a hard choice!
I have never attended a meeting before. I attended because I was local asked to do a presentation. I ended up attending much more of the meeting than I expected to. I thought it was a useful high quality meeting.
Good sessions - I would love to have video of some of the talks to use from my classes or to share with colleagues - especially the great lakes update
Pretty good about starting on time and leaving time for questions.
I think the talk about field station mgt more than science talks- i value this meeting so much because I learn how other labs operate and make connections with other directors.
This was a fantastic meeting--thanks for all the hard work! Adding NAML was a great idea and added so much to the meeting. I loved all the policy stuff that demonstrates the need to link our little field stations together into a broader network.
High quality talks overall
I was very impressed with the professionalism of the presenters and the depth of their presentations. Jerry Schubel, Margaret Davidson and Bill Dennison's plenaries were the most memorable for me. Lunch, dinner and 'hallway' discussions were the most valuable. It was invaluable to have everyone's minds going after the scheduled talks and then have the time to actually talk and brainstorm with colleagues about partnerships and benchmarking.
I think the concurrent sessions would be more helpful if they were more interactive. Possibly they could be more like working groups with the goal of creating specific outputs.

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

I thought that the program was excellent. I would've liked to have seen more open sessions where specific topics could be raised and discussed separately.

It may seem that my take away was too limited, but I think the most important session of the meeting was Jerry Schubel's, regarding the NAS report. It didn't hurt that he is a very good presenter / speaker

Group activities in a plenary session are difficult. The communicating science talk was great, but the interactive part wasn't helpful.

I thought this year's topics were particularly timely and relevant for our field stations, with thoughtful discussions. We are going through at the campus level much of what we were discussing at the broader/national level, so strategic discussions and sessions on leveraging the NAS report were much appreciated.

Great job Gwen and Sarah!!!!

Many of the sessions were excellent. I liked that the OBFS and NAML meetings were combined.

I thought the program was outstanding. Good breadth and high quality

I thought this was a great meeting with several very valuable sessions. I would have liked to have fewer concurrent sessions, as I wanted to attend more than one at each session.

Overall, I felt that the presentations were very interesting and useful. Particularly like the science education and communicating with general audiences. Not sure the lunch table discussions went over that well.

Making the new facilities bit a poster session was a very smart move.

It was a great meeting in all respects.

Sorry. I came primarily to present a concurrent session and did not participate in much of the meeting. However, the interactions I did have were very positive and productive.

I particularly like the morning Plenary sessions on 9/23. I will directly use some of Bill Dennison's tips and tools to communicate science.

Nice number of breaks between sessions. As usual, all the good stuff happens at the same time. Would love for all session to be recorded or videotaped and provided online although this can be expensive (and cost to the registration, well worth 25.00 per person)

Lunch tables were great.

Meeting in conjunction with NAML was useful, but it should be only done infrequently for specific reasons. The new NAS product was a good time to do this

I felt very welcomed as a new comer and it was a very good meeting.

Great topics and speakers. However, there were many presentations that didn't quite represent the titles that were advertised.

Should work to be more clear. Several presenters made the comment that their talk was probably different than what people thought it was going to be based on the title.

Another excellent meeting.

really loved the lunch discussion tables

I had attended SAML meetings in a previous job but not NAML so your fourth question was difficult. We could consider interacting with one of the sub - NAML units. When I attended SAML meetings as the facilities user coordinator I found only a fraction of the SAML people also attended the NAML meeting. OBFS is a much broader more inclusive group too, my memory of SAML meeting is only the executive directors attended and rarely did more than have a business meeting. Everyone else... none directors attended separate discussion session... it was a bit weird.

Overall very good to excellent. Some presenters had no clue about setting up a good PowerPoint presentation (last speaker in Effectively Communicating Science - how ironic). Black lettering on a white background? With 50 - 75 words per slide? Come on, you can do better than that! On the plus side he was passionate and knowledgeable.

Smaller breakout sessions very good and interactive. Problem was to decide between 3-4 concurrent sessions all relevant to my interests.

Was disappointed that MBL never provided a formal tour of its facilities and activities.

Great meeting and venue! Thanks for all the time & efforts in planning and executing!

We really enjoyed meeting everyone and networking and look forward to future meetings. I thought the presentations could have been better - they were quite inconsistent - a few basic pointers for how to prepare slides might be a good addition to meeting preparation information - folks should know, but apparently not everyone does, including some of the keynote speakers I like the lunch discussion tables, great idea.

Fantastic auction- I've never seen anything like that before. Also, fantastic location. It took me 35 years to get back to Woods Hole!

In too many sessions the presentations filled the entire time block and there was no or insufficient time for discussion.

I think it was too general with both groups at the same meeting. An occasional joint meeting is a good idea but I think it waters things down too much to revert to using that format every year, at least as far as OBFS is concerned. Some of the issues are quite different. Also, it's nice to get out on the ground to see facilities and some of the research, education, outreach and

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

management going on at peer sites, and this, even if done at Woods Hole, would have had marginal relevance to Field Stations. All that said, Woods Hole is a beautiful place for a meeting and the meeting was well conducted an enjoyable experience. Also, the accommodations were comfortable and ample (not having to climb up to top bunks with squeaky mattresses in the dark: priceless!).

Overall, the presentations during the sessions were excellent. However, some of the PowerPoint Slides were hard to read because the text was either too small; there was much too much information contained on these slides; and/or the complex color schemes were hard to decipher (e.g., some slides were too dark). As you know, the Lillie Auditorium was very cool/cold for a significant portion of this meeting (through no fault of OBFS or NAML). Hence, and if possible, all of these "logistical" matters should be checked and double-checked before these types of national meetings are held in the future. In the future, it might be very useful if the poster session is greatly expanded, and most importantly, handouts or documents from the OBFS and NAML members are made available in order that we ALL learn much more about each other.

The concurrent sessions that I attended were long on presentation and short on discussion. Questions were brief and primarily answered solely by the presenters not allowing for any true discussion or input from participants.

I remain uncomfortable with the auction, although I had a great time participating. I think it is really important that the entire attendance be clearly informed about how much money has been raised to date, what its intended use is, how it is managed, etc. etc. I only learned the answers to the first two items by speaking with the treasurer directly. Otherwise, I really enjoyed the meeting, the field trips, the food, and the bit of breathing room between sessions. Great job!

The NOAA representatives were great speakers and really interesting to listen to. They were sharp! The amount of folks reading off the screen really surprised me.

This was my first exposure to OBFS/NAML as a young professional interested in learning more about a field station career, and I found it very helpful. I think the opportunities for networking are one of the major benefits of this meeting, but I also really appreciated the updates on the political environment and policies that affect scientific research and field stations specifically.

The meetings are valuable as a source of important information. These meetings were helpful because of the NRC report and the discussions about it. I didn't end up at any of the lunch discussion tables, but I thought it was a good idea. Just a bit confusing about how sort out getting to the table one wanted before it filled up!

Everything was great except for the name tags. They were hard to read, even with glasses.

Joint OBFS/NAML Meeting Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Attendees September 2014



OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Able	Kenneth	Rutgers University Marine Field Station
Alber	Merryl	Univ. of Georgia Marine Institute
Amaral-Zettler	Linda	JBPC
Anderson	John	Aton Forest, Inc.
Arsuffi	Thomas	Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station
Babb	Ivar	University of Connecticut
Bamford	Holly	DOC/NOAA/NOS
Bansak	Tom	Flathead Lake Biological Station
Basara	Jeffrey	University of Oklahoma
Berkowitz	Alan	Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Bertone-Johnson	Reid	Smith College
Biebuyck	Brett	Toolik Field Station
Billick	Ian	RMBL
Billings	Barbara	State of Michigan
Blake	John	USDA Forest Service
Boucher	Virginia	UC Davis
Boyer	Edward	Prescott College, Kino Bay Center for Cultural and Ecological Studies
Bringhurst	Boyd	Campbell Scientific
Brittain	Candice	Cape Eleuthera Institute & Island School
Brown	Renee	UNM Sevilleta Field Station
Brown	Scott	Capitol Reef Field Station
Brown	Jeff	UC Berkeley - Sagehen Creek Field Station
Browne	Kevin	University Of California Natural Reserve System
Brunt	James	University of New Mexico
Busch	Lisa	Sitka Sound Science Center
Bushek	David	Rutgers Haskin Shellfish Research Lab
Byboth	Alan	SHSU Center for Biological Field Studies
Cherr	Gary	UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab
Cherubin	Laurent	Florida Atlantic University
Clarke	Benjamin	Xylem/YSI
Clary	Jeffrey	University of California, Davis
Cleaver	Caitlin	Hurricane Island Foundation
Coates	Stephen	Ordway-Swisher Biological Station
Cohen	Philippe	Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University
Coleman	Felicia	Florida State University
Connors	Peter	Bodega Marine Laboratory
Crowley	Philip	University of Kentucky / Ecological Research and Education Center
Davies	Neil	R.B. Gump South Pacific Research Station
De Luca	Mike	Rutgers University
Dean	Melissa	USFS/Hawaii Experimental Tropical Forest
Dennison	William	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Dixon	Jacqueline	University of South Florida
Donaldson	Terry	Marine Laboratory
Duval	Martin	Gault Nature Reserve of McGill University
Edwards	Scott	National Science Foundation/Harvard University
Eggleston	David	NC State University/CMAST

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Felix	Faerthen	UC Berkeley - Sagehen Creek Field Station
Fenwick	Becca	Sierra Nevada Research Stations, Yosemite & Sequoia Kings Canyon
Forrester	Robert	?
Foster	David	Harvard Forest/Harvard University
Foster	Paul	Reserva Ecológica Bijagual
Gannett	Paul	Onset
Gannon	Damon	Bowdoin Scientific Station
Garbisch	Jon	Cedar Point Biological Station
Gee	Jen	James Reserve
Giblin	Anne	MBL
Gordon	John	Central Michigan University Biological Station
Grippe	Richard	Arkansas State University
Gross	Katherine	WK Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University
Guswa	Andrew	Smith College
Guyon	Lyle	National Great Rivers Center
Haas	Kara	Michigan State University
Hai	Paul	SUNY-ESF Northern Forest Institute
Hanna	Cause	CSUCI
Harvey	Jim	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Hendrix	Stephen	Iowa Lakeside Laboratory
Hodder	Jan	Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
Hufty	Mary	Archbold Biological Station
Jones	Andrew	Hopkins Forest/Williams College
Kay	Isabelle	University of California, San Diego/Natural Reserve System
Kloeppel	Brian	Western Carolina University
Klump	J.	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Knoll	Lesley	Lacawac Sanctuary
Kudulis	Jason	Capitol Reef Field Station
Kunkle	Justin	Western Kentucky University
Kuzirian	Alan M.	MBL
Lambert	Dan	High Branch Conservation Services
Lannoo	Michael	Iowa lakeside Laboratory
Last	First	Organization
Laughrin	Lyndal	Santa Cruz Island Reserve
Lemus	Judith	Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Lohr	Susan	Lohr Associates, Inc.
Lorentz	Chris	Thomas More College Biology Field Station
Luetlich	Rick	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Institute of Marine Sciences
Lukatch	Craig	Lacawac Sanctuary
Luke	Claudia	Sonoma State University
Lundeen	Zachary	University of Utah
Maneli	David	McGill University
McCartney	Peter	National Science Foundation
McCorkle	Daniel	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
McKee	Arthur	Yellowstone Ecological Research Center
McNulty	Stacy	SUNY ESF Adirondack Ecological Center
Melzian	Brian	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Atlantic Ecology Division)

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Meyer	Gretchen	Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station
Micheli	Elisabeth	Pepperwood Foundation
Milbrandt	Eric	Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Muth	Allan	Deep Canyon Desert Research Center
Nadelhoffer	Knute	University of Michigan
Nagy	Eric	Mountain Lake Biological Station / University of Virginia
Nakayama	Violet	Retired from UC-NRS
Natvig	Don	UNM Sevilleta Field Station
Newman	Vickey	Central Michigan University Guest
O'Connell	Tory	Sitka Sound Science Center Field Station
Oelschlager	Patrick	Juniata College Raystown Field Station
Oktay	Sarah	UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station
Olyarnik	Suzanne	Bodega Marine Reserve
Pace	Rebecca	University of Central Oklahoma
Pearson	Gwen	OBFS
Perry	Mary Jane	Darling Marine Center
Pitts	David	Wayne State University
Plowes	Rob	UT Austin
Porter	Dwayne	Baruch Institute, U. of South Carolina
Prussia	Celeste	Bull Shoals Field Station
Purnell	L. Michael	Univ. of Illinois Springfield's Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon
Rabalais	Nancy	Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
Rae	Ruth	New York City Urban Field Station
Reay	William	VIMS
Resetarits	William	University of Mississippi
Roddy	Airicca	Cedar Point Biological Station, University of Nebraska, School of Biological Sciences
Ross	Sarah	UGA-Wormsloe
Schubel	Jerry	Aquarium of the Pacific
Schulze	Mark	H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest
Schuster	William	Black Rock Forest Consortium
Seabloom	Eric	Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior; University of Minnesota
Seavey	Jennifer	Shoals Marine Laboratory
	Robin	
Seeley	Hadlock	Shoals Marine Laboratory
Semans	Sheila	Noyo Center for Marine Science
Sewall	Laura	Bates College
Shimmield	Graham	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Simmons	Candice	South Carolina State University
Slavik	Karie	University of Michigan Biological Station
Smith	David	University of Rhode Island
Sosik	Heidi	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Stepien	Carol	University of Toledo Lake Erie Center
Stevens	Michael	Capitol Reef Field Station
Swain	Hilary	Archbold Biological Station
Swalla	Billie	University of Washington
Thompson	Nancy	Florida Institute of Oceanography
Tremblay	Chris	MDR Marine Research Station

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Trew Crist	Darlene	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Valentine	John	Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Voegeli	Vincent	Hastings Natural History Reservation
Waddell	Shane	University of California Davis
Wakelee	Dan	CSU Channel Islands
Westneat	David	University of Kentucky
Wetzel	Paul	Smith College
Whipple	Amy	Northern Arizona University
White	David	Hancock Biological Station
Widder	Joel	NAML
Wisely	Samantha	University of Florida
Yoder	Jim	WHOI
Yohn	Chuck	Raystown Field Station Juniata College

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting

Conference Call

Monday October 27th 2:00 pm EST

Attendees: Carlos de La Rosa, Mel Dean, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Philippe Cohen, Brian Kloeppel, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Gwen Pearson, Sarah Oktay, David White, Patrick Oelschlager, (BOD member initials used below)

Meeting called to order 2:04 PM

Action items

1. Review contract from MBL. Gwen will email Philippe, Sarah and Ian
2. Brian will develop a process for "Friend of OBFS" award and share with BOD before December meeting
3. Brian will follow up on 3 proposed friendraiser events with local hosts
4. BOD please send BK ideas for friendraiser guests e.g., Andrew Revkin
5. Gwen will draft the reminder message about updating station contact and PC will send this reminder to listserv by early Nov
6. Gwen will ensure both Paul and Carlos get BOD emails
7. Sarah will modify letter of support to researcher and work with Stacy to finalize with researcher

1. **Agenda review and approval:** [Sarah]

- c. David added item #6; Eric Nagy moved and Philippe seconded with BOD approval
- d. Stacy made various changes to draft minutes. Eric moved to approve, Philippe second, voted to approve

2. **Treasurer's report:** [Philippe]

- a. Final 2014 auction tally was \$11,025 – a record! Funds go into the restricted fund
- b. Memberships are rolling in, \$10,500 so far (nearly 70 renewals in last month)
- c. Billing statement from Marine Biological Lab - problems with some charges. Total \$9000
 - i. Meal charges for last day were about \$2500, as if all 147 meeting registrants had breakfast and lunch. Yet many people did not eat that morning and some who wanted to eat but hadn't signed up the day before were not allowed to
 - ii. Some a/v equipment didn't work; MBL charged \$675 for tech support
 - iii. All together about \$2000 for less-than-reasonable charges
 - iv. Need to review contract from MBL. GP will email PC, SO and IB
- d. Reminder that Q1 budget will be late due to Philippe's surgery Nov. 17 (normally it is available December 1).
- e. Items to approve today:

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- i. Development of tri-fold NAS summary - \$5000 budgeted
- ii. \$5000 budgeted to print 190 more hard copies of NAS report. \$27.40/each to print and that is including the discount from Barbara at NAS (normal cost \$48/each)
 - OBFS is providing one printed copy per field station request
 - Some people can buy their own copies via OBFS; contact Sarah or Gwen
 - Note Sarah also has 200 copies of the 4-page NAS report summary
- iii. Stacy moves to approve \$10 K; second by Damon; approved (Eric abstained)
- f. Effectively this budget will show a net loss this year for the first time, if it actually happens

3. **Development Report:** [Brian]

- a. Friend of OBFS – recognize those who help raise visibility and who have actively helped OBFS by fundraising or bringing people/resources to bear
 - i. Miles O'Brien is a nominee for our first selection in 2015
 - ii. Options: plaque; invite person to meeting and allocate travel funds. Do we want to do this annually? Do we want to offer a meeting travel grant/invitation? EN: can we give person an honorary membership for say 10 years to keep them engaged
 - iii. We also could highlight people who in general embody OBFS values – Neil DeGrasse Tyson for example
 - iv. PC: need 1) some formal, written description for the board to approve and 2) a process so we are on top of inviting the person in a timely manner. BK: example is Human Diversity Award
 - v. SM – invite person to speak/have a role in the meeting. Pat O. felt this is helpful
 - vi. Brian will develop a process and share with BOD before December meeting
- b. We have the materials from the July 2014 friendraising – do we want to plan similar event(s). Send BK ideas for special guests e.g., Andrew Revkin
 - i. Planning 3 new events, starting with Nantucket, MA in Jul/Aug 2015
 - ii. Bill Schuster wants to wait for fall/winter 2015 in New York metro area. BK will follow up with BS.
- c. Do we want to do an event close to RMBL at the Sept 2015 meeting? Will need to hear Ian's thoughts on where to hold it and whether this is viable
- d. Jennifer Seavey identified the Sanibel Captiva Foundation in South FL could host a Jan/Feb 2016 event. Need to include Hilary Swain in planning

4. **2014 Annual Meeting recap:** [Gwen, Sarah, Philippe] – SO sent some press releases post-meeting. GP sent BOD participant survey results – review how many attended sessions as well as feedback

5. **Future Annual Meetings:** [Damon, Sarah]

- a. 2015 at Rocky Mtn Biological Lab: DG and Ian Billick are reviewing themes, sessions
 - i. SM suggested Early Career Rep/Pat O assist with planning.
- b. 2016 meeting – asked for proposals from Schoodic Institute, Sitka Sound Science Center, Central Michigan Univ BS by November
- c. PC: consider international meeting for 2017

6. **Elections of officers and committee members:** [David, Eric]

- a. Brian and Ian took nominations at annual meeting. On ballot: Vice Pres: Damon; Treasurer: Philippe; MAL: Mike Lannoo, Sam Wisely and Reed Bentone-Johnson
- b. Ballot is ready to go and will be open Nov. 15- Dec. 15. David needs a list of eligible stations from Gwen
- c. Automated reminders on the listserv are sent to members to renew in early Nov and early Dec
- d. We do need one message to remind people elections are coming and to login to update their station's contact info so they can vote (and that will limit repeat requests to Gwen). Gwen will draft the message and PC will send this reminder to listserv

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

7. **Committee co-chairs:** Paul Foster and Carlos De La Rosa sharing International Committee Chair responsibilities: [Eric, Paul, Carlos]
 - a. EN – this is one seat/one vote; who gets the one seat on the board at what time? Propose to split the appointment into 2, 6-month periods, Carlos first. Chair renews on Jan. 1 along with other chairs. BOD email list – Gwen ensure both Paul and Carlos get BOD emails. Will finalize by email
8. **NAS report:** distribution, possible *Bioscience* article and trifold development [Jeff Brown, Sarah O.]
 - a. NAML sharing cost of trifold: NAML national is cash-poor but 3 sub-regions are ok. NAML president Mike deLuca indicated interest in supporting financially but hasn't committed amount yet. Tri-fold design: Designer will change some of the images in the middle to reflect the breadth of FSMLs and people. EN: ensure the tri-fold is viable for a few years. Audience includes agency folks, academic colleagues. GP: In contacts section, make a short link to the OBFS website that we control and we can then link to the NAS report (in case the URL moves someday)
 - b. Distribution: 1000 color copies – slightly over \$5000 total with design and printing. Sarah: where can these be shipped? SO generously agrees to house and ship the copies for OBFS. NAML must pay for any copy printing/shipping
 - c. At December BOD: need strategy for passing these out – who ships, how many can one request?
9. **Review and Approval of Science Communication Research Support Letter:** [Sarah, Stacy]
 - a. See attached letter from Laura Bartock at SUNY ESF
 - b. EN: OBFS is not in the business of supporting specific research, but a general letter of support for this case is ok; OBFS does not want responsibility to any institution's Institutional Review Board
 - c. PC: letter should say OBFS agrees to send a short email invitation to participate in the study with the researcher's contact info. Sarah will modify letter and work with Stacy to finalize with researcher
10. **Incorporating early career BOD members:** [Stacy, Pat, Eric]
 - a. Today we propose changing the structure of the BOD by creating a Member-at-Large Early Career Representative. This would be an officer with voting rights and the person would have to join as a member and be elected (the maximum number of directors is 16). Person needs to either be the OBFS member station representative or an individual member
 - b. Elections are closed for this year, but we can define it and vote on it now and fill it the vacancy. Proposed a 2 year position with no expectation that person had to stay that long
 - c. Defined initially as including students, post-docs, and people who are early in their careers (how many years out of school?)
 - d. Pat O: It would be helpful to have a board mentor help person get up-to-speed
 - e. SM: move to create the position. DG: second. Vote: approved
 - f. Proposed language for **Member-at-Large Early Career:** *The **Early Career Member-at-Large** special position is designed to engage members who are early in their careers and who have special interests in biological field stations and the OBFS. Office holders will work with other Executive Committee members on regular and special projects and initiatives. They will participate in board voting and in setting goals and priorities for the organization. Members-at-Large may acquire special projects or responsibilities as defined by the President or the board. This Member-at-Large is not required to serve on the Program Committee.*
11. **Other Old Business:** [Jeff, Eric]
 - a. AIBS DC event – BOD will discuss by email
12. **New Business:** none.

Next BOD meeting: December 12th, 2:00 EST [proposed date, look for doodle poll]

Meeting adjourned - David moved; adjourned at 3:49 PM

Submitted Stacy McNulty
OBFS Secretary

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting

Conference Call

Friday December 12th, 1:00 pm EST

Attendees: Jeff Brown, Philippe Cohen, Mel Dean, Paul Foster, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Eric Nagy, Pat Oelschlager, Sarah Oktay, Gwen Pearson, Bill Schuster, David White

Meeting called to order 1:03 PM EST.

To Do:

1. Sarah will reconnect with Miles O'Brien about reporting a field station story
2. Brian will have details on Friend of OBFS award and 2015 friendraising events by March
3. Damon and Ian will provide info on 2015 annual meeting costs/options
 - a. Sarah will put on OBFS website in January
4. Damon will provide cost comparison for 2016 annual conference by March if possible
 - a. BOD review and compare proposals
5. Gwen write up web master position and send to OBFS
6. Eric provide Damon with template for annual meeting comparison breakdown
7. Paul will draft travel award language ASAP
8. Sarah finish mailing NAS report and trifold requests
 - a. Sarah send Philippe an invoice to cover mailing costs
 - b. Sarah will add graph to inside right corner
9. Pat and Stacy will work on NSF IUSE grant and report back in March
10. Sarah put out a doodle poll to close Friday 19th to get comments for a week
11. Sarah put out a doodle poll for meeting date week of March 16

Decision Items:

1. Travel Award has a new name - Meeting Support Grants
2. Secretary will put Decision Items at top of minutes (done!)

Minutes

1. **Agenda review and approval:** [Sarah]. Moved and seconded agenda
2. **Review and approve minutes from October 27th:** [Stacy]
 - a. Future minutes – Eric suggests to secretary to highlight formal votes and key decisions at the top of the meeting minutes. Eric further notes that we do not need to vote on everything, as long as the consensus is there with board discussion
 - b. Accepted October minutes with changes approved
3. **Treasurer's report:** [Philippe]
 - a. Philippe will reconcile budget shortly; hopes to have quarterly budget sent out by end of weekend. There are 214 member stations (in January that number will drop as non-renewals expire) and 41 individual members. Funds 50-50 between checks and charges

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- b. 2014 MBL meeting – Cost \$9000 more than projected. Philippe sent a check to resolve outstanding charges. Lessons learned about understanding the potential charges for a meeting venue and getting clarity beforehand in the future. Have not had such issues with OBFS host stations
- c. Sent check to National Academy of Sciences for hard-copy reports of *Enhancing the Value & Sustainability of FSMs*. NAML groups contributed funds to production of the tri-fold
- d. Sarah: the tri-folds and other NAS brochures are in hand and being mailed to OBFS members as per request. Jeff offered to help with distribution. OBFS will pay for shipping

4. **Development Report:** [Brian]

- a. 2015-16 friend/fundraising events: Nantucket in August 2015, fall 2015 in NYC, Feb. 2016 event possibly with Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation
- b. Friend of OBFS award – proposed a call to OBFS membership for nominees, then OBFS-wide vote by online survey (e.g., SurveyMonkey). Will have more details at March call
- c. Sarah will reconnect with Miles about followup on field station story

5. **Elections Report:** [David]

- a. David will send one more reminder to vote online. Poll closes shortly; David will send final tally to BOD

6. **Website update:** [Gwen]

- a. Website is “limping along” - Gwen has minimal time to maintain or make changes. Look to membership for new volunteers to help so Gwen can focus on administration/system admin
 - i. Gwen will write up and send to OBFS a description for a new volunteer web coordinator, using Network Coordinator position language on our wiki
 - ii. It is not feasible to contract MemberClicks for this
 - iii. Philippe: We may have to contract it out. Note the treasurer works closely with web person for membership renewals and donations
- b. Eric and Chris are happy to help with website content, but not the website operation. Gwen notes there isn't a lot of coding involved

7. **2015 Annual Meeting:** [Damon, Sarah]

Meeting is at Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, CO Sept. 16-19. Damon and Ian will get info on range of meeting costs for website. Sarah follow up on putting on web in January

8. **Proposals for 2016 annual conferences:** [Damon] – There are 3 proposed hosts (Schoodic Institute. ME; Sitka Sound Science Center, AK; Central Michigan Univ. Biological Station, MI)

- a. Damon gave overview (BOD to review proposals under separate cover). CMUBS has a ferry that carries 500 cars but only on certain days. Schoodic is most expensive at \$450 total *without* covering beverages/breaks. CMBUS has ground transportation once you are at station, Sitka does not but you can fly right there
- b. Stacy suggests Schoodic's centennial is an opportunity to leverage a national celebration (100th anniversary of NPS and Schoodic) and highlight field stations' value to US and beyond
- c. Philippe – how will host collect fees for meeting? It should be clearly determined in advance.
- d. Philippe will visit Sitka in June 2015 and can report back
- e. 2017 is proposed as international location; start identifying potential hosts
- f. Eric asks for a comparison breakdown from Damon by March – there is a document template already built and Eric will find it. Mel offers to help on Annual Mtg Cmte. If you have questions to ask proposed hosts, please share with Damon

9. **Travel Awards:** [Paul Foster]; proposal/timeline for review on process for travel grants

- a. Anyone can apply with preference given to international stations. One criterion should be whether applicant has received funds in the past. Travel Award Committee needs a clear description of who this award is for. Paul will draft it ASAP based off Carlos' template. Timeline:

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- March 1. Publish award announcements (International and Domestic/Travel assistance separately) including details on approximate costs of meeting. Board to determine how many awards to grant based on anticipated meeting costs. Need volunteer proposal reviewers. New name - Meeting Support grants
- May 31. Close applications
- June 15. Meet to review applications via Skype
- June 30. Send notifications

10. **NAS report and tri-fold update:** [Sarah and Jeff] – fairly painless to develop tri-fold brochure

- a. Sarah has 3 boxes of the new OBFS/NAML brochure, plus 2 boxes of 2-page summary from NAS. Sarah needs help, sent out half of the ~50 requests. Philippe – Sarah send an invoice to cover mailing costs. Jeff offered to help ship
- b. Dissemination: Brian – do we have a link to the new brochure on the web page? Gwen needs a PDF copy from Sarah. The key person who did the brochure was Jane Hockey at Maryland. Post low-res on web, note if you need real copies to contact Sarah
- c. Gwen: the NAS wants some tri-folds. Jeff: sell them back! Suggestion to charge non-members \$1.00 plus shipping/copy. Philippe: the cost isn't worth the effort to track selling them, just give them away. Sarah add graph to inside right corner
- d. Gwen: frame the notice that people won't react to dues first - make any dues paying notice clear because they generate requests for Gwen/Philippe to check membership status

11. **Congressional Visits Day:** Chris volunteers to coordinate for OBFS, and will work with Philippe on reimbursing costs

12. **Report from Early Career representative:** [Pat] – opportunities

- a. Facilitate FSML exchanges for students/young professionals, e.g., Raystown FS visited AEC to explore research and graduate education. Damon: this is quite valuable for undergrads. NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE:EHR) might fund such an idea. Pat and Stacy will investigate this option and report back in March
- b. Visiting other stations – OBFS could facilitate student housing exchanges. Might make sense to start regionally. Also note art programs at FS (see Faerthen Felix's group and blog); there are other regional groups of FSMLs as well
- c. Can set aside some time at annual meeting for young professionals

13. **American Institute of Biological Sciences proposal:** [attachment sent via Eric Nagy] – from discussion with Rob Gropp of AIBS. Three proposed ideas to partner with AIBS [Note Richard Grady, AIBS Exec Dir, is leaving but that doesn't impact this initiative]

- a. Create YouTube video of Faces of Field Stations Video - although costs are reasonable, it's a lot of effort. Low BOD support for this item
- b. Congressional briefing on the Hill in DC in spring 2015
- c. Target individual stations to get local policy makers involved
- d. BOD needs to read proposals, is there time to make this happen in 2015. Jeff: Note the new Congress will necessitate a lot of work to educate them about FSMLs, and the NAS report may have a "shelf life" so moving rapidly is important. Example: 50th anniversary Univ. California Natural Reserve System statewide event to show how important the reserve system is. Jeff supports the May-June event.
- e. Eric thinks we should move fast. Stacy suggests we use the funds slated for Congressional Visits Day travel support (\$3-4K) toward supporting travel to congressional briefing. Jeff and Chris will help with congressional briefing planning if BOD decides to move forward
- f. Philippe says our budget can support this cost; yet we are likely to have our most costly year ever. Will funding this detract from our efforts to acquire an Exec. Director?
- g. Sarah put out a doodle poll to close Friday 19th to get comments for a week

New Business: Next BOD meeting: week of March 16th [look for doodle poll]

Meeting adjourned 2:51 PM.

Submitted Stacy McNulty
OBFS Secretary

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call Friday March 20th, 3:00 pm EST

Attendees: Damon Gannon, Ian Billick, Bill Schuster, Mary Hufty, Carlos de la Rosa, Brian Kloeppel, Philippe Cohen, Eric Nagy, Sarah Oktay, Stacy McNulty, Chris Lorentz, Pat Oelschlager, Paul Foster, Gwen Pearson, David White

Meeting called to order 3:08 PM EST

To Do Items:

1. Philippe will send a revised budget after this meeting
2. Sarah will check with Miles O'Brien about annual meeting and possible OBFS video/piece
3. Identify a co-chair to cover the 2015 annual meeting session on alternative metrics at FSMLs
4. Identify a co-chair with Kathryn Clancy (Eric?)
5. Chris will ask for nominations for Local Hero Award from RMBL for 2015 meeting
6. Sarah will send letter to new OBFS members that Carlos/Paul can share
7. Sarah will reply about ESA booth
8. Pat and Stacy will ask Damon about a time at annual meeting for Early Career gathering
9. Stacy will contact Eric about Dear Colleague letters
10. Sarah share PowerPoint on OBFS from NAML meeting
11. Damon will share proposal comparison spreadsheet by early April
12. Sarah will send a letter to last years' participants at OBFS friendraising event
13. Sarah will follow up with AERC for ESA meeting booth
14. Damon will ask AIBS about a Dear Colleague Letter policy
15. Sarah will ask OBFS members for 2017 meeting host proposals before Sept. 1
16. Sarah will send doodle poll in May for a June meeting

Decision Items:

1. Approved \$3,750 for AIBS CBD for June
2. Four members participating in Congressional Visits Day 2015
3. Approved \$475 for sharing a booth at ESA meeting with AERC

Minutes

1. **Meeting agenda review and approval:** [Sarah] Moved and seconded agenda.
2. **Review and approve minutes from December 12th, 2014:** [Stacy]
 - a. Two minor changes made
 - b. Eric made motion to approve; Bill seconded; BOD approved.
3. **Treasurer's report:** [Philippe]

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- a. Had a very good quarter financially. Station memberships are up higher than anticipated, and membership is now at 212.
 - b. Philippe will move the AIBS - Briefing for National Decision-Makers item to 2015 as it is in the wrong column.
 - c. AIBS tri-fold was only \$4800, so we will not use some budgeted funds there
 - d. Philippe will send a revised budget after this meeting
4. **Election results and committee reappointments confirmed:** [David]
 - a. Officers begin 1 April
 - b. Committees were reappointed or filled as of 31 January 2015
 - c. 199 ballots were sent out via Survey Monkey, 99 voters participated – this is way up from 45 voters 10 years ago
5. **2015 Annual Meeting:** [Damon, Chris for Mel on Local Recognition Award, Sarah, Ian]
 - a. Draft meeting schedule sent around. Registration opens April 1. Cost is in line with projection from Rocky Mountain Biological Lab (host)
 - b. Miles O'Brien – Sarah should know soon on his availability for both of the times scheduled; may shift schedule to accommodate him
 - c. Eric will co-chair Sexual Harassment concurrent session with Kathryn Clancy
 - d. Brian will co-chair Development session
 - e. Identify a co-chair to cover the session on alternative metrics at FSMLs – Reid Bertone-Johnson cannot attend
 - f. Need nominations for Local Hero award from host station– Chris will ask for nominations
 - i. Need name for award
 - g. Eric – encourage committees to have active meetings during annual meeting; then new people can get involved in the committees. This would also make OBFS more transparent and engaging
 - i. The lunchtime roundtables are good, and we may not need to take up a lot of time in the meeting
 - ii. Philippe – however, some committees don't do anything in between meetings
 - iii. Eric will introduce chairs Thurs night, or breakfast Friday?
 - h. Bill Schuster will invite officer nominations early Thurs eve also
 - i. Will have 30 min for Human Diversity Award and 10 min for Historian Report
6. **Human Diversity Award:** [Sarah for Mel]
 - a. Deadline is end of next week
7. **Meeting Support Awards:** [Paul Foster, Carlos De La Rosa]
 - a. Send announcement 31 March; apply till 15 May; decide by Aug 30. \$1500 limit per award
 - b. Philippe suggests increasing the contingency in the Meeting Support [travel award] category
 - c. Timing of award needs to be coordinated with budget due to timing of approval
 - d. Seeking help with reviews –Paul, Carlos, Eric, David others invited
 - e. Some small field stations have been adopted by ? so that is working
8. **AIBS Joint Congressional Briefing Day- June:** [Sarah, Eric]
 - a. BOD approved \$3,750 for AIBS CBD for June – Rob Gropp is giving advice on how to move forward. Jeff Brown also involved
9. **Other Committee reports:** [Eric, Sarah, Stacy, Pat]
 - a. Member support: will have pre-meeting conference call; plan is to have open calls to invite people to contribute ideas
 - b. Early Career: A good model is Global Lakes Ecological Observatory Network – Tim Kratz retired; talk to Paul Hanson at the University of Wisconsin Center for Limnology and Kathy Weathers at The Cary Institute, or Grace Hong, GLEON administrative assistant gshong@wisc.edu
 - i. Pat and Stacy ask Damon about a time at annual meeting for gathering

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

10. **Vote for half funding for ESA booth with Assoc. of Ecosystem Research Centers:** [Sarah]
 - a. Gene Rhodes, AERC - \$475 from OBFS for sharing a booth. August 12. Art or Knute might represent OBFS and share the NAS report. Sarah to follow up
 - b. Philippe moved to approve; Bill seconded; approved
11. **Dear Colleague Letter for LTER/James Brunt regarding ACCESS:** [Brian] / Question from Sarah on Policy for other Dear Colleague letters
 - a. Other FSMLs who would like to collaborate on networking/data management projects – can we share on the OBFS mailing list? Yes
 - b. General requests for OBFS support letters – can BOD develop a policy?
 - i. Philippe – if the president is to write a letter, there should be some due diligence from the BOD. BOD also needs some time to respond and may not be able to assist on short-term notices
 - ii. Governance Committee can take this up
 - iii. Note this is a good sign that people are aware of OBFS and want to work together
 - iv. Damon – find out from AIBS what the usual policy is for a society
 - v. Mary – be careful where the organization shares its name/reputation
12. **Congressional Visits Day:** [Chris]
 - a. May 13-14. Participants: Jeff Clary (UC Davis—Stebbins Cold Canyon), Don Natvig (UNM—Sevilleta), Ed Boyer (Prescott), Brian Kloeppel (WCU)
13. **NAML Public Policy Meeting:** [Sarah]
 - a. Sarah has a slide show on OBFS she can share from this meeting
 - b. NAML is excited about working on education metrics development with OBFS
 - c. Marine labs are in good financial shape in the federal budget
 - d. NAML was glad to co-host the meeting last fall; every 3 years seems like a good period for doing so
 - i. Need a more concrete meeting budget estimate beforehand
 - ii. Another benefit of sharing meeting time: NOAA, NSF attended
14. **Research Coordination Network:** Art@FSML's [Sarah for Faerthen Felix]
 - a. Workshop in June to develop the NSF RCN proposal
 - i. Philippe recruited Stanford faculty
 - ii. OBFS governance: could have a committee for 'Art at FSMLs'
15. **Education Metrics:** workshop for RCN [Sarah]
 - a. Led by Jan Hodder, Ian Billick, Ivar Babb, others in OBFS and NAML – how can we quantify impact of FSMLS on students? Timing is likely autumn
16. **Development Report:** [Brian]
 - a. Nantucket FS will host a friendraising event during first half of August 2015 – date TBD, possibly same venue. Sarah will send a letter to last years' participants
 - b. Identify an annual "Friend of OBFS" (see draft document from Brian)
 - i. Miles O'Brien is talking about creating a video or piece on FSMLs' contribution to science and society
17. **Website update** [Gwen]
 - a. Does basic day-to-day tasks, but need to start handing over the website – ideas?
18. **Proposals for 2016 and 2017 annual OBFS meetings** [Damon]
 - a. Three 2016 proposals (previously discussed by BOD); Damon will put together a spreadsheet for comparison by early April
 - i. Potential hosts indicated willingness to host in 2017 also

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- b. Brian - we should make a 2017 decision when together at RMBL this fall – request for proposals from potential hosts by 15 Aug
- c. Ireland (Robert Folkes) – interested in hosting 2017 or 2018

19. New Members, Renewals [Philippe, Sarah]

- a. Currently 212 members

New Business:

Philippe: suggest we use Skype/videoconference for future meetings

Next BOD meeting: June 12th or sooner?

Stacy moved to adjourn; Philippe seconded

Meeting adjourned 4:56 PM

Submitted Stacy A. McNulty

OBFS Secretary

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting

Conference Call

Friday June 12th, 1:00 pm EST

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

Meeting called to order 1:06 PM.

To Do and Decisions/Items of Note:

1. Stacy will send final March meeting notes
2. Philippe will check after July 1st with the bank and send it to Sarah to sign until April
3. Philippe will change budget column headings to 2014-15 and so on
4. Damon will work with the program committee on getting Julie Carr from AIBS to speak at RMBL annual meeting.
5. Sarah will pin down which slot works for Mark Ruffalo to speak at RMBL
6. Damon: will put out a press release on Mark Ruffalo a month before the meeting
7. Jeff and Faerthen send pre-meeting workshop descriptions to Damon for inclusion in OBFS program and to Sarah so she can mention on her upcoming AIBS visit
8. Pat and Stacy will ask Damon about a time at annual meeting for Early Career gathering
9. Carlos will put out one more invitation for the Member Support award
10. Sarah will write up a paragraph on Friend of OBFS Miles O'Brien
 - a. Sarah to check if Miles will make a video to be shown at OBFS meeting
11. Philippe will share images with David before August Annual Report as well as budget and updated auction graph
12. Sarah will send David a Message from the President for inclusion in Annual Report
13. David will send corrections to Sarah and Gwen who will fix the website dates and spelling
14. Gwen will work with Memberclicks to fit the member database into the new structure
15. Damon will send complete info from Sitka, AK to compare for 2016 meeting location
16. Philippe will email BOD his impressions of Sitka after visiting

Motions:

1. Established federal government per diem rate for reimbursement of meals
2. Approved Friend of OBFS award language and process

Meeting Notes

1. **Agenda review and approval:** [Sarah]
 - a. Motion to approve – Brian; second, Eric. Motion approved
2. **Review and approve minutes from March 20th:** [Stacy]
 - a. Philippe moved to accept with changes, Gwen seconded; approved
3. **Treasurer's report:** [Philippe]
 - a. Membership dues are up – highest ever membership
 - b. Running under budget as usual. Projected deficit won't be near approved amount
 - c. Travel reimbursement - we need a policy for approved meal reimbursements rate for OBFS. This came up during travel to the Congressional Visits Day in May; when people don't submit receipts for meals, Philippe uses government standard rates for per diem. Note: alcohol is not covered. Board motion: use federal government rates. Eric moved; David seconded. Passes
 - d. Clarification: individual members can hold elected positions – e.g., Philippe can be Treasurer after he retires in early 2016
 - e. Establish a process for accepting membership checks in Philippe's absence or letting people know a reimbursement may be delayed. Eric: can a second designated person sign like President or Secretary? Discussion that it may be a Past President. Philippe will check after July 1st with the bank and send a set of checks to Sarah to sign until April 2016. David: bylaws indicate this can be a board decision, no change to bylaws needed
 - f. Travel funds to cover Mark Ruffalo are in the budget
 - g. Pre-approval for development funds – discuss at that item #6
 - h. Carlos: International travel support item – how much money is available? Philippe: part of the expense will roll into next year
 - i. David: budget totals at top of column – what time does 2014 refer to? Philippe: it is 2013-14 because 9 months are in 2014; for clarity will change heading to 2014-15
4. **2015 Annual Meeting RMBL:** [Damon, Chris for Mel on Local Recognition Award, Sarah, Ian]: program, events, new items
 - a. Mel sent out program agenda – mostly full. First plenary will be Thursday PM. Miles O'Brien cannot come, but Sarah may Skype him in or read his statement
 - b. Chris: Committee introductions is scheduled for Friday AM
 - c. Jeff: theme is focused on policy & public – can we bring someone to talk? Rob Gropp or Julie Carr from AIBS perhaps? Damon will work with the program committee. Perhaps a slot near plenary #2
 - d. Chris: will build in additional Q&A time for audience-speaker interaction
 - e. Inviting public – when Mark Ruffalo speaks, if the public is invited as Ian Billick wishes, we need to be aware of the repercussions/impact on schedule. Sarah will pin down which slot works for Mark. Damon: will put out a press release a month before the meeting
 - f. Chris: this will be the first year of the Local Recognition Award, to be selected by the conference committee and local host. Haven't named the award yet
5. **Art and science workshop:** [Faerthen] and **Global Mountain Observatory workshop:** [Jeff]
 - a. Art & Science Workshop - June 19-21, 2015 – an NSF-funded planning meeting in Reno, NV on how to institutionalize art and science at field research sites. Background: LTER put an Research Coordination Network proposal together to expand the Ecological Reflections Network, but the idea hasn't had traction within NSF - needed to think bigger. The Nevada Museum of Art relationship is helping reconceive art as creative problem-solving and not just traditional illustration of natural history. Participants include Jerry Schubel coming to talk about National Academy of Science report as a framework/impetus, plus NEA, Grantmakers in the Arts and others. Dept of Education involved; another RCN proposal will be developed for August. A goal is to draw attention to FSMLs

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- b. Global Mountain Observatory Network – planning grant for hosting GMON as a pre-OBFS meeting. If funded, would host 45-50 people; goal is to create global network of observatories like GLEON. Peter McCartney at NSF FSML program was very helpful; should hear a decision next week. Grant is for \$25K from NSF, with the Swiss-based Mountain Research Initiative to provide \$25K to cover international participants
 - c. Jeff: Can we advertise these pre-meeting workshops to attract others to join OBFS?
 - i. Jeff will send description to Damon for inclusion in OBFS program and to Sarah so she can mention on her upcoming AIBS visit
 - d. iDigBio Sept. 16, RMBL [Faerthen] Encourage digitization of “dark datasets” and sharing without a huge financial or computational investment. Sagehen, Archbold have been active with iDigBio. This could be an excellent way for FSMLs to go digital
6. **Development Report:** [Brian, Sarah]
- a. Friendraising Event on Nantucket, Massachusetts, August 3. Same space and caterers, will give OBFS a 50% discount as a non-profit. 80-100 people, suggested \$100 per person donation. Should be simpler to hold the event this year – can reuse some of last year’s materials. Will have event video recorded. Save the date email invites go out in two weeks
 - b. Budget review and approval to insure that we have \$15,000 support from OBFS to carry out the event. There is \$16,118.26 budgeted including last year’s carryover
 - c. Andy Revkin and Michael Schulder confirmed as speakers; \$2500 honorarium for Andy and OBFS will cover his travel
 - d. Last year’s event raised \$10K; just released Michael Schulder’s podcast on iTunes
7. **Human Diversity Award:** [Sarah for Mel]
- a. Powdermill (PA) won this year. Working on program for OBFS meeting
8. **Meeting Support Awards:** [Paul Foster and Carlos De La Rosa]
- a. Four applicants received to date including requests from Brazil, South Africa
 - b. Carlos will put out one more invitation.
9. **AIBS Joint Congressional Briefing Day (CBD) with Rob Gropp:** [Sarah, Jeff]
- a. Jeff, Sarah, and Tom Arsuffi from Llano River, TX attending. Date of meeting is up to AIBS, but will happen in July (before recess); will likely be week of July 13. It may be two events (with both houses of Congress)
 - b. Earlier this year, Jeff asked membership for stories and most were California-based but the goal is to showcase the national presence of OBFS member stations
 - c. Program: Sarah discuss NAS report, an opportunity to partner with federal agencies, tell stories about cooperatives with science and other disciplines are positive, close with Sarah to ask how do we move this forward
 - d. Jeff met with UC Berkley administration; the response was positive on the ideas presented in the NAS report and agreement that creating and taking a more active approach is important and encouraged. They are also supportive of OBFS working towards creating ways to move this forward. Jeff’s working with government affairs staff at his institution and he thinks this is helping with field station visibility, value, and credibility internally. Berkley wants to approach “friendlies” representatives in Congress beforehand to update them on OBFS, then those reps can come to the AIBS CBD meeting with questions prepared. Rob and Julie are enthusiastic about that approach
 - e. Philippe: will travel expense be in this or next fiscal year (after July)?
 - i. Sarah: we don’t have a line item in the budget for OBFS rep travel, even though we did fund AIBS (*see earlier board notes*)
 - ii. Philippe: there is \$2,500 available: \$1,000 for BOD travel that could be used and \$1,500 for non-board travel

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

10. **Other Committee reports as needed:** [Eric, Sarah, Stacy, Pat]

- a. Early Career Rep (Pat Oelschlager) is working on planning for next year

11. **Friend of OBFS nomination and selection:** [Brian]

- a. Note this is not annually awarded; it is a good way to recognize OBFS partners
- b. Philippe: edit item #1 to reflect that individual/lifetime members can be recognized
- c. Motion to approve: Philippe (with the change above); Damon seconded. Passed.
- d. Sarah will write up a paragraph for Miles O'Brien
 - iii. Chris: if Miles would record a video we could play it at the meeting.
- e. \$1,000 set aside for the plaque; Brian will get a quote

12. **ESA Meeting sharing table with AERC:** [Sarah]

- a. Knute Nadelhoffer, Paul Foster, Sarah will be at the meeting. Will take NAS report brochures and OBFS materials. Cost of sharing table was approved earlier (\$475)

13. **Annual Report Needs:** [David]

- a. Philippe will share images with David before August report as well as budget and updated auction graph
- b. Sarah will send a Message from the President for inclusion

14. **Website Memberclicks update:** [Gwen]

- a. Website – David notes to fix current officer slate
 - i. David will send corrections; Sarah and Gwen will fix the dates and spelling
- b. Memberclicks is primed to update their system. This is good and they still are the cheapest solution, so Gwen advocates staying with them because it works
 - i. Gwen will work with them to fit the existing database into the new structure
 - ii. The new version will have a way to associate individual members with a particular station
- c. Timing of Gwen's responses to web/data needs is still based on her availability

15. **Proposals for 2016 meeting hosts:** [Damon]

- a. Tabled till a week or two
- b. Damon is expecting more info from Sitka, AK
- c. Philippe will email his impressions of Sitka after next week

16. **New Members, Renewals:** [Philippe, Sarah]

17. **New Business:** n/a

Sarah will send a doodle poll about meeting dates for August

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

Meeting adjourned: 2:56 PM EST

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

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

Submitted Stacy A. McNulty

OBFS Secretary

OBFS Board of Directors Meeting

Conference Call

Monday August 10th, 2:00 pm EST

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

Attendees: Reid Bertone-Smith, Jeff Brown, Philippe Cohen, Mel Dean, Carlos de la Rosa, Paul Foster, Damon Gannon, Brian Kloeppel, Chris Lorentz, Stacy McNulty, Pat Oelschlager, Sarah Oktay, Bill Schuster, David White
Meeting called to order 2:04 PM

NOTE: Please let Stacy/Sarah know if you cannot make the BOD meeting 6-8 PM Wed. Sept. 16 over dinner. Share cell #s for travel

TO DO:

1. Paul or Sarah will share video and podcast from Aug. 4th event on Nantucket
2. Mel will email Eric to confirm plenary speaker
3. Pat will survey OBFS members via listserv for existing examples of similar mentoring/early career programs; include an intro paragr. and Stacy's contact info – work with Chris and Stacy
4. Bill will double-check positions for election prior to annual meeting
 - a. Will work with David and Gwen - OBFS website needs updating of current BOD slate
5. Damon will confirm all 2016 hosts need to attend meeting this year
6. Sarah will send David a Message from the President for inclusion in Annual Report
7. WHO will check with Gwen about Memberclicks and the OBFS website member map
8. Philippe will research and identify alternative on-line banking for OBFS to facilitate easier access to funds by Secretary and/or President as backup to Treasurer when traveling for long periods of time (1-3 months).
9. Board and treasurer to identify alternative platforms for maintaining the current OBFS email list server given the impending retirement of the treasurer from Stanford
10. Decisions: Mary Hufty Local Hero award to be initiated at annual meeting

Minutes:

1. Move to accept June 12, 2015 minutes with minor changes – David, seconded by Brian. Approved
2. **Fundraising event:** (Sarah, Brian, Paul, Hilary Swain) – Sunday eve and Monday events, Nantucket
 - a. Smaller turnout than 2014, perhaps due to competition from concurrent events on island
 - b. Excellent auction items including 13 field station visits
 - c. Cost of event \$15,478. Raised \$12,825
 - d. Visibility via ads and paperless post direct invites
 - e. Michael Schulder filmed guest Andy Revkin – Paul/Sarah will share video and podcast link
 - f. OBFS would like to hold a similar event at another location next year
3. **OBFS meeting at Rocky Mountain Biological Lab (RMBL) Sept. 16-20:** (Sarah for Ian)
 - a. 80 registrants/65 staying onsite to date
 - b. Can stream/Skype parts of meeting but not entire conference due to bandwidth limits
 - c. Program is set except for potential speaker about effective communication of science to public and policymakers
 - i. Mark Ruffalo and Miles O'Brien cannot attend. Other options:
 - ii. Andy Revkin (use and impact of social media in particular)
 - iii. Rob Gropp or Julie, AIBS
 1. Sarah will contact Rob and keep Eric and Mike DeLuca of NAML in loop
 - iv. ** Future conference: consider these as speakers
 1. Union of Concerned Scientists

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

2. Susan Hassol, climate change communication
 - v. Follow-up with plenary speaker Kathryn Clancy – Mel will email Eric
 - vi. Speaker expense - budgeted \$2500 plus \$1000 for travel and speaker fees
4. **Early Career Professional Development and Mentoring:** (Pat) – see separate document
 - a. Stacy will lead lunchtime discussion in lieu of Pat (Saturday Sept. 19, noon-1 PM)
 - b. Feedback: great idea, could be costly to move multiple participants between sites for mentoring. Who would be responsible for logistics?
 - i. Could be an RCN proposal to NSF (Jeff) – pitch the idea at the annual meeting. Partner with ESA SEEDS, other professional groups like American Fisheries Society? (Stacy)
 - ii. Mel- suggest Pat survey listserv members for existing examples of similar programs Pat include an intro paragr. and Stacy's contact info
5. **OBFS Congressional Briefings Day:** (Jeff)
 - a. 30 representatives attended 2 different briefings to talk about field stations/science
 - b. NOAA, ESA and others were also in attendance. Good visibility, even if colleagues who work in DC cannot attend
 - c. Overall, went well considering OBFS is new at this. Stations need help organizing events “at home” as well as learning how to engage politically
 - d. Suggest holding CBD annually – AIBS earned the money spent on coordination. If AIBS just adds one item to agenda, may be less costly than a stand-alone event
 - e. July timing is difficult for FSML directors; March is better. Congress in recess in August
6. **Mary Hufty Local Hero award:** Chris moves to accept, Brian seconds. Plaque verbiage: *This award recognizes an individual who exemplifies the ideals of OBFS and supports research, education, and outreach through personal and/or professional actions, particularly in the areas of biology, conservation, and/or ecology*
 - a. David will email Hilary for a photo of Mary for inclusion in annual report
7. **Travel Awards – International and Student:** (Carlos, Paul)
 - a. 5 applicants for travel award. Spending about \$5,500. Decisions to be sent out ASAP
8. **Nominating committee:** (Bill S.)
 - a. Secretary, president. and one MAL position are open for filling April 2016
9. **Memberclicks update:** (Gwen) – see Gwen's separate email
 - a. Check with Gwen about whether the OBFS website will have the capacity to include the member map, an essential feature
 - b. The webmaster position is crucial to OBFS. BOD help identify and recruit a new skilled person
10. **Treasurer retirement transition:** (Philippe)
 - a. Consider a back-up treasurer in light of Philippe leaving Jasper Ridge and travel plans in 2016
 - i. See June 2015 notes about Pres/Sec having access to checks to make payments/expedite reimbursements for OBFS expenses
 - b. OBFS mailing list is through Stanford; board evaluate a different listserv (e.g., MailChimp)
 - c. Travel fund request for registration portion of meeting so treasurer can continue to attend – BOD in support as it has with other retired FSML affiliates who perform OBFS functions
11. **2016 annual meeting hosts:** (Damon)
 - a. Sitka Science Center facilities are stellar (Philippe) – could host in 2016 or 2017
 - b. Asked potential 2016 hosts to get back by Aug 28. All need to attend meeting this year
12. **Annual Report:** (David)

OBFS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

- a. Meeting minutes – if BOD can email approve quickly, David will put into annual report
- b. Note OBFS website needs updating of current BOD slate
- c. Sarah will send David a Message from the President for inclusion in Annual Report

13. "A Field Guide to Field Stations" proposal: (Chris)

- a. BOD decided to decline this proposal and instead work with Early Career rep to design a digital media project that would capture the energy and sense of place in video and stories. It should be inclusive, diverse, and include an external production team help all of us busy station managers and directors compile the stories and segments

14. New Business

- a. Philippe developing a tour (affiliated with Stanford Alumni Association) for a one-two week trip to field stations in a particular region or continent. Would like efforts to benefit OBFS
- b. ESA meeting – Paul Foster is in Baltimore distributing OBFS materials as we speak
- c. Jeff – RCN Art at FSMLs proposal was submitted and will share summary. Likely to ask OBFS to create a committee
- d. Jeff - GMON meeting is occurring prior to OBFS meeting at RMBL. Will ask board to create a mountain observatory committee or include activity within international committee

Adjourned at 3:51 pm.

Submitted Stacy A. McNulty

OBFS Secretary

2015 Annual Meeting

Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL), Gothic, Colorado

"Communicating the Value of Field Stations to Policy Makers and the Public"
September 16th to 20th, 2015

