**Minutes 2004**

**ASEH Executive Committee Meeting**

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**April 3, 2004**

**Victoria, British Columbia**

**[attachments are on file at ASEH archives]**

Participants: Doug Weiner, Steve Pyne, Mark Madison, Lisa Mighetto, Carolyn Merchant, Jackie Corn, Mart Stewart, Nancy Langston, Sarah Elkind, Jim McCann, Ted Steinberg, Adam Rome, and Jan Oosthoek

Guests: Lorne Hammond and Karen Wonders (and colleague)

President Doug Weiner called the meeting or order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes.*James McCann made a motion to approve the minutes for the 2003 meeting.  Sarah Elkind seconded the motion.  Motion carried.*

Lisa Mighetto circulated the Executive Committee roster and it was suggested that she send it to Eve Munson to update the information in *Environmental History* [task completed April 9, 2004].

2. Victoria Conference Report.  Lorne Hammond summarized the status of conference activities and finances.  This meeting attracted a record number of registrants (more than 700).  He explained the terms of the $50,000 grant he received from the Canadian government, approximately $15,000 of which can be used to offset conference expenses, such as the museum reception.  His grant can also be used to reimburse Canadian and non-U.S. students for travel to the conference.

*Carolyn Merchant made a motion for a resolution of thanks to Lorne and his many volunteers.  Mart Stewart seconded the motion.  Motion carried.*

3. Future Conferences.  The new sites selection committee includes the following members:  Paul Sutter, chair, Sarah Elkind, and Marty Reuss.

Carolyn Merchant noted that ASEH owes the past sites selection committee "an enormous vote of thanks" for providing continuity and dedicated service.

A discussion of Craig Colten's proposal to hold the 2007 conference in Baton Rouge ensued.  Mart Stewart expressed concern about the cost of accommodations for graduate students; many others agreed.  The cost of transportation was also discussed.  Major point:  If ASEH chooses a hub city for its conference, airfare costs could be lower, while accommodation costs are high.  This is an issue for the Sites Selection Committee to discuss:  how will we manage the tradeoffs?  Mart Stewart offered to obtain information on organizations that meet in the same location periodically, providing continuity and perhaps some savings.

Carolyn Merchant suggested that Lisa Mighetto work closely with Craig Colten on the issue of cost of accommodations (and alternate accommodations).

*Carolyn Merchant made a motion to accept Craig Colten's proposal to hold the 2007 meeting in Baton Rogue, provided that the concerns noted above are addressed.  Sarah Elkind seconded the motion.  Motion carried.*

4. Treasure's Report [see attached].  Mark Madison summarized the report and discussed the high cost of insurance, suggesting that ASEH obtain event coverage for the annual meeting only; he will investigate this issue for the Houston conference.  He will ask the Forest History Society if its insurance coverage can be extended to include ASEH and Jim will inquire about H-Net.  Mark pointed out that the conference is a major source of income for ASEH.

*Jim McCann made a motion to accept the treasurer=s report.  Jackie Corn seconded the motion.  Motion carried.*

5. Report on Executive Director and Fundraising.  Hal Rothman has offered his services to re-ignite the campaign for an executive director.  Lisa should send him a thank-you note [task completed April 9, 2004].  Mark Harvey might also know about potential donors.  Three additional possibilities for funding were suggested:  soft money; endowment; and Vanguard account (interest).  Suggested schedule for resolving the issue:  May 1st -- get committee organized; July 1-- prepare plan of action to commit in principle to executive director position.

*Sarah Elkind made a motion to form a committee to prepare budget and responsibilities for executive director position for a two-year, try-out term, financing it through general operating funds.  Carolyn Merchant seconded the motion.  Motion carried.*

6. Karen Wonders' Report.  She and her colleague proposed that ASEH divest itself of all connections with Weyerhaeuser Corporation, explaining the devastating effects of clear-cutting.  A discussion ensured.  The Executive Committee concluded the following:

* It is a misimpression that ASEH has any direct ties either to the Weyerhaeuser Corporation or to its foundation.  No one from Weyerhaeuser sits on ASEH's board and no one from the company contributes to ASEH.
* The mission of ASEH is to promote scholarship and scholarly exchange, not to advocate any particular policy or political position as an institution.  ASEH officers are not authorized to express political views in the name of the society.
* Because members do hold political views and these are often closely linked to scholarly debates, we have decided that at all future meetings there will be tables and poster boards made available for collection of signatures for petitions and discussion of these kinds of issues (as there were at the Victoria conference).

The Executive Committee will therefore take no official action in response to Karen Wonders' report about clear-cutting.  Doug will inform Karen [task completed May 11, 2004].

7. Journal Report [see attached report].  Adam Rome and Doug Weiner talked about the journal online.  Question:  should we keep the gate open?  Nancy Langston suggested offering a special online rate.

*Carolyn Merchant made a motion to accept the budget as reported, noting that we would like to see an effort to increase subscriptions, including extension of subscriptions to non-members at conferences and reaching out to libraries.  Mark Madison seconded the motion.  Motion carried.*

Doug Weiner suggested that we build in a robust advertising component, placing full-page ads in the journal.  Adam Rome said he would suggest advertising to Steve, along with promotions in connection with the transition to the new editor.

*Sarah Elkind made a motion that we as a board prefer open access to the journal online, but we will agree to close the gate for two years if subscriptions don't increase by 10 percent.  Mark Madison seconded the motion.  Motion carried.*

Lisa Mighetto had to leave the meeting at 3:55 p.m. to attend to the Silent Auction in the exhibit area….

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.