

ASABE MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL

May 14, 2008

Minutes

Present: Sonia Jacobsen, Paul Heinemann, Grace Danao, Becky Meyer, Jacob Bolson, Randy Raper, Xinlei Wang, Fedro Zazueta, Robert Burns, Kevin Keener, Grant Clark, Marvin Stone and Mark Crossley

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Sonia Jacobsen began the call by welcoming everyone. A list of those MDC members present was confirmed. She then asked for additions or changes to the agenda. There were no additions. It was also noted that a quorum of Council members was not present, but with a few latecomers adding during the course of the call, a quorum was reached.

Approval of November 2007 Conference Call Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

Motion: To approve the minutes from the November 2007 Conference Call MDC meeting as written.
Seconded and passed.

BOT Member Conflict of Interest Bylaws Amendment

At their April board meeting, the BOT approved a bylaws amendment to prohibit members of the BOT and the Finance Committee from serving as voting members on one of the councils (Attachment B). This affected only one member of the MDC, Ron McAllister, current ASABE Treasurer, who stepped down as ESH representative. David Hard will complete Ron's term.

2008 Initiative Fund - Awarded Proposals

The Initiative Fund Committee unanimously voted to approve funding for two proposals – one to fully fund becoming a society sponsor of E-Week for 2009 and the balance of the monies to fund a public policy effort in Washington, DC. Please see Attachment C for further detail on these proposals. An E-Week subcommittee is currently being fleshed out with interested members and hopes to meet in Providence. Dolores Landeck and Mark Crossley will serve as staff liaisons.

2009 Strategic Planning Discussion/Update on 2008 Goals

Attachments D and E were then discussed. Progress towards meeting the 2008 strategies and metrics (Attachment D) was meant to give the Council an idea of what needs to be done for the 2009 grid (Attachment E). The MDC was asked to think about the development of strategies and metrics for 2009, as the BOT Strategic Planning Committee is looking for input by the end of August. This will be discussed by the MDC between now and the Providence meeting as well as at the meeting. In the meantime, please send feedback to either Sonia or Mark.

Cooperative Membership Agreement Updates

The cooperative membership agreement between ASABE and CSBE was updated to reflect mostly editorial changes as both societies have changed names over the past few years. It was also edited to read better and was signed by both the current CSBE and ASABE presidents at the April BOT meeting.

We have also had interest in developing an agreement with the Chilean Society of Agricultural Engineers. With the help of Fedro Zazueta, we've traded a few drafts back and forth and at this point, the main point of contention seems to be dues. Chilean nationals currently pay \$65.00 under the developing nation reduced-dues program, but they've proposed paying \$20.00 per member instead. Members of the MDC expressed interest in offering them the \$20.00 rate for one year to introduce them to what ASABE has to offer. After this initial year, they'd move up to the \$65.00 rate. Fedro feels that we'd be able to attract upwards of 70 new members through the agreement. Mark will follow through with them on this offer.

We've also had inquiries from agricultural engineering societies from Nigeria and Pakistan as well. No movement to date on either of these.

P-120 Preprofessional Engineer of the Year Award Update

Grace Danao gave an update on this effort to change the existing Preprofessional Engineer of the Year Scholarship to an award. She pointed out that a total of \$28,750 needs to be raised by this summer so the award can be given in 2009. To date, \$24,060 of that amount has been raised. Attachment F appeared in the April edition of *Inside ASABE* in hopes of raising the additional funds in the coming few months. When the conversion to an award does take place, an M committee (like the other award committees) will need to be established to administer the award. In anticipation of this, Grace has been in contact with the chair of M-102 Awards Coordinating Committee to begin putting together bylaws for the committee.

Agricultural Robotics Student Design Competition

It was announced that the second annual Agricultural Robotics Student Design Competition is well underway for the Providence meeting. With three teams registered, the task this year revolves around the simulated harvesting of trees. All members were encouraged to support this event by coming to the exhibit hall to see the teams in action

Member Statistics

Mark Crossley overviewed member statistic highlights (Attachment G).

MDC Meeting at the AIM in Providence

The first MDC meeting at the AIM in Providence has been set for Sunday, June 29th from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in Providence Ballroom 4 of the Westin Hotel. There will be a follow-up meeting held Thursday, July 3 from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m., also in Providence Ballroom 4. We anticipate only listing action items on the agenda this year with MDC representatives from committees and groups providing reports for information only. The bulk of our time together will be spent brainstorming and discussing ways to improve ASABE membership benefits and services to members.

Sonia also reminded the group that 2009 budget financial requests are to be submitted no later than June 1 to either her to Mark.

With no further business before the MDC, the following motion was made:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 3:45 pm. Seconded and passed.