

**ASABE MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
CONFERENCE CALL**

November 8, 2007

Minutes

Present: Sonia Jacobsen, Paul Heinemann, Grace Danao, Becky Ostermann, Jacob Bolson, Joe Zulovich, Bill Ritter, Randy Raper, Xinlei Wang, Ron McAllister, Robert Burns, Derrel Martin, 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. Aside from moving a few agenda items around, there were no additions. It was also noted that a quorum of Council members was present.

Approval of June 2007 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

Motion: To approve the minutes from the June 2007 MDC meetings as written. Seconded and passed.

Confirmation of Ballots to Approve Gale Holloway Award Bylaws & Change MI/IN Section Boundaries (Attachments B & C)

Motion: To formally approve and confirm the previous online ballots to approve the Gale Holloway Award Bylaws and to change the MI/IN section boundaries. Seconded and passed.

Budget Report

The budget forecast for 2007 is anticipating an approximate \$82,000 loss while the projected 2008 budget is essentially balanced at this time with a projected deficit of \$1,300.

Nothing has been brought forward concerning an anticipated ED-204 budget request for 2008, so this item has been tabled until further notice.

Possible E-Week Involvement & Forthcoming Initiative Fund Proposals

In the past, it's been suggested that ASABE become a sponsor of E-Week to garner more exposure for the profession. The Society will be a contributing sponsor in 2008 at the \$1,000 level to test this involvement. To be a full sponsoring organization, the cost is \$15,600, which has many more benefits and much greater exposure. Depending on how 2008 involvement goes, we may consider contributing at the full level for 2009. An Initiative Fund proposal is currently being developed and will be forthcoming to fund this initiative. Sonia then asked for interested MDC members to serve on an advisory group to look more closely at E-Week sponsorship and activities. While there were no takers, members were urged to contact her with interest in the coming weeks.

Concerning other forthcoming Initiative Fund proposals, the MDC was informed of one for sure that will be coming before the council for consideration to develop a CDP session at the 2008 AIM for agricultural technology students to better involve them in the Society.

Dues Increase Feedback to Date

In light of the dues increase for 2008, we've heard very few negative comments from the membership aside from a couple, which is to be expected. In fact, one member who dropped her membership a few years back called to reinstate and insisted on paying three years of back dues to show her commitment to ASABE.

Recent BOT Overview & Global Initiative Update

The reception on Capitol Hill honoring ASABE's 100th went very well. Not hugely attended, but a nice group to showcase the Society. Aside from the previously reported budget forecast for 2007 and proposed budget for 2008, BOT highlights included approval of \$100,000 for a 2008 Initiative Fund and strategic planning for 2009. More will be coming on this latter issue in the coming weeks.

The other item that was discussed as a follow-up from previous BOT meetings was ASABE's Global Initiative. The BOT Global Task Force reviewed input from the councils (Attachment D) and other groups and set up a subcommittee comprised of council chairs and ASABE directors to review the recommendations and report back to the BOT at their April 2008 meeting. More will be coming on this as well.

Input on 2008 Strategic Planning Goals

Attachment E was then discussed. These strategies and metrics were developed by Sonia and Mark Crossley and additional ideas were solicited from the MDC. With nothing offered, Sonia then encouraged they be sent via e-mail to Mark by 12/15.

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. A fundraising letter from Grace (Attachment F) was mailed to all past ASABE Presidents, former graduate students of Dr. Yoerger (who endowed the original scholarship) and department heads to raise the necessary funds to make this change. To date, \$3,000 has been raised. This letter will be printed in the 11/15 issue of *Resource* as well. When and if the conversion to an award takes place, an M committee (like the other award committees) will need to be established to administer the award. An update on this effort will be given at the May MDC conference call meeting.

Possible Mentoring Program for First Time Meeting Attendees

The idea of creating a mentoring program for first-time annual meeting attendees was discussed at the June 2007 meeting and follow-up was scheduled for this meeting. The MDC member who originally brought this up in June has rotated off the MDC and was not available to attend this meeting, so it was tabled until further notice.

Changes to Resource for 2008

Sonia announced that she recently received word that beginning in 2008, *Resource* will be produced outside of ASABE. Unfortunately, this change has eliminated two full-time positions at ASABE, but will save the Society a great deal of money.

Member Statistics

Mark Crossley overviewed member statistic highlights (Attachment G). Overall the picture is an improvement over the last few years and we expect to be at a ten-year high for overall membership numbers by year's end. We also anticipate breaking another new member record for non-student members by 12/31.

Next Conference Call

The next MDC conference call will be held in May 2008. The date and time will be determined in the spring.

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

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