

**Western Snow Conference  
Executive Committee Meeting  
04 May 1997**

**MINUTES OF THE 1997 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING  
WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE  
BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA**

**May 04, 1997**

**65.1 Welcome to the Conference**

The 65th Executive Committee of the Western Snow Conference was called to order by General Chair, Phyllis Snow, at 1:15 P.M. Sunday, May 4, 1997. Phyllis welcomed everyone to the conference. In attendance:

<b>Committee</b>	
Phyllis Snow	General Chair
Chuck Troendle	General Chair Elect, Proceedings Editor,
Don Snow	Secretary
Jerry Beard	North Continental Area Chair
Keith Cooley	NC
Bob Jairell	NC
Peter Palmer	NC
Chuck Troendle	South Continental Area Chair
Ken Wahl	SC
Randy Julander	SC
Frank Gehrke	South Pacific Area Chair
Hal Klieforth	SP Proxy for Dan Greenlee
Bruce McGurk	SP
Doug Powell	SP
Phil Farnes	Past General Chair
Jack Hannaford	Past General Chair
Bob Richards	Past General Chair
Robert Swanson	Past General Chair
Mike Demuth	Representative of Joint Meeting Committee
Maureen Hannaford	Guest

## 65.2 Approval of Minutes of 1996 Annual Executive Committee Meeting

### *Motion 1*

Moved by Bruce McGurk and seconded by Chuck Troendle to approve the 1996 Executive Committee Meeting minutes.

.....Motion carried.

## 65.3 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was deferred to the General Business Meeting due to late arrival of the treasurer, Jack Pardee.

## 65.4 Secretary's Report

With memberships being handled by the treasurer and document sales and membership mailing by the documents manager, the secretary had little to do during the year. In the few weeks before the annual meeting secretarial activity increased slightly but the Canadian Geophysical Union handled most details of the annual meeting.

## 65.5 1997 Annual Meeting Report - Banff, Alberta, Canada

Mike Demuth of the Eastern Snow Conference reported on the 1997 meeting. Packets of information about the Western Snow Conference (WSC), Eastern Snow Conference (ESC), and Canadian Geophysical Union--Hydrology Section (CGU-HS) would be available at the respective registration desks. The object of these packets is to give people information about the societies to encourage membership.

WSC will take the lead in publishing the 1997 proceedings from the joint meeting. Papers from WSC and ESC will be included. CGU publishes only abstracts. These are in the program available for use at the annual meeting.

Logistics of the joint meeting preclude WSC obtaining revenue from this year's annual meeting. This puts a financial burden on WSC because part of the WSC annual operating budget is obtained from the annual meeting. Inclusion of both WSC and ESC papers in this proceedings nearly double the usual number of pages. The Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU) will give \$2500.00 (Cdn) to the WSC to help defray costs of printing the proceedings from this meeting. Based on costs associated with the ESC printing the ESC/WSC proceedings from Quebec City in 1993, the documents committee feels that a surcharge of \$10.00 (US) will be adequate to publish this year's proceedings.

Four exhibitors signed up to have displays at this meeting but only three have come. It is planned to use the fees paid by the exhibitors to (help) defray the cost of the author's breakfast.

The barbecue to be held on Tuesday evening will cost \$15 (Cdn) per person. The remaining cost of the meal and all the entertainment costs will be subsidized by CGU-HS. All WSC and ESC members are encouraged to attend. During this event awards for WSC and ESC will be presented.

The banquet for all conference attendees and their spouses is on Wednesday evening. Everyone pays their own way to the banquet. The evening will include a short presentation for CGU activities followed by a talk by Michael Schmidt of the Pacific Geoscience Center, the leader of the recent expedition to measure the height of Mt. Logan in British Columbia.

The spouses' program was discussed at length. Due to the numerous possibilities of entertainment for spouses at Banff, the high cost of developing an extensive spouses' program, and having no idea how many spouses might attend, the decision was to have a brunch at Lake Louise Chateau. It was decided that WSC will pay for brunch for those spouses who want to attend. A sign-up sheet will be put at the WSC registration desk for names of spouses wanting to go and those who will drive.

#### **65.6 1998 Annual Meeting Preparations - Snowbird, Utah**

Chuck Troendle reported on the 1998 Annual Meeting. It will be at Snowbird Ski Resort in Utah from April 19 to 23, 1998. Snowbird is located about 29 miles from the Salt Lake City Airport.

Randy Julander is the local chairman.

Room rates will meet the government per diem rate at that time--probably about \$75 per room per night. No extra charge will be made for a second person. One hundred rooms have been reserved. If WSC members register for 80 or more rooms there will be no charge for facilities. If only 60 rooms are used, facilities for the meeting events will cost about \$200.

Skiing will still be available during our meeting. The resort says they will have a good ski package for us.

#### **65.7 1999 Annual Meeting Preparations - Lake Tahoe (tentative)**

Frank Gehrke reported the dates are April 11 to 15, 1999. Use of the U.S.F.S. Camp Richardson facilities at Lake Tahoe are being investigated. The facilities are excellent for meetings such as ours.

#### **65.8 Constitution Changes**

Changes proposed at the 1995 Annual Meeting were deferred to the 1998 meeting because the respective roles of secretary and treasurer have not been resolved. These roles are dependent on the type data base that is developed for the WSC. The data base has been under development for several years.

When the data base is in place, the general chair, general chair-elect, secretary, treasurer, and area chairs will finalize the constitutional changes so the general membership can see the proposed changes and be prepared to vote on them at the 1998 meeting.

**65.9 Standing Committee Reports**

**65.9.1 Documents Committee**

Chuck Troendle reported that several members did not receive the 1996 Proceedings, an oversight that will be corrected. It appears the members omitted from the proceedings mailing are Life Members who do not pay yearly dues and thus were not on the membership list for mailing proceedings.

Colorado State University (CSU) requests that WSC use electronic submission of papers for future printing of the proceedings. Pros and cons of electronic submission of papers was discussed.

*Motion: 2*

Moved by Bruce McGurk and seconded by Bob Swanson to have the 1998 proceedings, to be published by CSU, submitted in electronic form. Bob Swanson suggested that WSC provide authors with a template of the format. Further discussion followed. Bruce McGurk then amended his motion to have the 1998 proceedings, to be published by CSU, submitted in electronic form to fit the template to be developed by the documents committee. Bob Swanson seconded the amended motion.

.....Motion carried as amended.

Interest in having the proceedings published before the meeting was again expressed. This subject has been brought before previous executive committees. Discussion centered around the fact that material presented at the meeting is frequently information that has been gathered within a few days, or week or two, of the meeting. Timelines of printing are not compatible with presenting such recent material. One of the assets of the WSC meeting is having such recent information to present to the members.

*Motion 3*

Moved by Bob Swanson and seconded by Doug Powell to eliminate any further consideration of publication of papers before the annual meeting.....Motion carried.

A question was asked regarding the possibility of preparing the proceedings on a CD-ROM as an alternate format. Would it be cost effective? Discussion followed but no action was taken.

**65.9.2 Wilderness Committee**

Frank Gehrke reported that last year the WSC Executive Committee discussed sending a letter to Regional Foresters and maybe Forest Supervisors stating the WSC position about snow sensors in the wilderness. It was tabled because the group felt that the subject should be left alone for the time being. That situation probably is still the same. The US Forest Service special use permits program has been undergoing revision in California. The selected alternative is unacceptable for snow sensors. However, the decision notice has not been published yet. So far it is informational only. This will be pursued politically this summer to take advantage of the recent floods in California. Information from wilderness snow sensors was key in reservoir operation related to flood events, particularly for New Year's day in California. This may be a good time to take advantage of that circumstance.

Jack Hannaford reminded the group that the Wilderness Committee has a WSC position paper about snow sensors. It is still available if or when we need it. It was published in the 1996 proceedings.

Frank Gehrke told of a ranger in Sequoia National Park saying that a bill is before congress to regulate sightseeing flights over national parks and wilderness areas. If such a bill exists it would be our intent to amend that bill to specifically allow helicopter access to wilderness areas. However, congress people in California could not find such a bill. Phyllis Snow will send information to the Wilderness Committee about helicopter and airplane overflights of Glacier National Park.

### 65.9.3 Awards

Jack Hannaford pointed out that the award for best poster and oral paper presentations cannot be announced at this meeting due to the schedule of events. The winners will be announced in the proceedings. Jack asked that the chairman of the technical committee submit to him the two award-winning papers as soon as possible after the end of the meeting. It was emphasized that the content of the papers rather than only the presentation, which can "be bought" with artistic talent, needs to be the main consideration for judging.

Area Chairs should give Jack Hannaford information on life and retired members in their area so these members can be included on the proceedings mailing list. Jack also requested information about deceased members.

Jack Hannaford said that a question was raised at last year's annual meeting regarding whether "El Farsante" should be changed to something less ethnic in nature. A humorous discussion ensued.

#### *Motion 4*

Moved by Randy Julander and seconded by Bob Jairell to retain "El Farsante" in its present form.

.....Motion carried.

### James E. Church Award

This award has historically been given to a Reno High School Student with high academic potential, not necessarily to someone wanting to go into snow science. Hal Klieforth presented a proposal by his committee that the award be given to a college student with a paper on snow science and be presented at the annual meeting. A stipend would be given for travel to the meeting. Also, the Church award plaque would be part of the award.

#### *Motion 5*

Moved by Peter Palmer and seconded by Ken Wahl that an under-graduate or a graduate student paper award be presented to a student enrolled in a degree program, which may be a field related to snow science. The local area committee will decide upon the geographic area of consideration for that conference. The award will be in the amount of \$250. The student will also receive free registration to the meeting that year. The paper must be presented at that year's conference.

.....Motion carried.

Jack Hannaford pointed out that the process of selecting a recipient for the Church Award will require long lead time. If this will be implemented for the 1998 meeting, the process will have to be started by mid-summer. The student may appropriately wish to do an oral or a poster paper. Other details will be left up to the local committee.

**65.9.4 Western Snow Conference Home Page**

Peter Palmer reported on the history of the WSC Home Page. At the meeting in Bend last year, Frank Gehrke offered that the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) would host our WSC home page in return for a fee of \$50 per year. A motion was made and carried to that effect. At the business meeting, Mark Williams, agreed to design the home page and solicited input from the membership at large. Shortly after the Bend meeting the CDWR determined that they should not become involved in our home page. However, Mark Williams went ahead and designed a home page and put it on the University of Colorado at Boulder server. The existing home page is a good start, but needs modification. The map of the WSC area needs to include Alaska and Canada and show more clearly which states are in each area. The present officers and area chairs with their email addresses are needed so an interested party knows who to contact. The ski and snowboard equipment needs to be replaced with equipment related to snow hydrology. Names of exhibitors at the meetings will be included. The WSC is a long-running organization that has been producing scientific research for more than 60 years. The bibliography, that Bob Swanson put on a disk, has papers starting with 1936. We could include the abstracts of those papers with title and author and year.

Mark has offered to continue hosting the WSC home page. He would appreciate input regarding the homepage. Once we get the page built, maintenance will be needed. Officers change and other information will be needed occasionally.

*Motion 6*

Moved by Peter Palmer and seconded by Ken Wahl to revise the map to include Alaska and Canada, expand the area pages to include states and email contacts, add officers, and change ski and snowboard equipment to equipment related to snow hydrology. Names of the most recent exhibitors will be listed. The General Chair, in consultation with area chairs, will approve the changes. Changes will then be made by Mark Williams.

.....Motion carried.

The WSC Home Page is located at  
<http://snobear.colorado.edu/WSC/WSC.html>

**65.9.5 Data Base**

Bob Swanson handed out a sheet explaining his efforts to find a suitable data base. After trying several programs that could utilize out existing information, Bob settled on Quick Books as one which will serve the WSC needs. He will be working with Jack Pardee to get the data base set up as soon as possible.

**65.9.6 Art Crook Memorial Scholarship Fund**

This will be deferred to the 1998 meeting. The General Chair will follow up and report to Jack Hannaford.

**65.9.7 Snowshoe Thompson Stamp**

The status of the Snowshoe Thompson Stamp was asked about. Phyllis Snow reported that little had been done about it but promoting it is ongoing and will be pursued in the coming months. Phyllis Snow will work with Hal Kleiforth, who has already put effort into the project.

**65.9.8 Membership Recruitment: New and Student members**

In the discussion of recruiting new members several suggestions were made. Develop a brochure to be included on the WSC Home Page. Lower the membership rate for first year members and student members. Contact colleges and universities in the area of the next annual meeting to encourage student participation in the meeting and paper presentation.

No specific person or committee was assigned to develop the brochure. It was suggested that WSC membership dues are already lower than most other professional societies and that lowering dues further would neither be needed or nor, financially, wise. The local committee and General Chair will pursue contacting colleges and universities in and hear the host area. It was noted that colleges may be in their finals week when WSC normally meets. Recruiting new members from colleges and universities may be difficult for that reason.

**65.9.9 Emolument for treasurer, Jack Pardee**

*Motion 7*

Moved by Bob Richards and seconded by Bob Jairell to award the \$700 emolument to treasurer Jack Pardee for 1997.

Mandatory attendance of the treasurer at the executive committee meeting was discussed. The motion and second to the motion were amended to include the emolument be contingent upon attendance at the annual executive meeting.  
.....Amended motion carried.

**65.9.10 Resolution of WSC Accounting**

The resolution of finances of WSC with the new data base was discussed. The concern is having a standard accounting package with easy-to-follow displays. Problems began when WSC lost its permanent treasurer. Problems were compounded with intertwining of WSC and ESC finances for the Quebec meeting (1993). WSC had an easily followed accounting procedure for 1994 (the year we changed our financial year to the calendar year). We do not have the years 1995 and 1996 up-to-date. With the data base not yet completed our accounting relies on older methods.

*Motion 9*

Motion by Bruce McGurk and seconded by Keith Cooley to have the treasurer's records up to date and the data base running by 1 July 1997.

.....Motion carried.

**65.9.11 Email addresses**

Phyllis Snow noted the near-necessity of having email addresses to correspond with WSC executive committee members adequately. She encouraged everyone to get and use them.

**65.10 Adjournment**

*Motion 10*

The motion to adjourn was made by Ken Wahl and seconded by  
Chuck Troendle.....Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.