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# OBFS Annual Report 2007

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Governance: **Eric Nagy**  
 Finance: **Peter Connors**  
 Nominating: **Sedra Shapiro** (Past Pres.)  
 Annual Meeting: **Larry Weider**  
 Member Support: **John Kim**  
 Common Interests: **Bohdan Dziadyck**  
 Diversity: **Brian Kloeppel**  
 International: **Deedra McClearn**  
 Small Field Stations: **Linda Wallace** and **Bo Dziadyck** (co-Chairs)  
 Organizational Development: **Kari O'Connell**  
 Outreach: **Philippe Cohen**  
 Website: **Mark Stromberg**

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The OBFS Annual Report is posted on the web site ([www.obfs.org](http://www.obfs.org)) as a PDF file. It is available to all members in good standing. Hard copies will be sent only to members who specifically request them. A reminder to specifically request hard copies will be e-mailed to all members at the time of publication.

Please remember to vote in the 2008 Annual Election – Ballots have been sent to all member stations in good standing. If you do not receive a ballot, let us know at [David.White@MurrayState.edu](mailto:David.White@MurrayState.edu).

**Editor's Note:** The OBFS Newsletter contains news from member stations, election materials, opportunities and services for members, annual meeting information, funding possibilities, and other 'news'. The OBFS Annual Report contains the minutes of the annual meeting, other meeting minutes, budgets, meeting attendees, and other business of the organization. Both publications are available in .pdf format [www/OBFS.org](http://www/OBFS.org). Normally, both publications will be completed in December of each year. *D.S. White*

## Organization of Biological Field Stations Minutes of the November 13-16, 2007 Annual Meeting, Llano River Field Station, Texas Tech University

Submitted on behalf of the Organization by *Eric Nagy and Dawn Wilson, Acting co-Secretaries*. Secretary Claudia Luke was not in attendance due to illness.

*The OBFS met at Llano River Field Station, Texas Tech University September 13-16 2007. Attendance is recorded below.*

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM

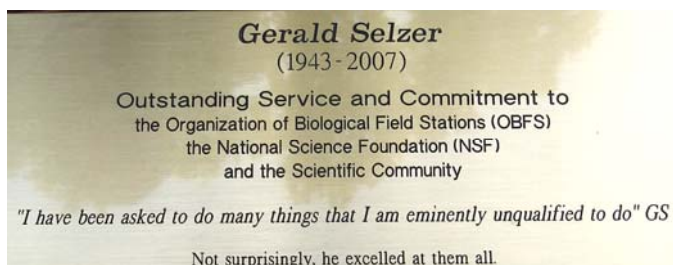
#### Mentoring Meeting for First-Time Station Attendees – Jan Hodder and Tom Arsuffi

In a special pre-meeting gathering, host Tom Arsuffi welcomed first time meeting attendees and stressed the important of new and fresh ideas by new OBFS members. Vice President Larry Weider introduced Executive Board members. New members / first time meeting attendees introduced themselves: Cristina Velez (Cuatro Cienegas), Daniel McGlenn (Tall Grass Prairie Preserve), Artur Weis (Kaffler Scientific Reserve), Jan Mock (J.H. Barrow Field Station), Keith Fisher (TNC Disney Wilderness Preserve), Sarah Oktay (Nantucket Field Station), Bill Dodge (Mountain Studies Institute of Colorado), Karie Slavik (Univ. Michigan Biological Station), Selma Glassock (Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation), Vince Voegeli (Bozeman Ecological Research Center). Three representatives from the NSF attended the Annual Meeting and attended this session. They introduced themselves: David Campbell (NSF Directorate for Education and Human Resources, Program Director), Peter McCartney (NSF FSML Program Director), Judy Skog (NSF Deputy Division Director, Division of Biological Infrastructure)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 8:00 PM-9:00 PM,

#### Annual Meeting Welcome Address – Jan Hodder (OBFS President) and Tom Arsuffi (Meeting Host)

CALL TO ORDER 8:00 pm



OBFS President Jan Hodder called the meeting to order with the Tom Callahan Memorial Big-Assed Gavel, and

with the backdrop of several lovely and moving photos, dedicated the meeting to the memory of a great friend of OBFS who passed away this year, Gerald Selzer. A full dedication and unveiling of the Gerald Selzer Memorial Gong are to be conducted at the start of the Reserve Fund Auction. The dedication on the gong reads “Gerald Selzer (1943-2007) Outstanding Service and Commitment to the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Scientific Community. *“I have been asked to do many things that I am eminently unqualified to do”* GS. Not surprisingly, he excelled at them all.”

Jan gave a brief summary of the “state of the organization” and showed a graph of past and current membership in the organization, noting that of the “x” station members this year, “y” are new members to OBFS (values for “x” and “y” can be gleaned from Jan’s PowerPoint presentation, which along with all the other presentation files is achieved under “annual meetings” at OBFS.org). Membership has declined slightly. Jan noted the offices up for election this year and review significant changes in OBFS in the past year. A brief summary of what OBFS “is all about” was presented, followed by a “thank you” to representatives of NSF, LTER and ESA for attending the meeting. And of course no meeting could be properly initiated without the reading and group reaffirmation of the **Four Maxims of Tom Callahan’s School for Interpersonal Sensitivity and Political Correctness**

- 1) *Treat everyone decently.*
- 2) *Laugh at yourself.*
- 3) *Know that everyone makes mistakes, so*  
**Get Over It!**
- 4) *Don’t call the authorities unless there is either fire or blood.*

Members of the Executive Board were introduced: Vice President Larry Weider, Treasurer Virginia Boucher, Network Coordinator Faerthen Felix, Editor David White, and Members-at-Large Dawn Wilson and Tom Arsuffi. Past-President Sedra Shapiro and Secretary Claudia Luke were not in attendance. Membership issues were discussed briefly stressing that a significant number of members are behind on dues payments. A list with payment status was circulated. Committees were defined and chairs introduced. Membership was invited to the Board of Directors’ meeting following this welcome session, and then again following the close of the meeting on Sunday. VP Larry Weider reminded all attendees to complete a meeting evaluation before departing. Bob Hickerson (Llano River’s Chief Operation Officer) from the host station welcomed us and thanked

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us for the cooler and wetter weather conditions. He then gave an introduction to Llano River Field Station.

In the 1940's Kimble County residents gave the land to the state of Texas, earmarking it for the establishment of an institution of higher education. Texas A&M University opened an Adjunct campus in Junction in 1951. During this time, the famous football coach, Bear Bryant, put Junction on the map, by bringing the Aggie football team to train for summer camp. After operating as a college preparatory facility and later, sporadically as a research center, the campus was assigned by the legislature to Texas Tech University in 1971. It was given to Texas Tech. and used for spring and summer classes. It has since expanded its mission (hugely under the guidance of Tom Arsuffi) and now hosts a diverse area of programs including a notable K-12 program. Tom Arsuffi then introduced Grant Hall (Director TTU at Junction) welcomed OBFS. Kaycie Sullivan (Llano River Outdoor School Supervisor) summarized the highly successful K-12 program at the station. Some discussion and questions about teaching methods, state testing etc. followed. Sullivan expressed desire to share and expand the effort started here – some interest in cooperating. Overview of Llano River Field Station by host and Field Research Station Director Tom Arsuffi was rescheduled to a later time in the meeting.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 9:15 PM

#### Board of Directors Meeting Open to All Members

Attending members of the Board of Directors were Jan Hodder (Chair), Larry Weider, Virginia (Shorty) Boucher, Tom Arsuffi, Dawn Wilson, Faerthen Felix, Eric Nagy (recording), John Kim, Bohdan Dziadyck, Kari O'Connell, Philippe Cohen. Board members not in attendance were Sedra Shapiro, Claudia Luke, and David White. Also in attendance were Brian Kloeppe, Art McKee and other Annual Meeting attendees [attendance was not recorded].

#### Agenda:

- Governance
- OBFS tax-exempt status
- Appointment of Nominating Committee
- Strategic Planning

CALL TO ORDER by President Jan Hodder.

Discussion of need to get new Bylaws in place. Non profit application has submitted. May need to address issues if IRS comes back with questions (will know in 60 days). Need Bylaws voted on by members. Also must remind Station members to comment of Bylaws draft before fall vote. Jan Hodder and Eric Nagy (Chair, Governance Committee), Art McKee and others will review recent comments on Friday at 4:30 pm. New

Bylaws will not include a "Constitution" but will include Articles of Incorporation. Articles will not be posted on web with Bylaws. General discussion about the new web site organization going on. Site to be come a primary archive and "file cabinet" for Organization material. General discussion of Bylaws: agreement with all of lawyer's suggestions, add network coordinator as an office elected by board, clarifying who is on Executive Committee and who is on Board. Faerthen Felix proposed getting a PayPal account to allow members to pay dues on line with credit cards. Much enthusiastic support for idea. John Kim will assist.

ADJOURN Board of Director's meeting 10:00 pm.

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 8:15 AM – 12:00 PM

#### OBFS Business – Member Station Introductions and Announcement of Committee Meeting Agendas

Jan Hodder asked all meeting attendees who were new to an OBFS meeting to stand. Introductions of all attendees.

Jan Hodder - Explanation of our non-profit status and new Bylaws. Copies are available for those that would like to see them (if you did not read it when sent via email). Explanation of structure of Board of Directors - elected officers versus those appointed by the board. This year we are looking for a secretary. Claudia has done a great job and will mentor her replacement. Presently the Board has 13 members. Need to ratify the bylaws. Will take all comments today and via email. We will then consult with lawyer and make sure all comments are OK. Then members will vote in December to accept Bylaws.

#### Other business

Peter Connors - Auction, Call for Performance Art. Shorty asked "why are we collecting auction money at the auction". Peter explained about restricted funds.

Philippe Cohen – plea to help him with top 10 quotes.

Mark Stromberg and Bill Michner - research coordination network proposal. Last RCN was viewed favorably. Next go around – new embedded network sensing approaches at various sites. How to accomplish? Breaking up into major ecosystem types: e.g., stream, desert grassland .... components. Cyber infrastructure component. Difficulty in handling data streams. Need to bring in people to handle sensor streams. The RCN would also provide training. Linda asked "how is it related to NEON?" Bill not sure. Hopes for a close relationship but does not know.

Mark Stromberg – Bringing attention to national phenology network. Poster and website. Presented a

slide presentation explaining what phenology is. Flowering times, weather, insect emergences. Spoke about Project Bud Burst. Suggested OBFS could be partner with this project.

Faerthen Felix – Website issues. Much work ongoing. Currently hard to access content and there are database “issues.” Marshall White working on database. Plea for members to help. Go to website and help with feedback. Explained that we have a user name and password system. Only two people in room knew those bits of information. Faerthen has a handout on how to get a username or if I have one how do I find it. Improved station listings - Still a work in progress. Added more links. Improved user interactivity. Once logged in you can update your station information. Shorty wanted to know if a user can find out if they have paid their dues. So, Felix said she would add that feature. Everything is now linked together. Once you update your station -- such as new courses, these changes will show up in other places. Ian wanted to know when courses will be updated. Faerthen said update now and it should be ok. Will have to put courses in again. Jobs and announcements do not pop up immediately – Faerthen has to read and approve. Then it goes onto the website. Peter – what if you don’t pay dues. Faerthen – your station stops showing up on website eventually. Voting on website. And paying dues with credit card or pay pal on line! Yeah. Thanks to Mark for setting this process up.

Jan – Announce committee meetings and their locations. Eric – Governance Committee – Few announcements. Bylaws work at meeting. Need to produce policy and procedures manual. Business plan development. John Kim – Member Support. New ways to address needs of new members.

Break

**NSF Discussion Panel: FSML Update, Education & Cyber Infrastructure Links** - *Judy Skog, Dave Campbell & Peter McCartney*

Judy Skog (NSF Deputy Division Director, Division of Biological Infrastructure, BIO/DBI)– overview of NSF: budget, different programs within NSF, biology itself has 4 divisions, types of proposals, etc. Judy put her talk (which includes David’s and Peter’s talks) on website for interested persons to view. Judy strongly urged all to sign up for “MY NSF” to get information all the time to keep abreast of current events.

Dave Campbell – (NSF Program Director, Directorate for Education & Human Resources, EHR/OAD). Reviewed division programs.

Peter McCartney – (NSF Program Director, Division of Biological Infrastructure, BIO/DBI). NEON status; divided

into 20 domains – with mobile relocatable platforms. Liz Blood is primary program director of NEON. Sent out last fall a request for information on science and sites. Sites are now chosen and posted on web. First, Phase I will start at a few sites to set those up to get the kinks out of the system. Phase II will finish up the rest of the sites over a 10-15 year period. Timeline: Planning plus R&D stage 2007-10, Construction – MREFC 2008-16, Maintenance and Operations 2010-16. Cost and Impact on Bio Programs – most likely none to FSML because we are already so small in our funding so why bother? Both programs (NEON and FSML) are infrastructure, not research; Connections between the two will be realized through research users; Both programs are to be managed within a comprehensive vision; Leverage investments in common resources, technology, and protocols. Directions for FSML -- think about critical needs for field stations, what moves research forward, context within regional and national research, roles in training and coordination for research and education in networked and collaborative science. More emphasis on collaborations.

Question and answer session: NSF does not see the FSML program getting much larger. It is hard to justify putting more money into FSML when building new buildings is not part of the NSF objective. OBFS - send a workshop proposal to NSF to address problems?

### **Concurrent Committee Meetings, Block 1**

Governance, Member Support, International, and Website Committees met concurrently from 9:00 am to 10:10 am.

### **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1:00 PM TO 2:30 PM**

#### **New Facilities Slide Show & Next Year’s Host Station**

2008 Annual Meeting Site - Blackrock Forest Biological Station, Bill Schuster 9/17-21, 4000 acre forest, 1 hr from NYC, Consortium operated, 1 forest unit, Hudson River, Aquatic Resources, Education program, Forest research historic, many others now, Sensors, Ecophys program, 9000 sq ft sci and ed center, Green, smart, 60 beds in new building, Older housing within 2 miles, Old stone house – no light or water, 3 phase power, solar >50%, fast Internet, 140 in auditorium, food and meeting in same place, Trips: 1. Kayak trip on Hudson, 2. Mountain car trip, Airport – any NYC airports, 1 local airport

Proposed 2009 Annual Meeting Site - La Selva Biological Station, Deedra McClearn Dates 10-13, or 17-20, OBFS here in early 90s, need ideas for trips, Airfares not too bad, good time for station – slow, rent cars, shuttles, rainy season, but not bad, field trips to other OTS sites, La Paz Waterfall, Rafting, 150 beds.

The following field stations also presented short slide shows: Tallgrass Prairie, Preserve, Hawai'i Expt Tropical Forest, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Cuatrociénegas, Nantucket Field Station, Mountain Studies Institute, Koffler Sci Reserve/Jokers Hill, Welder Wildlife Foundation.

## 2:30 RCN Planning Meeting

Discussion to explore feasibility of and interest in pursuing RCN funding from NSF spring-boarding off Bill Michener's project that is winding down. Judy Skog discussed NSF RCN program – program 7yo, was meant to last 5 years, very successful program, interest at NSF to continue, will go for another 5 years, all RCN proposals get farmed out to research panels, not research, meant to plan where research should go. Bill Michener reviewed last project - education part worked well, got good reviews, did pre and post evaluations – very positive, database registry was a product of the project, admin database, metadata, RCNs do not pay for too much, got matching Mellon support \$300K for person hrs and database. Future directions? Why do we need training? New sensor stuff and network technology requires MUCH training. This RCN – 1) focus on how to operate sensors AND 2) what science can the sensors support. Need some leveraging support, ADEC, SENS. Workshops at different habitats every year. Idea is to focus on application of tech in diff environments. Discussion: Deedra – NSF wants to bring in young researchers. Address new generation of scientists. Bill – broader impacts also. Amy – science Q motivated this time? (NSF wants). Bill – not specific Qs. Hilary – Research tangible Q that can be followed up on. Will it be specific enough? Less outreach and training aspect than last time.

Discussion on what is the goal of proposal. Ian – can open door for FS access to Instrumentation panel. Think tank situation where scientists are brought in to a site (habitat) that is instrumented – product is pubs, best practices, grants. Bill – call for interested folks to get involved. Mark – phenology network may be applicable. Idea of being “theme” driven not habitat type driven – atmospheric precip, phenology, instead of habitat type (forest, lake, . . .). Diversity Atmospheric change (chem.), What do we know that OBFS has – BioScience survey will aid. Ian – look for leveraging support from private foundations.

## 4:30 Bylaws Discussion

Ad hoc meeting for Bylaws review. In attendance: Jan, Eric, Philippe, Art, Peter, Amy, Ian, Larry, Dawn. Discussed all comments and corrections of Bylaws draft. Agreed on changes for draft. Jan will distill and distribute to Eric, Art, Larry, and who ever else wants to see before final draft to be voted on this fall.

## FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 5:00 PM

### Mixer and Special “Nuts-N-Bolts” Session: How to write a competitive FSML proposal - Judy Skog

Not just geared toward FSML proposals. Proposals are not usually good or bad. They want to see a competitive proposal.

- Read proposal announcement carefully
- Pay attention to goals, eligibility, special requirements, any questions PLEASE call program officer.
- Make sure you can do what you say you want to do in the amount of time you request. Check out prior NSF awards that have been given out in your area. Get a copy of a successful NSF proposal – a recent one cause things change constantly.

**Merit Review?** Intellectual merit – potential to advance knowledge within and across fields, creativity and originality of ideas, qualifications of investigators, access to resources, established expertise or expert collaborations, transformative research supported (starting Oct 1 2007) – not sure what that is??

**Broader impacts?** Obvious according to Judy

How can I be successful in obtaining funding? Review proposals that have been funded. Have more than one person read proposal prior to submission- peers and scientists not in your area. If rejected – try again! Talk with program officer, pay attention to reviewer's comments, and attend a grant writing workshop. Average number of resubmissions is 2-3.

Gain from experience from a decline. Read written reviews and the panel summary. Did reviewers misunderstand your intentions? Were they outside your field of choice? Consult your program officer.

Successful projects - see talk that is posted on OBFS website. NSF proposal and process - see talk posted on OBFS website.

Get on a panel or become an ad hoc reviewer. Send in your cv to program officer, indicate areas of expertise.

## FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 7:30 PM

### LTER-OBFS: How to build stronger ties - Bob Waide

LTER Network Office Executive Director discussed two themes: 1) What is LTER and how did it get where it is? 2) How can OBFS and LTER work together for mutual benefit?

LTER started in 1980 and is designed to conduct long term data collection over the scale of decades to

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centuries. LTER is centralized around five core foci, long term mission, multiple scales, cooperation, basic research, data value and access, support of decision makers. Real cooperation among LTER sites is a recent effort. How can LTER and OBFS cooperate? They can a) share expertise and experience, b) participate in joint ventures, c) work on common research agenda. Examples of exiting joint ventures – a) RCN, b) OBFS web site, c) data registry, d) Course database, e) Bibliography database. OBFS can offer LTER the education component – LTER could learn from station models. Ideas for joint ventures - Phenological network, Ecotrends project. Proposal for a formal endorsement from OBFS for further LTER cooperation.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 8:15 AM TO 9:15 AM**

**OBFS Business: Secretary's Report** – *Jan Hodder*

**Treasurers Report** - *Shorty Boucher*

OBFS Proposed Operating Budget 2007-2008. Some issues with mail merge and getting notices out timely. Asks if it OK to send dues notice electronically. Nod of approval. Review of budget. Need pointed out to reconcile some figure differences between table presented and Finance Comm. Records – just updating money transfers. Need to be careful about electronic bills.

MOTION TO APPROVE BUDGET (Peter Connors).  
SECOND (Philippe Cohen). APPROVED unanimously.

**Finance Committee Report 2007** - *Peter Connors (Chair), Hilary Swain. Ex Officio, Virginia Boucher, Treasurer*

During 2006 the Finance Committee formulated a written Investment Policy modeled after that of other non-profit organizations. The policy defines and describes the OBFS Restricted Fund, sets an investment goal of \$100,000 by the 2009 annual meeting, with annual performance goals of 4.5% above the change in the consumer price index. The policy also specifies review procedures if our mutual fund investments fail significantly to match the performance of similar socially and environmentally responsible investment indices and describes the responsibilities of the Treasurer and the Finance Committee with respect to these matters.

The Restricted Fund is currently invested in two "green" funds in the Citizens Group of socially responsible funds. At August 31, 2007 we had a total investment of \$73,634.06 in the funds, up from \$57,944.58 one year earlier. The gain of \$15,689.48 resulted from \$7,000.00 in contributions during the fiscal year plus \$8,689.48 from investment gains. At August 31, 2007, OBFS held 2,102,357 shares of Citizens Core Growth Fund @

\$22.54 per share, total value \$47,387.13 plus 1,438,188 shares of Citizens Emerging Growth Fund @ \$18.25 per share, total value \$26,246.93.

During the year ending August 31, 2007, the Core Growth Fund share price increased by 13.38% and the Emerging Growth Fund share price increased by 16.09%. For comparison with two appropriate index benchmarks, we must use performance during the year ending July 31, 2007, the last yearly period for which we have comparison data. During that period, the Core Growth Fund share price increased by 13.17%, about 2.4% less than the gain during the same period in the KLD Domini 400 Social Index, which gained 15.59%. The Emerging Growth Fund share price increased by 17.64%, about 2.4% better than the KLD Broad Market Social Index that gained 15.29%.

The Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, CPI-U, rose 2.4% during the year ended July 31, 2007 and averaged +3.23% for the past 3 years. Thus our annual performance goal (4.5% above the change in the CPI-U) was exceeded in both funds for the past year and for the past 3 years (Core Growth Fund +8.90% annually averaged over 3 years; Emerging Growth Fund +14.65% annually averaged over 3 years). The one-year comparisons with benchmark indices showed one fund exceeding its benchmark and one fund trailing its benchmark, by approximately equal percentages. In accordance with the Investment Policy, the Finance Committee will continue watching the performance of both funds, but will not make any changes in the investment funds at this time.

**Audit Report** - *VP Larry Weider*

All in order. No anomalies other than some bank charges that turned out to be legitimate.

**Restricted Fund Report** - *Finance Subcommittee Chair Peter Connors*

4.5% increase goal above inflation; \$77,879.07 balance; gain ca. \$8K in green funds (\$7K transfer from operating – auction revenue). Exceeding target growth – been a good period.

**Secretary Report** - *Jan Hodder*

Call for corrections to the 2006 Annual Meeting minutes. None. Check the list at front of room to see your status – see Treasurer if owe dues.

**Display Report** - *Nina Consolatti*

Will send if you need to use display.

**Congressional Visits Day** - *Brian Kloeppe*.

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Discussion and encouragement to go to this event. Open to all members. Lots of good reports. March or April – talk to Brian if interested.

**Comments by President Jan Hodder** – Please send committee reports to Eric. Ask for money from Shorty. Make requests

**Committee Reports** – see *committee minutes, Governance, Member Support, Outreach, International.*

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

**Education Panel** - Moderators: Jan Hodder, Tom Arsuffi, David Campbell and Teresa Mourad

Speaker Teresa Mourad (ESA) discussed SEEDS and TIEE programs. 2008 Annual meeting in Milwaukee – focus on education, invite to attend. New programs, teacher mentoring? Etc. Looking for ideas for new programs. SEEDS is an 11 year-old program for undergraduate minorities. Fellowships for courses etc. Sponsors leadership meetings to enhance diversity. Give grants to sustain themselves, grants to support chapters. SEEDS looking for opportunities to cooperate, and ideas for how. Brian Kloppel discussed very exciting and successful SEEDS field trip program at COWEETA. How he got involved - Got NSF supplement to host a field trip. SEEDS now has funds to support. SEEDS recruits at SACNAS, MANNERS, other conferences. SEEDS wants to find way to work together with OBFS.

Speaker Dave Campbell (NSF Education Directorate) discussed Government budget process. September is when requests goes in for 2 years ahead. Sept. 2007 is when request goes in for 2009 budget. Education works differently from other directorates. Education in general can be very political. Some argue it should not be in NSF. 1998 NRC National Ed standards published. But all states have their own standards now. Jan pointed out it is good to team up with education person and research.

Kari O'connel showcased an education project. Undergrads get intern experience in collaborative with U. Oregon; multiple sources of funding; forest, marine, wetland programs.

Tom Arsuffi presented on how field stations are underappreciated resources. Issue that FS are unique as resource islands for research, education and community outreach/engagement. Overview of exciting k-12 program at TTU Junction field station.

**Committee Reports** – see *committee minutes, Small Field Stations, Diversity, Organizational Development.*

## **AIBS Report - Eric Nagy**

Explore AIBS.ORG. OBFS is a member; council meeting every May. Many services AIBS provides. OBFS asked to contribute to a series on field stations. Contributions field stations are making to science. Published papers in BioScience that will be real resources for us to use. Visit [actionbioscience.org](http://actionbioscience.org) if you are interested in education. Public policy office runs Congressional Visits Day. Friendly office and good resource for OBFS as well as individual members. 2009 designated “the year of science”. Much going on to bring science into the public view. What can AIBS do for us. Field station series in BioScience. Encourage everyone to participate. We get a half page ad in bioscience each year.

**ADEC Report** – American Distance Education Consortium – by Eric Nagy. Building of network structures. Money involved with ADEC project.

**SERNEC Report** – SouthEastern Region Network of Expertise and Collections - by Eric Nagy – goal to create digital herbaria in SE. Several of these types of organizations across the U.S.

## **OBFS Business**

### **Nominations Committee Report.**

Nominees for President: Brian Kloppel and Mark Stromberg

Nominees for Member at Large: Philippe Cohen, Deedra McClearn, and Bill Schuster

### **Presidential Comments – Jan Hodder**

1) Historian Dave Larson not associated with field station any more so he has resigned as OBFS Historian. Thanks to Dave. He will be missed. Need new historian. Mary Hufty has volunteered to take on this position. Thanks to Mary!

2) If any attendees need a letter that will help justify this trip with your immediate supervisors, let Jan know and she will send you a letter.

### **Diversity Committee Award - Brian Kloppel**

Had seven excellent applications for the award. Gave out a certificate to those that were nominated but did not get the award. Annual award went to Organization for Tropical Studies. Deedra McClearn accepted the award. She spoke about OTS and what makes up the consortium. Talked about partnerships and their strengths in promoting diversities. Value of getting students in underrepresented groups in science programs.

Congratulations Deedra and OTS! Keep up the good work! You are an inspiration to us all.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7:30 – 10:45**

**OBFS “Nuts-N-Bolts Session: Database Management - Ian Billick, Peter McCartney**

Ian introduced session, Peter McCartney (NSF), and system used at RMBL. Within NSF BDI Infomatics has a Biology focus and seems most relevant for field stations. Do not fund small individual systems, or maintenance of existing systems. RCN and FSML are also options. Effort to support large efforts like NEON. New division to support cyber infrastructure, OCI. focuses on 1. data and data analysis, 2. virtual organization, 3. high performance computing, 4. workforce and training. Goal to get the “communities” together in developing the backbone of cyber infrastructure. Direct support for specific FS projects – FSML, BDI. Encourage training (planning) and evaluation packages.

Realistic goals. Workshops, planning, coordination. Sensor technology, networking technology as long as it takes good account of existing systems and state of the art. Q: “We are often dealing with long term idiosyncratic data sets. How do we connect with other disciplines that deal with similar kinds of data?” NESCent, NCEASE may be good sources. Standardization will likely “bubble up” from users – can not come down from above.

Brian Kleoppel discuss system at COWEETA.

Databases are a way to hold a much deeper level of data accessible. Databases can generate “cross-generational” collaboration, and keep hold of a much broader and richer tapestry of data.

Ian – “How to get started” - 1 – define individual FS need and projects they might work on, 2 – keep historic records, archive data before it dies with creator

Data Management definition: “data in the service of research” ex. The kinds of info that often comes up in conversation – e.g. Site selection. Enable new kinds of questions – cross generational Qs. Support old questions – site selection is an example.

4 Roles of Data management: Site selection (old conversation), Design of studies (old conversation), Cross generational collaboration, Synthetic work among research teams – the conversation, Facilitates meta-analysis, cross site comparisons.

FS have “Place-based” databases. No conceptual unification – dealing with lots of kinds of data from one place. Stitch together lots of disparate stuff.

4 points:

1. Audience should be users of facility (for a place like RMBL where all support comes from users) – problem of getting scientists to participate. No reward structure.
2. Need incentives to participate and lower costs of participating, ex. GPS equipment. Integrate use of

equipment into management of data., staffing incentives, friendly interfaces. Generate data that users want to use.

3. Be aware we are dealing with a wide array of data. Lots more to discover – data plans, data sets, location data, publication, anecdotal observations, collections herbaria etc., photographs, notebooks, diaries, species lists.
4. Location, location, location – all should be location based,

Process – Site use form; Follow up on data sets; All kinds of data use issues; Data audits, internal and external; Actually getting copies of material can be hard to do. Need something in place to capture data before it disappears - one way to do that is to develop collaboration with researchers. Need some trust with scientists.

Discussion / ideas of what OBFS can do: Bill Michener – Development of national policies and archive centers established in next year or so. LTER is a player as are many parts of NSF (not bio as much).

Argument that Maybe FSML should get bigger and take on data management support. Another angle for “Broader Impacts.”

Jan Hodder – we should go ahead with workshop to see what community needs. Redefine FSML, as per Judy’s suggestion – Hilary will head up the proposal for workshop. Jan, Art, Hilary. By end of year proposal to FSML unsolicited – 3 workshops? Looking for advice and support. Include NAML as they seem appropriate (not blue water)

Ian – Small steps FS can take: Document research plans, Map research site – any way, even low tech (book, paper is ok) – good filing system, ArcGIS and GEO XT unit – as core of system, Prioritize data sets for acquisition - know what you want, even if you can not get it, Don’t start till you are ready – start with one thing at a time, do not over extend. Do each thing well. Do simple documenting – photo-points, annual logs of events. Fairly easy to drum up excitement over good data management. Print a research map once a year – so everyone WANTS to get on the map, since they may be in jeopardy if they are not on map.

**Continued discussion**

Valuable to document the number of users of your data sets – must be able to track so you can report and go for more funds. Make sure you are cited as a source for research – get FS listed in acknowledgement. Also have them site use of data. “Site use form” (get everyone to fill out).

**Sunday Morning Concluding Remarks – Jan Hodder**



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MOTION - Faerthen move for adopt 2006 Annual Meeting minutes; SECOND by Philippe. Jan call for votes - unanimous APPROVAL.

\$6,700 estimate for this year's auction.  
Thank you to meeting hosts. Please do exit surveys.

President Jan Hodder gavels meeting ADJOURNED.

## Notes from 2007 Committee Meetings, OBFS Annual Meeting September 2007, Llano River Field Station

### COMMITTEES - CHAIRS

**Governance** - *Eric Nagy*

**Member Support** - *John Kim*

**Common Interests** - *Bohdan Dziadyck*

**Diversity** - *Brian Kloeppe*

**International** - *Deedra McClearn*

**Small Field Stations** - *Linda Wallace, Bo Dziadyck*

**Organizational Development** - *Kari O'Connell*

**Outreach** - *Philippe Cohen*

### Governance Committee

Chair: Eric Nagy

Minutes: Eric Nagy

Attendees: Brian Kloeppe, Peter Connors, Janice Mock, Tom Arsuffi, Secretary ex officio Claudia Luke not in attendance due to illness

Committee meeting opened with review of the committee charges and goals. They are: Norms of non-profit operation, Transparency, Conducting business of OBFS as publicly as possible, Internal mechanism to approve OBFS responses, Developing and recommending a business plan.

### Agenda:

- 1) Support Board in Bylaws revision
- 2) Policies and Procedures Manual - Work to prepare "living documents" from all committees and officers to archive and serve as a record of the past, as well as a guide for the future – duties, projects, responsibilities, finances, activities, procedures. Use strategic plan, and other examples as guide. Coordinate with other committees (Organizational Development) to describe special activities like CVD, RCN efforts, and other member opportunities.
- 3) Business Plan – need samples. Ian and Hilary can help collect examples to help us get started.
- 4) Auction Donation rules – need to find out the rules for "donating" to the auction and what is tax deductible for members. Peter and Shorty will explore.

### Member Support Committee

Chair: John Kim

Minutes: Sarah Oktay

Attendees (Affiliations): Tom Hayes (Ticohaven), Bill Dodge (Mountain Studies Institute) Vincent Voegel (Yellowstone Ecological Research Center), Susan

Cordell (Hawaii Exp. Trop Forest), Len Smock (VCU Rice Center), Dawn Wilson (Southwestern Research Station), Dan McGlenn (Tallgrass Prairie Reserve), Greg Smith (Univ of Akron Field Station), Shorty Boucher (UC Davis the Barn), Selma Glasscock (Welder Wildlife Preserve), Sarah Oktay (UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station), John Kim (San Diego)

John reviewed the issues raised from last year. Previous committee felt these items were important:

1. Keep Manual Current and Relevant
2. Seek understanding of needs of Member Stations
3. Use website to communicate information
4. Use website to communicate field courses
5. Develop Support material for members
6. Encourage use of standardized sampling protocols
7. Provide Training on non technical uses
8. Seek funding to host regional workshops

Other comments made last year and repeated here:

1. Important to continue to update operations manual, with best management practices and protocol including NEPA, Use Permits, Animal Care, etc. We should work with the webmaster to improve websites.
2. Take a survey to assess new membership needs
3. Review Support material for new members

### Agenda:

#### 1) Operation Manual

Comments:

1. Many people did not know it existed on the website
2. How can we best publicize it
3. Can we find a way to make it clearer
4. We should give Faerthen ideas on how website link should look. Many committee members, especially new station members said the Operations manual was the first thing they looked at on the website
5. We should encourage new members to look at it critically, provide healthy and constructive feedback such as "can I find such and such?"
6. May be helpful to have a search engine on the website in case people are looking for things like

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the operations manual, but aren't sure where to look

7. Some of the attendees (Keith, Greg, Dan) felt the operations manual is was relatively simple to find, some felt it could be more obvious
8. Many felt the name could be more descriptive

### Short transcript:

- Susan C.: What type of feedback do we provide new members when they first join?
- Shorty: The problem is that new members only come through me (the treasurer)
- Someone: for new members, key things are listed on the left
- Bill: Could we autosend FAQ to New members?
- John K.: For a new name for the Op Manual could we try "Field Station Best Practices"?
- Shorty: " So you want to start a Field Station?"
- John K: We should have a name that is more colloquial
- Dawn: Perhaps we should use the word "Guide instead of Manual"?
- Sarah: "Field Station A to Z"?
- Dawn: "Field Stations for Dummies"?
- Dan: Are outsiders aware of very important that document {operations manual} is?
- John: should we include it in a packet for new members?
- Shorty: Maybe "new member" is not the correct term, perhaps it should be sent to more than just the new members
- Dan: how about "Guide for Field Station Operations"
- Bill: "How do we encourage people who do not have a FS yet?"
- John: what kind of info is useful for new members?
- Sarah: We could put a link on the upper left that says "Benefit of Membership or "Info for new members" like I do for another site I run
- John: We should make the title for the operations manual a more friendly type of name. Let's list the types we can think of and then vote on one
  1. Everything you ever wanted to know about a field station?
  2. Field Station A – Z
  3. Developing an Effective Field Station
  4. Field Station Guide Book
  5. Guide for Field Station Operations
  6. Practical Guidebook for managing a Field Station
  7. Field Station Development and Management
  8. How to run a Field Station (*This name won by a 90% vote. Our members would like the link on the website to say this, the name "Operations Manual" can stay the same on*

*the actual document. We will send the link suggestion to Faerthen.)*

- Dawn: "lots of people come to her field station to see what a field station is like. Her suggestion for people starting a station is to visit other ones.
- Bill: Seems to recall there is a "getting started" section in the manual, we should check to make sure there is such a section
- John: There are several other items we need to discuss include: protocols, NEPA, invasive species, IUAC, Advisory Boards, Land Management, etc.
- field stations have some documentation
- wouldn't it be helpful to have these on the web?
- Are they all integrated into the Op Manual?
- Do we get a request for info packets
- We should upload to the website documents: protocols, rate sheets, etc. would be useful to look at other people's forms and be able to browse them on the web site (logged in members only)
- Dan: Perhaps we could have a page the comes up on member log in that has all the other stations policies, legal documents, lease agreements, master plans, off of one link
- Dawn: when she asked for liability waivers through the list serv, she got a ton of them. Would be nice to save all that time and emailing and just go to the web and look up x, y, z
- John: it would also be helpful to have a general recommendation form
- Dan: it would be good to have 2-3 examples, (K-12, all ages, college only)
- Shorty: we should think of broad categories which could then be populated
- Dawn: Someone like Faerthen would need to go through and decide what to show
- Several people brought up that Faerthen is a volunteer and that this could be very time consuming
- Sarah: should just try to have an upload (ftp) function on the member page (pretty much what we already have for course info)
- Bill: it would be great to upload documents from several stations, over time we could standardize
- Something we as members could do anytime
- Shorty: We should select 4 categories to populate
- Short discussion on how to winnow down the entries, who or how we would do that, what to upload, etc. Agreed to decide 4 categories:

First did a list of all with votes or ideas for each

1. IACUC : Animal care Many of us use the federal version and simply adapt it for our stations. Some station require additional permitting, some do not. If a field station is involved with a university, they should

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already have a plan and not need one, but new site (especially private) may not know what types of forms are available or that they need

2. Specimen collection and permitting
  3. Safety Protocols
  4. Fee Structures
  5. Protocols for endangered species or invasive species
  6. NEPA
  7. Advisory Boards
  8. Land Management
  9. Strategic Plans and mast Plans
  10. Hunting, Public Access, recreational use = Site access and site use
  11. data ownership and data collection
  12. insurance and liability waivers
  13. general "info" packets
  14. program brochures (these probably change too frequently)
- Susan Cordell volunteers to take on "Protocols for Invasive Species": she'll solicit documents, collect them, winnow them down, send a few to Faerthen
  - Tom Hayes will do Land Management (his land management document is very comprehensive)
  - Dawn Wilson will do Liability Waivers
  - Shorty: It is very important to cross-reference these documents with the OP manual, which took years to develop
  - John: These examples will be very helpful and more specific than the OP manual for some people

## 2) Technology Training: Are Needs Being Met?

- John: RCN worked pretty well and seemed appropriate
- Dawn: email that went out for bioinformatics meeting were very helpful
- John: Can we come up with training that should be offered at OBFS meetings?
- Field Course Advertising: did not discuss
- Do members feel like they are getting adequate support /training
- A discussion on the usefulness and feasibility of workshops at OBFS ensued. Some people mentioned it would be useful to have a workshop on available funding.

### Back to transcript

- Bill: How do we institutionalize the support so that we don't have to track it each time?
- John: on technology: are our needs met? Should we have a roving IT person, standardized hardware and software?
- Tom: An Index to OBFS expertise would be helpful

- John: Workshops may not be specific enough to help people. We need a "strike force" to visit stations – how do we fund it?
- Dawn: it is important during workshops for attendees to have some knowledge before hand. One workshop she attended was so advanced she got little out of it
- Shorty: UC has a system, wide office, 35-36 stations, one IT person who goes around to each station and helps out on the ground and also helps standardize technology between stations  
John: how about a regional consortium where we pool together our \$\$\$\$ and find a person to travel?
- Bill: As the pres of a board, if we need an advisor, we have found it helpful to round up area experts to travel and help people. Like management consultants. These people could visit each station and find out what that station needs to move up to the next level. Would OBFS want to fund that?
- Leonard: That concept is there in a planning grant
- IT SWAT Team: could be a great idea, how to implement

### Closing remarks

- Dan: We should also have Ops Manual on web in its original form for people who are use to it where it is. Some discussion, could have it listed as Operations manual with "How to Run a field Station" in parentheses (or as main link with document title as Ops Manual)
- All 3 volunteers asked to be emailed to be reminded of their jobs. Still looking for 1-2 volunteers for other topics

### Human Diversity Committee

Chair: Brian Kloeppe

Minutes: Brian Kloeppe

Attendees: Dawn Wilson, Deedra McClearn, Tom Hayes, Teresa Mourad, Nina Consolatti, Faerthen Felix, Jeff Brown, Violet Nakayama

Emails: Kleoppel@uga.edu, dwilson@amnh.org, deedra@sloth.ots.ac.cr, thayes@uwsp.edu, teresa@esa.org, consolatti@kbs.msu.edu, faerthen@gmail.com, sagehen@berkeley.edu, violet.nakayama@ucop.edu

### Agenda:

#### 1) Human Diversity Award

Review of last years activities from Brian. Label of "human diversity" decided upon and

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award program initiated. The nominees, winner and awards were listed/shown. Last pieces are the press release and letter to the admin of the winning institution. Today is the award ceremony.

Can the letter be tailored to winners needs? Who will lead the award process for the coming year? The winner will need to help with press release location and content.

Award committee? Head-Amy

Members: attendee list

OBFS members to get award (but can use as an incentive to get people to join). Tom wants outreach for community and K-12 activities

## 2) Additional Activities

- a. Add web materials: general committee description, description of winners program, links to nominees, and application
- b. Human Diversity Award
  - in the future add a runner-up
  - submit as pdf for posting
  - Submission due date: Feb 1  
Nomination, March 1 application deadline. (to generic email?)
- c. Draft Mission Statement  
Mission Statement: *The OBFS Human Diversity Committee promotes and encourages activities, programs, and approaches that increase the involvement and engagement of underrepresented groups in field science.*
- d. Tom Hayes: draft paper on recruiting and assisting with Community and k-12 programs

## OBFS International Committee

Chair: Art McKee (standing in)

Minutes: Art McKee

Attendees: Larry Weider, Al Muth, Amy Whipple, Art Weis, Cristina Velez, Linda Wallace, Ed Boyer, Art McKee, plus one more (unsigned)

In the absence of both a Chair and agenda it was decided to address two fundamental questions: 1) What should the set of the functions be of the OBFS International Committee (OBFS-IC); and 2) What should the role of OBFS be relative to the International Organization of Biological Field Stations (IOBFS)?

### Agenda:

1) What should the set of the functions be of the OBFS International Committee (OBFS-IC)

It was appreciated that membership in OBFS is by field stations and marine labs (FSMLs) from countries in North and Central America and the Caribbean; and that those stations are relatively well funded. IOBFS tends to focus on networking among field stations and marine labs in third-world countries and often includes member stations that are agriculture or mariculture oriented. OBFS-IC's support for IOBFS was in recognition of the differences in overall priorities of the member stations of the two organizations, despite the obvious overlap in basic issues of operation and management. It was discussed that in the past, OBFS-IC has largely focused on:

1. Fostering the development of IOBFS; and
2. Striving to increase membership in OBFS of FSMLs around the globe and attendance at annual meetings of those station's directors.

These seemed worthy goals but it was felt they need to be revisited and reaffirmed or changed. With this reevaluation in mind, and with consideration of the potential change in operation of IOBFS, the ideas below were forwarded for consideration by the OBFS Executive Board following open discussion of the membership in attendance.

- A. That OBFS needs clarification of the future of IOBFS before allocating further support.
- B. A chair for OBFS-IC should be appointed. Amy Whipple, Ed Boyer and Deedra McClearn have all expressed willingness to serve in the position.
- C. That the OBFS leadership should aggressively recruit participation by Canadian FSMLs in the 2008 meeting, and should consider having a portion of the program devoted to highlighting Canadian stations and labs.
- D. Allocate funding to support travel to the 2008 meeting by representatives from one or two non-member, foreign FSMLs. A selection process should be designed that is simple and transparent.
- E. Promote attendance at the 2009 OBFS meeting at La Selva, Costa Rica by representatives of non-member stations in Central and South America.
- F. Financial needs:
  - a. After contacting IOBFS, determine if the previously annual \$1000 should be continued.
  - b. Funds for subsidizing travel to 2008 meeting by one or two directors (\$1200?).

## Small and New Field Stations Committee

Chair: Bo Dziadyk

Minutes: Bo Dziadyk

Attendees: (not recorded).

## **Agenda:**

The group discussed potential topics for us to examine in either a panel discussion format, a pre-meeting meeting for small and new field station members, or a list serve communication format. Fourteen potential topic ideas were generated of which most dealt with funding. So, the group decided that we will submit a proposal to the executive board for a panel discussion on funding this next year. This panel discussion will focus on the issues of how do we do more with less, and related funding topics for small and new stations including creative ways to get funding, how to market a station to potential donors, etc. We also discussed having an open discussion forum in which people will discuss 1 – 2 biggest challenges that they have faced over the past year and 1 – 2 success stories or some of their most creative ideas that they have had. We will present a second proposal to the board in which this discussion would be held as a sponsored mixer at some point during the meeting.

A subgroup of people have volunteered to work on these efforts: Bo Dziadyk, Jan Mock, Sarah Oktay, Linda Wallace, Ed Boyer, Greg Smith

## **Organizational Development Committee**

Chair: Kari O'Connell

Minutes: Kari O'Connell

Attendees: Arthur Weis, Ian Billick, Tom Arsuffi, Philippe Cohen, Lyndal Laughrin, Monica Folk, Mark Stromberg, Susan Cordell, Larry Weider, Dan McGlenn, Ray Highsmith, Nathan Rank, Eric Nagy

## **Agenda:**

### 1) Committee Goals and Action Items

The committee started by reviewing goals and action items, as listed by the strategic plan.

### 2) Funding Resources

Kari O'Connell, with the help of Faerthen, placed a funding directory on the OBFS website. The link is on the left bar. The committee discussed the funding directory.

- Tom Arsuffi has been keeping a list as well, and said he would email Kari the list.
- Phillippe clarified that the directory is for individual field stations. Kari will update the format of the document to reflect this clarification.
- Tom Arsuffi suggested that we gather descriptions/examples of innovative ways to find funding from individual field stations.
- He gave the example that Llano Field Station got funding from the city of Junction.

Ian Billick suggested that OBFS could go to a private foundation for funding, at least for practice. Then OBFS could develop a model for private funding that can serve as a model for individual field stations.

### 3) NSF Workshop

The discussion led to the workshop that Hillary Swain will propose to NSF (Judy Skog had suggested that now would be a good time to review FSML and future directions). The group came up with several recommendations.

- Include NAML in the workshop. Kari agreed to see if Jan would mention the workshop at the upcoming NAML meeting.
- The workshop should not focus just on the FSML program at NSF, but be focused on more broader issues and future directions of field stations and marine labs. The result of the workshop should be new initiatives/new ideas for funding field stations.
- A suggested title is, "How to make field stations and marine labs sustainably productive for the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

### 4) Value of Field Stations

The group also discussed the need to quantify the impacts of field stations. Having this information would help us support field stations. The group discussed requesting money from OBFS (or from NSF as part of the workshop proposal) to do a survey of OBFS members and other field stations. Mark Stromberg had worked with the survey center at Berkley before. We would hire a professional to help craft appropriate questions for a survey monkey. Also, we would hire some sort of admin assistant to help us find and contact field stations in the US that are not are not members of OBFS. Each member could help come up with a list of non-OBFS field stations in their state. Several people agreed to help Kari with the survey: Susan, Tom, Nathan, Mark, Phillippe.

### 5) Updates from Organizational Representatives

The committee heard updates from organizational representatives. See Eric Nagy's notes for his updates of AIBS. Larry brought up that he was a placeholder as a representative to LTER. The committee decided that the executive board would discuss an appropriate replacement.

### Action items

- Find a person to serve as representative to LTER (with help of executive board).
- Kari talk to Hillary Swain about workshop proposal to NSF. Would quantification of impacts of field stations fit in the proposal?
- Share recommendations about workshop proposal with Hillary Swain.

- Tom Arsuffi send Kari his list of funding opportunities. Kari work with Faerthen to update the website.

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## Outreach Committee

Chair: Philippe Cohen

Minutes: Deedra McClearn

Attendees: Ian Billick, Ray Highsmith, Kristy Anderson, Rob Anderson, Lyndal Laughrin, Violet Nakayama, Karie Slavik, Bohdan Dziadyk, Nina Consolatti, Monica Folk, Jeff Brown, Faerthen Felix, Mark Stromberg, Bill Schuster, Jeff Savino, Teresa Mourad, Jack Caldwell, Jerry Johnson, Bob Waide, Bill Michener, Hilary Swain, Nathan Rank, Deedra McClearn

## Agenda – OBFS Brochure:

### 1) Introductory Remarks

The main questions are: What is a field station? Why are field stations important? The audience is the general public. The brochure must be eye-catching.

### 2) Goals of this brochure:

- Helping to understand why field stations are important
- Communicating important things about the environment
- Emphasizing that field stations cut across scales but are strongly place-based
- Showing people engaged in meaningful activities that public can identify with

### 3) Presentation

- The brochure is presented in graphic format with text to support photos
- Doesn't require a lot of reading
- Designed to lead the way to forming a portal for the web site—for public in addition to members of OBFS
- Public can't figure out how to work current web site
- Not enough eye candy
- Eliza Jewett hired to create new brochure

Today's meeting is to distribute initial format to get feel for brochure. Four copies of folded brochure and many flat copies passed out

- Philippe solicited photos and compelling stories, vignettes to highlight research. Got some response from members with photos. Not much response from members in writing text.
- Philippe will seek out details about stories and contributions to add to brochure for next phase.
- Philippe: Any questions about what has been done so far or how go in future?
- Bo—is this the final version?
- Philippe—definitely not. Tone is probably what we want but contents are still open to modification. If you have comments, make specific comments about what you want. We

want to get comments at this meeting, address concerns at this meeting. Send out pdf soon with new comments after the meeting. Next year's meeting should then be final draft and then send to printers after next year's meeting. Doesn't want to slow things down because people aren't getting around to commenting. This is your chance to get engaged in the process.

- Think also about how this brochure might contribute to web site.
- Eliza: This is a work in progress. Lots of gray boxes that say "images to come." If there are images that you want to add, some of the text and photos are "place holder" versions. They aren't what will be used in the final version.
- Quickly go through different panels to get a sense of order.
- Cover and address multiple scales issue. Overview landscape scale, monitoring, a few images at different levels. Multiple habitats, multiple scales, draw people in.
- Comments: Sexy animal would be good on first page; also show something with teaching.

Questions: For images to come, are they already selected?

- Answer: No, nothing here is engraved in stone. Resolution is also an issue. Even if an image looks good on the web, it might not print up well.
- Eliza: First thing people will get to might be back cover, inside front panel. We tried to design a brochure that makes sense wherever you open it.
- Philippe: Far-reaching findings sections is the compelling stories part. Provide a sense of real expertise at field stations. What contributions came out of this work, something that people can identify with. Example: acid rain. That will be the well we dip into for putting this together.
- ESA member: This isn't really for members so much but for larger public.
- Philippe: We're trying to talk to people who know nothing about field stations. Usually at Jasper Ridge I have to go through a long spiel about what we do and how we fit into larger context just because people don't know what a field station is.
- ESA member: So, explain what FSML is and what OBFS is as an organization.
- Philippe: Right. We will eliminate virtually all acronyms from the brochure.

Question: So this text looks more like why field stations are important but you also need to explain what field stations are. Much more basic.

- Philippe: Right, people should feel free to help contribute text.
- Eliza: Back to the order people will see things on the brochure. Draw people in more with

specific stories that people might have had experience with. Radar, DDT, how field stations have already affected people.

- Then how can people get involved. Take courses, visit field stations. This should move people to look at the web site.
- Then the next step would be two sections: Get involved. Education. More space for education than for research. Text and photos that flows between panels. Text in paragraphs around photos. Captions for photos. Is this too much text? We can talk about this.
- Philippe: Before we finalize these photos we have to go back and get permission from people to publish photos. Need signed permission slip that says the people will allow their photo to be published.
- This should reflect entire range of field stations, not just California.
- Eliza: Trying to choose different habitats, different scales, different seasons.
- Comment: Have a photo of a face speaking providing testimonial. More direct.
- Philippe and Eliza: Good idea.
- Eliza: Is this the right length? Too short is bad, too long is bad.
- Philippe: Right now it's 10 panels. 12 panels would be probably too long, 8 too short.
- Question: Is the cost really different?
- Philippe: Trying not to focus on cost. First decide whether product is what we want and then deal with cost.

Question: Thinking about life expectancy? How long will it be good as a brochure.

- Philippe: We're thinking about a five year horizon. Probably after that we would reorganize everything. This is the business card of field stations. Probably the web will take over much of this brochure function after a while. Also if there are "extra" compelling stories that don't fit onto the brochure, we'll put them on the web site.
- Mark: How about a logo?
- Philippe: Yes, but we need a new logo. The one we have isn't compelling enough to put on the brochure.
- Hilary: If a list of field stations is too much, how about putting in a map with dots showing where all the stations are. This makes a big impact. People say, "There's a field station in my state, or in my area."
- Philippe: Concern about scale. Map will take up a lot of space if it is good enough resolution.
- Lots of animated discussion.
- Comment: Make an easy way for people to make the link between the big idea and a station that is near them. Make the point that there's a

field station nearby and a family could go there on the weekend and do an owl walk.

- Philippe: Could do that on the panel that says "get involved." That would be the place where people could make that link.
- Comment: Say something like "90% of Americans live within an hour of a field station."
- Comment: But don't forget that we're not just US and 50 states.
- Philippe: That's the problem. If we have a big world map, then it'll look to US dominated.
- Comment: But what is our audience? Isn't it mostly North America?
- Philippe: Next year this time we'll do final tweaks but no redesigning.
- Eliza: How do people feel about the general look?
- Comments: Looks good. Two panel matches are great. Good bite-sized chunks. Opens up well. Far-reaching findings section good to answer somebody who says, "What does this mean to me?" Make sure you don't chop people's bodies off in a fold. Good way the photos draw your eyes in different ways. Good layout. Need some text on embedded sensor networks.
- Philippe: We tried to eliminate photos of butts and backs. If you show people, you want to show them doing things. Not standing there, posing and smiling. Tricky part will be to show science things (like embedded sensors) that don't "geek out" the audience.
- Comment: How about a good nature photo that shows a little sensor in the foreground.
- Mark: With photos that show clothes, it looks dated quickly.
- Comment: So people have to be naked?
- Mark: No, show hands, faces, nothing that dates the person.
- Comment: How about getting a version printed in Spanish?
- Comment: Going to address diversity issues in photos? If we're trying to encourage young people from different groups, need to have photos of other groups.
- Hilary: Mission statement doesn't give a sense of field stations have field work. Why don't we do a better mission statement and explain what scales we're working on?
- Philippe: Text is all just filler right now.
- Hilary: But we actually need a good mission statement. You can't have a filler mission statement.
- Jan: I agree with Hilary. This is an important piece.
- Hilary: Why don't we drop the whole mission statement thing in the brochure? The goal of the brochure is not the same as the goal of OBFS.

- We need to communicate to people what field stations are and why they're important. They don't need to know what the mission of OBFS is.
- Philippe: So far text is all filler except for the education section.
  - Mark read mission statement. Not really what we're trying to communicate to the public.
  - Comment: Some parts in the center looks too busy. My eyes don't know where to look.
  - Some comments about background in grid paper, moving text around, reducing number of vignettes.
  - Ian: Someone said, "All the newsletters we get look exactly the same." The field station ones can be different because they have more text or look different. People expect scientists to be a little geeky. Don't need to have lots of blank spaces. But also need to have organizing themes without being overwhelming.
  - Philippe: It's difficult to create good tag lines. How about a transformative figure / drawings? Something that starts out as a hummingbird and morphs into a watershed, etc.
  - Comment: Tunnel down into research stories. Maybe instead of individual stories, make it more in terms of themes. Maybe identify four themes: biomedical, monitoring, etc. Broader impacts of research at field stations. Situation examples within the themes.
  - Eliza: But we're trying to highlight the specific examples.
  - Discussion of themes and examples, how that could be organized. Add an example from teaching so they're not just examples from research. Example from talk last night where test scores of school children actually were improved from having a field station experience.
- Eliza: How do you feel about size? Photos too small, text too small?
  - Philippe: Things always look a little different on the screen and printed out. When you get the final draft, please try printing it out so you get a sense of how it will really look. Go to Kinko's or someplace like that to print the full size to get a good feel for it.
  - Text sarif, captions sans sarif.
  - Comment: This size I don't have to put my reading glasses.
  - Philippe: This is what we're aiming for.
  - Jan: Captions under picture are a bit small in print size. Like under the radar picture. Images need to be recognizable maybe, so you don't even need a caption.
  - Bo: Traditional logo not here. Are we going to change it?
  - Philippe: First order of business is to make a brochure for our broad audience. Our logo won't make a statement to anybody but us. We have limited space. At some level you have to trust us to make as good a use of every square inch.
  - Comment: Too choppy in the middle. All the photos are the same size. Front and back covers great. Expand far-reaching findings.
  - Comment: Middle part looks scientific but still accessible. Public will say, "Things aren't as weird as I thought they would be."
  - Philippe: We want to encourage people to go from the brochure to the web site and look for field stations in their own area.

## End of Meeting

### 2007 Annual Meeting Exit Survey Llanos River Field Station 13-16 September 2007

In an effort to help the Annual Meeting Committee assess the success of this year's meeting and to make sure that the annual meeting continues to meet the needs of our membership, we ask you to take a few minutes to fill out the following meeting exit survey. Your input is greatly appreciated. Thanks!

**1.) Please rank the following informational sessions with respect to the usefulness of**

**the information provided during each session, and how often this topic should be addressed at OBFS Meetings. NOTE: Results based on N = 21 surveys returned.**

**NSF Discussion Panel: FSML Update, Education & CyberInfrastructureLinks**

[71.4%] Useful; [23.8%]; Somewhat useful; [4.8%] Not very useful



[71.4%] Yearly [28.6%] Occasionally [ ] Rarely; [ ] Once was enough

### How to write a competitive FSML proposal?

[66.7%] Useful; [33.3%] Somewhat useful; [ ] Not very useful

[61.9%] Yearly; [38.1%] Occasionally; [ ] Rarely; [ ] Once was enough

### LTER-OBFS: How to build stronger ties

[47.6%] Useful; [42.9%] Somewhat useful; [9.5%] Not very useful

[23.8%] Yearly; [61.9%] Occasionally; [9.5%] Rarely; [4.8%] Once was enough

### Education at FSMLs

[66.7%] Useful; [28.6%] Somewhat useful; [4.7%] Not very useful

[47.6%] Yearly; [52.4%] Occasionally; [ ] Rarely; [ ] Once was enough

### Database Management

[81.0%] Useful; [19.0%] Somewhat useful; [ ] Not very useful

[66.7%] Yearly; [33.3%] Occasionally; [ ] Rarely; [ ] Once was enough

Please feel free to add comments about specific sessions.

*The database management session received lots of positive feedback.*

**2.) Please suggest additional informational sessions that you would like to see at future meetings, and suggest how frequently these topics should be included in the agenda. *We are serious about wanting your feedback on this!***

- o *More database management sessions for future meetings (i.e. ask Ian to present again on broader concept of data/info at field stations).*

- o *Keep new attendee session and add brief overview of the history of OBFS. (multiple responses)*
- o *Less on “big issues” (i.e. LTER, NEON, NSF) and more on real issues faced by field stations (i.e. operations, etc...).*
- o *Need more time on updating OBFS website and station links.*
- o *Set up a “mentoring”/partnering program between established stations and new/developing stations.*
- o *Session on ethics and data sharing.*
- o *Citizen science/citizen education.*
- o *Several mentioned wanting a “small field station” session.*
- o *Green building session (not an overview, but a session devoted to specific topics – e.g. windows, specs, coatings, etc...).*
- o *Brain-storming session about establishing stronger ties among field stations.*
- o *More “nuts-n-bolts” sessions (e.g. how to set-up a K-12 program without much \$\$\$; or a session on seeking funding).*
- o *Include a session on non-government funding sources such as private foundations with lists of email addresses; offer this every 3-4 years.*
- o *Hold a session on boosting enrollments of field station courses: how to recruit students?*
- o *Actual proposal planning workshop to determine what would be key collaborative proposals and start to design it at the meeting.*

**3.) For each of the following aspects of the annual meeting, please indicate whether the time allocated was appropriate. If you marked “too long” or “too short”, indicate under the “Adjust Time” column how we should reallocate the time for future meetings (e.g. “too long, Adj. time by 30 min.”).**

**New Station Intros/What's new at your station session:** [4.8%] Too long; [95.2%] Just right; [0] Too short; Adj. 15 min

**Field trips:** [9.5%] Too long; [85.7%] Just right; [4.8%] Too short; Adj. time 1-2 hrs

**Panel discussions:** [35.0%] Too long; [60.0%] Just right; [5.0%] Too short; Adj. 20-30min

**Annual Updates (e.g. FSML):** [9.5%] Too long; [85.7%] Just right; [4.8%] Too short; Adj. time 20-30 min

**Committee meetings and reports:** [9.5%] Too long; [85.7%] Just right; [4.8%] Too short; [ ] Adj. time

**OBFS (plenary) business sessions:**  
[10.0%] Too long; [85.0%] Just right; [5.0%] Too short; [ ] Adj. time

**Informal "networking" time:** [4.8%] Too long; [71.4%] Just right; [23.8%] Too short; Adj. time 1-2 hr

**4.) Did you find the Committee/Subcommittee Meetings that you attended to be well organized and worth your time?**

Governance	[1] yes	[ ] no
Member Support	[2] yes	[ ] no
International	[3] yes	[3] no
Small Field Stations	[7] yes	[ ] no
Diversity	[5] yes	[ ] no
Organizational Development	[5] yes	[ ] no
Outreach	[10] yes	[ ] no

If, "no", please make specific recommendations to improve on these committee meetings.

*Need better organization (especially international committee). Need to appoint chair of international committee.*

**5.) Please provide any additional specific comments that might help us in organizing future meetings.**

- *Have a poster session with detailed station profiles.*
- *Double-side (print) all hand-outs to save on paper.*
- *Have labeled recycling bins (cans, glass, paper). (multiple responses)*
- *Need clear definitions of committees "duties/charges" posted ahead of time with clear agendas. Also, indicate that these are "business meetings" so that new folks know this ahead of time. Seemed that some folks were looking for Q & A sessions during these committee meetings.*
- *Panel on citizen science/citizen outreach.*
- *More "nuts-n-bolts" sessions like the database management (maybe 2 hrs, split 1 hr each day).*
- *Great job on Friday afternoon downtime. (multiple responses)*
- *Keep new station/attendee session (track to see if it makes a difference).*
- *Keep annual diversity award.*
- *Come up with ways to continue to decrease the meeting's carbon footprint.*
- *May be a meeting theme (this person thought this year's balance was great).*
- *It would be best to have Sunday morning's session start no earlier than 9 am.*
- *Make sure that new members/attendees are notified clearly either on the website for the meeting or on the meeting registration forms that they can bring (up to 10) slides to show at the meeting.*
- *A comment was made about making sure that on the field trips, proper guides are used (e.g. kayaking).*
- *Need to make more of concerted effort to get field stations from outside the*

## 2007 OBFS Annual Report

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*U.S. to attend the meeting. Evidently we hope to address this at La Selva in 2009.*

- *Keep Larry in-charge of the meeting agenda. (I thought about editing this*

*comment out, but for transparency I left it in. LJW)*

- ***Need stronger coffee.***

### OBFS Financial Report 2006-2007

#### I. Operating Funds

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
<b>Previous Balance Aug 31, 2006:</b>	<b>\$44,463.52</b>	
(\$27,610.69 in CDs; \$9,838.72 in checking account)		
<b>Income:</b>		
Membership dues	\$18,765.73	\$19,500.00
Interest (CDs, checking)	\$1,523.33	\$500.00
Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Selzer Fund	\$675.00	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$20,964.06</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>Regular Operating Expenses</b>		
AIBS dues and public policy initiative	\$2,695.00	\$2,695.00
Bank charge	\$0.00	\$30.00
Missouri corporation registration	\$0.00	\$10.00
Travel OBFS committee	\$806.58	\$3,000.00
Congressional visits day	\$4,462.29	\$6,000.00
OBFS traveling exhibit shipping		\$700.00
Shipping	\$157.80	
Brochure		
Field studies poster	\$3,948.09	\$4,000.00
Office and website		
Treasurer support and supplies	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Secretarial and database support	\$500.00	\$500.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Website editing charges	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Database project with LTER	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>IOBFS</b>		
Office and website	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Strategic Planning	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Committee Expenses		
Small Field Stations	\$0.00	\$500.00

## 2007 OBFS Annual Report

Governance	\$0.00	\$500.00
Development	\$0.00	\$500.00
Diversity	\$0.00	\$500.00
Program Committee	\$0.00	\$500.00
International	\$0.00	\$500.00
Member Support	\$0.00	\$500.00
Networking	\$0.00	\$500.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$500.00
<b>Subtotal Regular Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,369.76</b>	<b>\$26,235.00</b>
<b>Committee Proposals Contingent Upon Review by EB</b>	<b>\$6,446.20</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$22,815.96</b>	<b>\$42,235.00</b>
<b>Transfer to Restricted Fund:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance August 31, 2007</b>	<b>\$45,168.38</b>	
<b>Fund Holdings</b>	<b>August 07</b>	<b>August 06</b>
Investments - CDs:		
211125 3.94% (4.00% yield), 12 mos. due 11/01/06	\$7,600.27	\$7,237.59
211242 4.28% (4.35% yield), 12 mos due 1/28/07	\$4,421.14	\$4,216.78
211243 4.28% (4.35% yield), 12 mos due 2/02/06	\$6,619.82	\$6,313.82
212240 3.94% (4.00% yield), 12 mos, due 9/15/06	\$6,743.82	\$6,422.02
614444 3.94% (4.00% yield), 6 mos, due 3/25/07	\$4,581.78	\$4,379.29
Checking Account:	\$15,201.55	\$15,894.02
 <b>II. Restricted Funds</b>		
<b>Previous Restricted Fund Balance Aug 31, 2006:</b>		<b>\$63,596.59</b>
<b>Contributions:</b>		
Transfer from Operating Funds		\$0.00
Auction proceeds		\$5,593.00
Donations		\$0.00
Citizens mutual fund		\$8,689.48
<b>Total Contributions:</b>		<b>\$14,282.48</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Restricted Fund Balance Aug 31, 2007:</b>		<b>\$77,879.07</b>

## 2007 OBFS Annual Report

### Fund Holdings

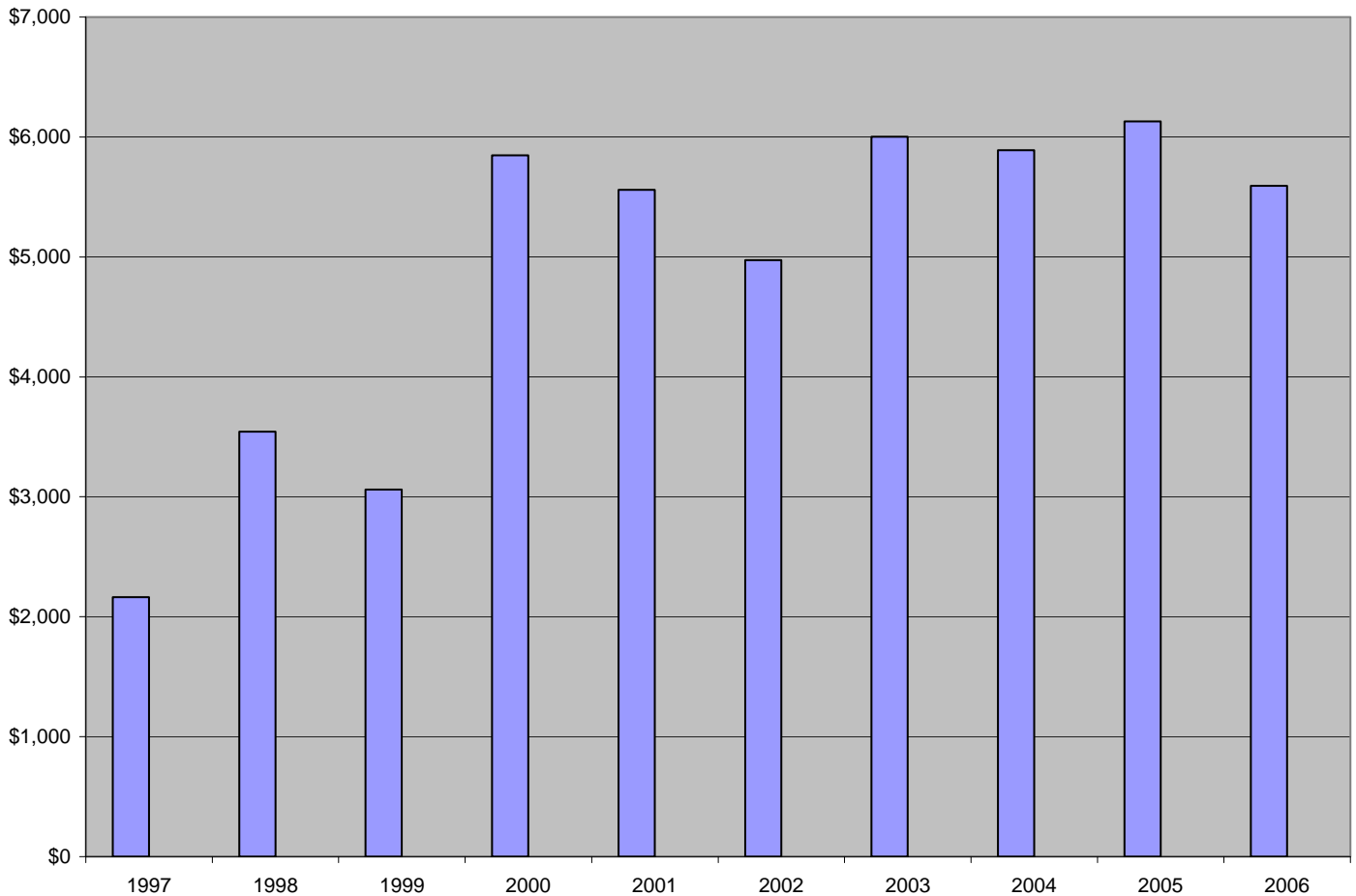
Investments - Citizens Mutual Fund:

Core Growth Fund (2102.357 shares @ \$22.54) \$47,387.13

Emerging Growth Fund (1438.188 shares @ \$18.25) \$26,246.93

OBFS Checking Account: \$4,245.01

### ANNUAL AUCTION INCOME BY YEAR



### III. OBFS Proposed Operating Budget 2006-07

#### Proposed 07-08

**Operating Fund Balance August 31, 2007** \$45,168.00

**Income:**

Membership dues	\$20,000.00
Interest (CDs, checking)	\$500.00
Reimbursements	\$0.00
Selzer Fund	

## 2007 OBFS Annual Report

<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$20,500.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>Regular Operating Expenses</b>		
AIBS dues and public policy initiative		\$2,695.00
Bank charge		\$30.00
Missouri corporation registration		\$10.00
Travel OBFS committee		\$3,000.00
Congressional visits day		\$6,000.00
OBFS traveling exhibit		\$700.00
shipping		
brochure		
Field studies poster		\$4,000.00
Office and website		
Treasurer support and supplies		\$1,800.00
Secretarial and database support		\$500.00
Supplies		\$0.00
Website editing charges		\$1,000.00
Database project with LTER		\$0.00
IOBFS		
Office and website		\$1,000.00
Strategic Planning		\$0.00
Newsletter		\$300.00
Committee Expenses		
Governance		\$500.00
Annual Meeting		\$500.00
Member Support		\$500.00
Common Interests		
Diversity		\$500.00
International		\$500.00
Small Field Stations		\$500.00
Organizational Development		\$500.00
Outreach		\$500.00
Website		\$500.00
<b>Subtotal Regular Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$25,535.00</b>
<b>Committee Proposals Contingent Upon Review by EB</b>		<b>\$13,250.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>\$38,785.00</b>
<b>Transfer to Restricted Fund:</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>		<b>-\$18,285.00</b>
<b>Projected Operating Fund Balance August 31, 2007</b>		<b>\$26,883.00</b>

## Organization of Biological Field Stations

### ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2007 PARTICIPANT LIST

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## 2007 OBFS Annual Report

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