

NWA Remote Sensing Committee Meeting Summary

Tuesday October 18, 2011 1200-130 pm Eastern
At the 2011 NWA Annual Meeting (Birmingham, AL)

Meeting Participants: Gary Ellrod, Ralph Ferraro, Jim Gurka, Sheldon Kusselson, Wayne Mackenzie, Brian Motta, Pablo Santos, Chris Siewert

1. Welcome and opening remarks (Ferraro and Mackenzie)

This is our fourth meeting of 2011 and it is nice to see many folks in person and having a good lunch to discuss committee business. Unlike other meetings that we have via phone and with a concrete agenda, here we focused on just a few topics noted below.

2. Committee Membership

The following members will be ending their terms at the end of the year: Ralph Ferraro, Stacy Bunin, Jim Gurka, Tom Lee, Michael Stanga. Ralph thanked Jim for his many years of service on the committee. Three year extensions were given to Dennis Buechler, Gary Ellrod and Brian Motta. New members added are Chris Siewert (NOAA/NESDIS) and Bryan Jackson (NOAA/NWS). Vacancies are being held open so we can stagger ending terms in the future.

3. Newsletter Articles

Ralph voiced some displeasure at the committee chair meeting the previous night on not knowing the status of articles already submitted. He subsequently spoke with Janice Bunting (previous newsletter editor) and she mentioned that Winnie Lambert, the current editor, has a log of articles that are in the queue and that we should follow up with her about our concerns. It should be noted that the NWA Executive Director makes the final decisions on the Newsletter.

Action: Ralph to follow up with Janice, Winnie and Steve about getting a log of papers and possible target issues.

4. METSAT Scholarship

We did award the scholarship this year to a student at Univ. of North Carolina – Charlotte. We still need to do a better job of promoting and seek potential partners to increase the scholarship value. Another suggestion was to perhaps simply award it to the best remote sensing student paper/poster at the Annual Meeting. We also need to see if we can somehow reinstate the all expenses paid trip to the meeting for the winner.

Action: Ralph to follow up with Fran Holt (scholarship sponsor), Ruth Aiken and potential partners about issues related to the scholarship.

5. Observing System Advocacy Statement

We spent the majority of time talking about this topic and its importance. Ralph has made little progress on moving this ahead, so it was decided that Wayne would take over as the champion. Plenty of discussion regarding the breadth of the statement and

who to target – some feel it is too broad and will have little impact, others feel that if we prioritize, funding of one mission may come at the expense of others. The bottom line is that we need to somehow convey that the “baseline observing capability” is going to be compromised unless specific programs can be guaranteed sustained funding.

Action: Wayne to work on the statement with the help of others on the committee (most present, plus Stacy and Rob, expressed interest in helping).

6. Social Media and Committee Communications

Ralph reported that the NWA will be spinning up a new committee dedicated to social media – Diane Cooper (NWS/Minneapolis) is likely to be the chair. New ideas regarding the use of social media for remote sensing topics can be worked with this new group.

Wayne also mentioned that he is spinning up a web portal/wiki page for the committee to make it more efficient to communicate and edit documents, etc.

Action: Wayne to send out beta version of portal/wiki page to the committee when it is ready. The group should also consider how to best utilize the new social media committee.

Next telecon – December 2011 or January 2012.