

# **Board for Private Sector Meteorologists (BPSM)**

## **Meeting Summary**

Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 16, Marriott Rivercenter Hotel  
San Antonio, TX

- **Board Attendees:** Bob Baron, Jim Block, Ken Carey, Rip Coleman, Jan Dutton, Steve Harned, Kathy Lucas, Kathy Strebe, and Bruce Thomas
- **Welcome:** Incoming board chair Ken Carey welcomed everyone to the board meeting, to include special guests Dr. Franco Einaudi (outgoing AMS President), Dr. Keith Seitter (AMS Executive Director), John Toohey-Morales (AMS Professional Affairs Commissioner), visiting mentors (Phil Falconer and Dick Westergard) and their students (Zach Byko and Bryan Oshinski), and a guest student (Erik Noble) who is interested in becoming a BPSM student member.
- **Introductions:** Each board member (all current and transitioning BPSM members were present) and guest introduced himself/herself.
- **Transitions:** Outgoing board chair Jim Block thanked departing board members Bob Baron and Kathy Lucas for their outstanding contributions and service to the board. Ken welcomed new board members Bruce Thomas (Midland Radio Corporation) and Rip Coleman (Sonalyt, Inc.)
- **Summary of 2006 Goals and Accomplishments:** Jim Block summarized our major accomplishments in 2006 that included:
  - (1) Development and planned posting of the AMS Corporate members on the AMS web site. The next step is to combine the efforts of the CCM board to create a CCM directory with the corporate directory.
  - (2) Creation of the private sector mentor program through PSU and OU to start. We have begun advertising this program and have hopes that this program will help connect and interest students with the private sector and the AMS.
  - (3) Successful efforts to raise awareness and promote nominations for the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Meteorology.

We were thrilled that our board award recommendation for John Toohey-Morales was approved.

- Philosophy, Goals and Objectives for 2007: We discussed our board goals and 2007 objectives. The preliminary list of board objectives in 2007, the BPSM lead and those assisting, are as follows:
  - (1) Raise awareness of the benefits of working in the private sector  
BPSM LEAD:
  - (2) Support and enhance the AMS Corporate Directory as a career development resource  
BPSM LEAD: J. Block TEAM: S. Harned (with help from outgoing BPSM member K. Lucas who is transitioning to the Ad Hoc Committee on Planning and the AMS Board on Continuing Professional Development)
  - (3) Establish the private sector mentor program and support growth of the professional network of private sector mentors and students  
BPSM LEAD: K. Carey TEAM: J. Block, B. Thomas, K. Strebe (and K. Beatty, not a BPSM member but one who has been instrumental in creating this program)
  - (4) Support the AMS awards process by promoting and encouraging nominations from the private sector for the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Applied Meteorology  
BPSM LEAD: R. Coleman TEAM: K. Carey
- Guest Comments: John suggested that we should pursue CCM certification by private sector members as one of our objectives for 2007 to align with our stated board goal, “To encourage professional development by individuals in the private sector”. In addition, we will have to develop an implementation plan by summer 2007 for the AMS strategic goals being circulated now. Therefore, Ken will add two new BPSM objectives for 2007:
  - (1) Objective (5): Encourage private sector members to complete CCM certification.
  - (2) Objective (6): Develop an implementation plan to meet the new AMS strategic goals.

- Web Page Updates: Ken has worked closely with Brian Mardirosian at AMS to update and revamp our BPSM web site. Ken created and has posted a new list of award winners from 1956 through 2006
- Board Interaction and Collaboration: Ken stated and the BPSM members agreed to continue monthly conference calls (second Tuesday of each month Feb-Jun, and Sep-Dec); other primary correspondence will be via e-mail
- Private Sector Interaction with COMET: Dr. Tim Spangler, COMET Director, was invited to attend to provide an update on private sector involvement and interaction in COMET activities.
  - (1) COMET has developed over 5,000 hours of instruction, all of which is freely available to private sector members
  - (2) Right now it is not known how many private sector individuals and companies take advantage and use COMET resources; however, a mandatory on-line registration process beginning soon will allow COMET to identify private sector users
  - (3) Desire by COMET to expand use and delivery of education and training to and for the private sector; opportunities exist for private sector members to participate in on-line and in-residence courses
  - (4) COMET now using “Go to Meeting” capability; virtual course available and could be used by private sector members; reduces biggest obstacles for private sector users: cost and time required to take and complete courses.
- Discussion:
  - (1) In discussions with other AMS to raise awareness of our fledging mentorship program, it was reemphasized that we should consider providing resources for mentors and students to help them succeed, as well as monitoring their progress. Through her contacts with the AMS Board for Women and Minorities, Kathy Strebe will be providing us with connections to mentor/student resources.
  - (2) Erik Noble is interested in join in the BPSM as a student representative. Ken will pursue the approval to add Erik to the BPSM.
  - (3) AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists (BOGM) Chair Bruce Telfeyan requested BPSM support for a possible collaborative

Town Hall Forum at the 2008 AMS Annual Meeting. The preliminary topic is, “How can new technology be more effectively transitioned to operations?” Bruce will be sending to us his proposal and how we might participate/contribute to this event.

- (4) Ken thanked everyone for their selfless service and asked for their support for our 2007 board objectives.
- Next Meeting: Conference call on Tue, Feb 13, noon (EST)