

Board for Private Sector Meteorologists (BPSM) Conference Call Summary

Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 12:00-12:25 p.m. EDT

- Conference Call Participants: Kyle Beatty, Ken Carey, Steve Harned, Gary Rasmussen, Bob Rose, and Kathy Strebe
- Opening Remarks: Board chair K. Carey welcomed each board member, and thanked each of them for their service and support to the AMS and our constituents, and affirmed their positive impact on our constituents in the private sector, AMS, and for the mentoring of students interested in the private sector. K. Carey also wanted to congratulate K. Strebe as the approved “Chair Elect” for the BPSM. Congratulations Kathy! She will begin her term as chair at the end of our business meeting at the 2009 AMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix.
- Review of March 2008 BPSM Meeting Summary: We briefly reviewed the summary of our February 12 BPSM meeting in New Orleans. No additional feedback was discussed and the summary was approved as written
- Discussion on the BPSM Web Pages: Our board web page has been updated with the March 11 board and March 25 mentoring subcommittee meeting summaries. K. Carey asked board members to continue to critically review our web site, and provide constructive feedback at their earliest opportunity.

ACTION: Provide comments and feedback to K. Carey to improve and enhance the BPSM web site. (All)

- Goals and Objectives for 2008: We discussed our board objectives for next year.

(1) Raise awareness of the benefits of working in the private sector by publishing periodic articles on our web site highlighting private sector individuals
BPSM LEAD: B. Rose

K. Carey requested that each board member continue to consider how we can educate and promote to our colleagues and those we interact in our spheres of influence the value of the work and of working in the private sector is, over and above what we should be able to accomplish through our other board initiatives. K. Carey has sent out e-mails to the private sector community and AMS local chapters about our initiative to promote the important work in the private sector. B. Rose has developed a draft article and is close to integrating board comments on that draft.

ACTIONS: Circulate a second draft incorporating feedback from the board on the draft article as well as one or to pictures of you in action working in television and for the LCRA. Consider reformatting the article in a style that would easily allow replication by other mentors so that we could rapidly build a database, possibly by topic, of other

private sector mentors. One example is incorporating 5-6 common questions into the “expose”. (B. Rose, with help from Bruce Thomas)

ACTION: By our May meeting develop a short article for publication on our BPSM site, following the style agreed to by you and Bob Rose, on your “career” in the private sector. (B. Thomas)

(2) Support the professional development of private sector members, to include working with the AMS to enhance the AMS Corporate and CCM Directories as career development resources, using survey to identify other means of support for private sector individuals, and reaching out to AMS local chapters to raise their awareness of resources available to members of the private sector

BPSM LEAD: S. Harned

There has been little progress on this over the last 6-8 months. After K. Carey asked S. Harned to discuss the (lack of) progress with the AMS (Corinne Kazarosian), S. Harned reported that this initiative is simply not near the top of their priorities but that a new programmer would be working this. The AMS hopes to have, by early summer, a template ready for review for implementation later in the summer. G. Rasmussen suggested the AMS start with the AMS corporate database, and that a link be created to this database to start, that links be established to both the CCM and corporate directories, and that we work with the AMS to build on this.

ACTION: Advise the board of the status and progress of this effort at our next telecon (S. Harned)

(3) Expand the private sector mentor program and support growth of the professional network of private sector mentors and students, to include program promotion such as publication of testimonials and marketing information

BPSM LEAD: K. Beatty

Our committee (K. Beatty, K. Carey, K. Strebe, and B. Thomas) has been discussing the success so far of our mentoring program and the growth that has accompanied that success. We held a conference call on March 25 with the AMS and J. Toohey-Morales to explore options for next steps to maintain and enhance the mentor program. During the call K. Beatty pointed out during the call that the limits to our program’s growth are primarily due to a limited number of mentors (the number of interested students is appearing to grow exponentially) as it is a challenge to recruit enough mentors for all the students. We’ve realized we may be nearing “critical mass” in terms of administrating our program primarily by just one person, and we’d like to discuss ways to leverage other resources in the AMS to help manage future growth. K Beatty took the lead in describing what he sees as overarching goals

1. needs for a centralized database and more efficient processes
2. tools to help automate data

For example, an on-line application form that a student can go to on a website, enter their information onto a fill-in-the-blank template, then that data goes into a

centralized database that allows access to all our Board members. Also, having an “independent” site where one can fill out feedback forms on our program, how mentor-mentee pairings worked out (or didn’t), etc., will likely lead to more honest, constructive criticism-type feedback.

ACTIONS: K. Beatty will meet with the AMS webmaster (B. Mardirosian) in a follow-up discussion, to include the online AMS award process, etc. K. Beatty will then let us know when would be a good time for our next committee call. K. Strebe will then set up the next committee conference call

(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

The award needs to be promoted and nominations encouraged from every board member. In addition, we need to articulate a process to incorporate and appropriately weight input and award nominees from the Applied Climatology STAC Committee.

ACTIONS:

- (1) Lead efforts to promote and solicit applicants for the 2009 award. (Rip)
- (2) Develop and coordinate a process of award selection that includes appropriate input from the Applied Climatology STAC committee. (Rip)

(5) Encourage private sector members to complete CCM certification.

BPSM LEAD: S. Harned

S. Harned has agreed to continue to lead board efforts to support and promote the CCM certification. So far, our and other efforts seems to be paying off as the CCM board has received a record number of applicants for the CCM certification.

ACTION: Continue to work with the CCM Board, and report progress at our next meeting. (Steve)

(6) Follow-through on the proposed implementation plan to meet the AMS strategic goals.

BPSM LEAD: E. Noble

Our board successfully created and submitted an implementation plan to meet the new AMS strategic goals. We now need to actively work to implement the goals we established. E. Noble agreed to draft an e-mail indicating the BPSM is interested in reaching out nationally and internationally to develop a dialogue with other private sector organizations.

ACTIONS:

- (1) Incorporate feedback on the draft 2008 implementation plan and provide the board an update on planning to meet the goals we set out in order to help implement the AMS strategic goals. Track and report on progress towards meeting these actions. (Erik)
- (2) Draft a one-paragraph e-mail for Ken’s review’s indicating a desire to reach

out to those international organizations interested in a dialogue on private sector issues. (Erik)

- Upcoming Board Meeting:
 - Our next board meeting will be a conference call on Tue, May 13, noon (EDT).