



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIAL METEOROLOGISTS (NCIM)

Saturday, June 7, 2008  
Del Monte Room, Embassy Suites Monterey Bay Hotel  
Seaside, California

The NCIM annual meeting was held Saturday, June 7, 2008, at the Embassy Suites Monterey Bay hotel in Seaside, California. Friday morning, June 6, NCIM members and guests enjoyed a tour of the Naval Research Laboratory Marine Meteorology Division, the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanographic Center, and the Monterey National Weather Service Forecast Office. Friday afternoon was spent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Dinner Friday night was held at the Charthouse restaurant along Cannery Row in Monterey.

### *Welcome and Introductions*

The NCIM Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.. The meeting agenda is attached to these minutes. NCIM President, Jan Null welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves.

### Members in attendance were:

Elliot Abrams	Stanley Marsh
Michelle Campbell	Robert Mulloy
Phil Falconer	Jan Null
Gale Hoffnagle	Bob Swanson
Jill Hasling	Dick Westergard
Erwin Kauper	Kit Wagner
Walt Lyons	

These 13 members constituted a quorum for the conduct of NCIM business.

### Guests in attendance were:

Richard Spinrad	NOAA Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
Jack Hayes	NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and Director, National Weather Service
Sean Potter	National Weather Service Communications Office
Barry Reichenbaugh	NOAA Research Communications Office

President Jan Null acknowledged NCIM members who could not attend the Annual Meeting and sent their regrets and regards. NCIM heard from

Chris Bedford	Paul Fransioli	Bill Haggard	Pete Leavitt
Matt Parker	Steve Root	Wayne Sand	Maggie Sand
Keith Seitter	John Toohey-Morales		

### *Approval of NCIM meeting minutes*

A motion was passed to approve the 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes and the 2008 Mid-Year Meeting minutes.

### *Reports from NCIM Members Involved in the Weather and Climate Enterprise*

#### *Certified Consulting Meteorologists Board - Jill Hasling*

Jill reported that the current CCM Board chair is Peter Robinson. In January at the AMS annual meeting the Board had 14 oral examinations. Eleven candidates passed their orals, two failed, and one candidate is doing additional work for the exam. Currently there are 10 applications in the process. Applications are down a little, so all CCMs are encouraged to recruit new candidates.

Efforts are underway to modernize the CCM application process. One thought is to have the candidates write a summary of their submitted report for the exam panel. The Board is considering replacing the pop quiz at the oral with a pretest similar to the Certified Broadcast Meteorologist exam. This effort is to help candidates determine their level of basic meteorology knowledge before getting too far into the CCM exam process.

Stan Marsh reported on CCM marketing. Stan showed an example of the CCM profile that appears in the Bulletin of the AMS. All CCMs are encouraged to submit a profile to Kelly Savoie at the AMS. Also the proposal for the Consulting Meteorologist In Training program (<http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/cmitdraft.html>) is progressing though the AMS. Stan attended the National Weather Association Annual Meeting last fall in Reno, NV. He presented a poster on the CCM program and received a good response.

Walt Lyons suggested that the private sector should make presentations about the CCM and NCIM to the Student Conference at the AMS Annual Meeting.

#### *Ad Hoc Committee on Uncertainty in Forecasting - Elliot Abrams*

Elliot Abrams reported on the Ad Hoc Committee on Uncertainty Forecasts. The committee is divided into five workgroups:

- 1 National needs and benefits
- 2 Formulating and articulating enterprise goals
- 3 Solutions
- 4 Roles and Responsibilities
- 5 Roadmap

The time frame for the committee is September 2008 for deliverables from the workgroups; December 2008, a draft implementation plan; February - May 2009, reviews; September 2009, a final plan.

Elliot gave an example of using probabilistic forecasts in a decision making process for closing a public school because of winter weather.

There are approximately 50 people participating on the committee and there is ample opportunity for the private sector to participate.

Dick Westergard as a member of workgroup 1 distributed a four question survey to NCIM members. Dick ([ShadeTreeMet@aol.com](mailto:ShadeTreeMet@aol.com)) needs responses from NCIM members by mid July.

At the AMS broadcast meteorology conference there is a plan to use focus groups to evaluate the understanding of uncertainty. The NWS has ideas to develop a suite of base products using probabilistic forecasts that could be used by the commercial weather services to develop value added products.

#### *AMS Nominations Committee - Walt Lyons*

AMS has established a committee to encourage nominations for AMS awards. NCIM should continue to submit the names of CCMs for awards. The nominating process is online at the AMS at <http://www.ametsoc.org/awards/index.cfm>.

#### *Research Channel Activities - Walt Lyons*

The AMS has collaborated with the Research Channel, a 24 hour network, to produce content for "The American Meteorological Society Journal" on the Research Channel. Four programs have been produced by the AMS. The CCM forum celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CCM program at the 2007 AMS Annual Meeting was video taped. That material has been edited to produce one of the AMS programs on the Research Channel. The program can be viewed online through a link on the NCIM web site at <http://www.ncim.org/vidpodcasts.html>, a link on the AMS web site at <http://www.ametsoc.org/videos.html>, or directly at <http://www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=21540&fID=2474>. DVDs of the Director's cut of the video can be requested from Walt Lyons {[walyons@frii.com](mailto:walyons@frii.com)}. The video can be used as a recruiting tool for CCMs. The AMS plans to produce another six programs for the Research Channel.

#### *Public Private Partnership Forum - Dick Westergard*

Dick Westergard presented a report (attached) to NCIM on his attendance representing NCIM at the 2008 AMS Public-Private Partnership Forum, April 22-23, 2008, in Washington, D.C.. The main message that Dick got from the meeting is that the weather enterprise must have a coordinated message to Congress on the needs of the community. There are two efforts ongoing at the moment; one from the academic community and another by the AMS to create "white papers" for the next Administration expressing the needs and direction for the enterprise.

*2008 AMS Summer Community Meeting - Stan Marsh*

Stan Marsh on behalf of NCIM member Matt Parker distributed the announcement (attached) for the 2008 AMS Summer Community Meeting. It is expected that NCIM members, Elliot Abrams, Jill Hasling, and Matt Parker will attend the meeting.

*Invited Speakers*

NCIM members heard two presentations from NOAA. NCIM President Jan Null first introduced Rick Spinrad.

*Rick Spinrad, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research*

Rick emphasized the transfer of research information into the operational setting. The slides from his presentation are attached to these minutes. The topics of his presentation were:

Building a research portfolio  
Improving forecasts through observations  
Improving forecasts through testbeds  
Moving towards a National Climate Service.

Following the presentation Walt Lyons inquired about the utilization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program by NOAA. Dr. Spinrad indicated that for the next cycle, NOAA will follow the milestones and topics in the NOAA plan, "Research in NOAA" for selecting topics for SBIR solicitations. The document "Research in NOAA" was distributed to attendees at the meeting. The document can be accessed online at [http://www.nrc.noaa.gov/plans\\_docs/5yrp\\_2008\\_2012\\_final.pdf](http://www.nrc.noaa.gov/plans_docs/5yrp_2008_2012_final.pdf).

Following Dr. Spinrad's presentation, Jan introduced Jack Hayes.

*Jack Hayes, Director National Weather Service*

Jack introduced his talk as "Building on Partnerships for Continuing Success." Dr. Hayes remarked that each morning he is briefed on the past day's weather impacts and that 2008 has been a year of extreme weather. His goals for the National Weather Service are high quality products and services, strong relationships with its partners, and improved products by transferring research into operations. Jack invites comments and feedback from NOAA's users. Some opportunities for that are listed on his presentation slides (attached). Included in the slides are information on where the NWS is headed with some of its products and services such as winter weather services and climate services.

During the question/answer period following the presentation Jack indicated that the NWS is interested in using and facilitating the distribution of weather data from non NWS observing networks.

*Treasurer's and Secretary's reports*

Phil Falconer, NCIM Treasurer, distributed the current financial report which is attached to these minutes. Phil reported that Assistant Treasurer, Kit Wagner, has been given access to the NCIM accounts

The NCIM Secretary, Kit Wagner, reported that the current membership in NCIM is 56 members, with 41 Consultant members, 9 Retired members, and 6 Associate members.

*Loren W. Crow Memorial Scholarship - Phil Falconer*

Phil Falconer reported that the 2007-2008 recipient of the Loren W. Crow Memorial Scholarship was Rachel Mauk from Ohio State University. The \$2000 scholarship sponsored by NCIM is administered by the AMS. At the 2008 AMS Annual meeting Rachael shadowed John Toohey-Morales for a day. Rachael is interested in tropical meteorology. Phil pointed out that NCIM needs to publicize the scholarship on the NCIM web site.

*NCIM Investment Account - Stan Marsh*

Stan reported that the investment account is about where it was a year ago because of the overall stock market performance. A copy of the Stan's report is attached to these minutes.

*Amendments to the NCIM Constitution and By-Laws - Kit Wagner*

NCIM Secretary, Kit Wagner, reported approval of the amendments to the NCIM Constitution and By-Laws to increase the term of NCIM President to two years. There were 41 affirmative votes, 0 votes to reject, and 2 incomplete votes recorded by electronic voting on the NCIM web site. That is a 73% approval (41/56), meeting the 2/3 required majority.

This change will take place with this year's election of President Elect who will serve 5 years on the Board of Directors. Beginning with next year the President Elect will serve a total of 6 years on the Board of Directors; 2 years as President Elect, 2 years as President, and 2 years as Past President.

*NCIM Membership Update - Jan Null*

President Jan Null reported 5 new members joining this last year. They are:

George Frederick	Associate Member
Timothy Hall, CCM	Consultant Member
Stephen Pellettiere	Associate Member
David Spiegler, CCM	Consultant Member
Stephen Wistar, CCM	Consultant Member

NCIM needs an organized effort to recruit new members. One idea is to contact all new Certified Consulting Meteorologists. Jill Hasling issued a challenge to all NCIM members to bring a guest to the NCIM Mid-Year Meeting at the AMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

*Proposed Implementation of the NCIM Strategic Plan - Stan Marsh & Walt Lyons*

The NCIM Strategic Plan (attached or [http://www.ncim.org/pdfs/NCIM Draft Strategic Plan 20070509](http://www.ncim.org/pdfs/NCIM_Draft_Strategic_Plan_20070509) ) was adopted last year. Since that time no actions have been carried out to implement the plan. Stan recommends that the plan be updated for 2008-2009. The plan is a “living document” and should be changed as needed. Maybe the plan needs to be a 3, 4, 5, or 6 year plan rather than a 2 year plan. The plan should be consistent with the AMS strategic plan since the AMS looks to NCIM for private sector input. Stan’s ad hoc committee will assist with updating the NCIM strategic plan. NCIM members are encouraged to review the strategic plan and provide comments to Stan ([stanley.marsh@sce.com](mailto:stanley.marsh@sce.com)) on possible updates and ways to implement the plan. Input by August 1, 2008 is needed to have revisions to the plan by the Mid-Year Meeting.

Walt Lyons, NCIM President for 2008-2009, said that NCIM needs to address the question “Why should someone join NCIM? Let’s develop 4 or 5 talking points NCIM members can use for recruitment.” Walt suggested that we look to the NCIM membership application (<http://www.ncim.org/eapp.html>) for insight into the NCIM goals. Elliot Abrams suggested that we expand the 5 goals in the application into a page for each goal. Some ideas expressed during the discussion were access to NOAA leadership, mentoring for mid career meteorologists wishing to enter the private sector, and financial support for student interns. A Weather Channel program on private sector meteorology and how CCMs help industry was suggested as a way to promote NCIM. Dick Westergard has been contacted by a Weather Channel reporter about a story on forensic meteorology. A topic of interest that NCIM might revisit is another course on how to operate a consulting weather business (all aspects, e.g. forensics or environmental). It was suggested that the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (<http://www.ofcm.gov>) be invited to a future NCIM meeting. Ideas were discussed to expand the time available for the NCIM Mid-Year meeting. Also at that time NCIM should increase its outreach to students to inform them about the private sector, the CCM program, and NCIM.

*Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers - Stan Marsh*

Stan Marsh on behalf of the NCIM Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates recommended for the 2008 NCIM officer and director positions. Those nominated are

Paul Fransioli	President Elect	Five Year Term
John Toohey-Morales	Director	Two Year Term
Michelle Campbell	Secretary	Two Year Term
Kit Wagner	Treasurer	Two Year Term

With the passage of the amendments to the NCIM Constitution and By-Laws the President Elect will serve a two year term (one year for the first election cycle), then a two year term as President, and then a two year term as Past President.

Elliot Abrams moved that the slate of officers be elected. Gale Hoffnagle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by membership and the slate above were elected to their

positions as officers and directors of NCIM. Continuing officers and directors for 2008-2009 are:

Walt Lyons	President	One Year Term
Jan Null	Past President	One Year Term
Elliot Abrams	Director	One Year remaining
Dick Westergard	Director	One Year remaining

#### *NCIM Website Update Initiative - Phil Falconer*

Phil Falconer reported that NCIM has received a proposal from the NCIM webmaster, Martin Gaido with Blue Internet + Media™ (<http://www.blueintermedia.com/index.html>) to upgrade the NCIM website. Martin located in Argentina provides NCIM with excellent webmaster service for a \$25/month fee. Martin has told NCIM that the legacy source code for NCIM's web site is outdated and is increasingly more difficult to maintain. The proposal is to redesign the web site including installing a new user interface, refreshing the layout and adding new features, and fixing patches and outdated code. The cost proposal is a flat fee of \$980.00. A time line of 20 to 30 days is proposed. The monthly maintenance fee remains at \$25/month. The members present at the meeting were in favor of implementing the proposal.

Members brought up content items to include on the updated web site: include all of the NCIM white papers, include the history of the Loren W. Crown Memorial Scholarship, update the member's photos, provide a speciality directory of NCIM members, provide a list of weather links that would attract "hits" to the site, and drop the video/audio intro.

Kit Wagner moved that the proposal be accepted and the 50% advance fee be paid. Walt Lyons seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the members of the Board of Directors present. Phil Falconer was directed to initiate the update with Martin Gaido.

#### *NCIM Brochure - Kit Wagner*

NCIM currently has a three-fold color brochure. The NCIM secretary has copies of the current brochure. In 2007 comments on the brochure were solicited from NCIM members. The response was that the brochure text is outdated, new photos are needed, and the brochure needs to be on the NCIM website for access by NCIM members wishing to print copies. A committee to work on revising the brochure is Kit Wagner, Walt Lyons, Dick Westergard, and Mike Mogil. No changes have been made yet to the brochure. Revisions to the text and photos of NCIM members are needed for the brochure. A template is in place for making the revisions. A brochure or a NCIM business card is needed that directs interested persons to the NCIM website. One opportunity for distribution of the brochures may be the bag handouts at registration at the AMS Annual Meeting.

### *Update on the Affiliate Membership category of NCIM*

The NCIM Board of Directors is considering amendments to the NCIM Constitution and By-Laws to add a membership category for persons interested in the goals and objectives of NCIM who wish to affiliate with NCIM, but are not interested in Consultant membership. A subcommittee of Phil Falconer, Kit Wagner, Walt Lyons, and John Toohey-Morales is working on the changes needed. The goal is to have a proposal to the Board of Directors this summer. The subcommittee will also consider amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws so that the majority required to pass amendments is two-thirds of the voting members, not two-thirds of the total membership. Currently Associate members are ineligible to vote.

### *NCIM short course discussion*

President, Jan Null, solicited ideas from the members present for possible short courses NCIM could offer. Some topics offered were: wind energy or energy and meteorology in general, business tools for weather entrepreneurs, forensic meteorology, and a short course for students about working in the private sector. A NCIM course could be offered in conjunction with the 2010 AMS Annual Meeting in Atlanta. A Webinar was suggested as a way reach students. That method avoids travel costs for students. Gale Hoffnagle will provide the Board of Directors information about costs and efforts to produce an Webinar. Stan Marsh and Robert Mulloy will explore the idea of NCIM conducting a short course on energy for the 2010 AMS Annual Meeting.

### *NCIM Investment Account utilization*

Jan Null asked the members for their thoughts on using funds from the NCIM investment account to support the objectives of NCIM. Some ideas were microloans for starting a weather business, support for student interns, additional NCIM student scholarships, and publicizing NCIM. NCIM will do a survey of NCIM members to see who might be interested in participating in a NCIM internship program. If an internship program is created, a set of rules, such as a minimum salary, will need to be created to administer the program.

### *NCIM Annual Meeting format*

The NCIM Board of Directors is considering changing the date and/or format of the NCIM Annual Meeting. Only 13 NCIM members attended this 2008 Annual Meeting. Are there changes that could be made to encourage better attendance and provide more benefit to the NCIM members? Some initial ideas are: combine the Annual Meeting with another meteorological meeting, e.g., the AMS Summer Community Meeting; change the date of the Annual meeting; hold a virtual meeting via the internet. Any significant change in the date of the meeting would require a change in the NCIM By-Laws which requires an Annual Meeting by June 30. There was not much support for a virtual meeting. The value of interpersonal networking would be lost in that format.

Newly elected NCIM President Walt Lyons expects to be occupied early next June with work that might prevent him from chairing an Annual Meeting during that time. Walt favors

holding the 2009 NCIM Annual Meeting in conjunction with the AMS Summer Community Meeting which will be in Boulder probably in August 2009.

Another thought is to hold the NCIM Annual Meeting in January at the time of the AMS Annual Meeting. By-Law changes would be required to accommodate the election of officers and directors and when their term of office begins. However, the immense demands on people's time at the AMS Annual Meeting might make it difficult to hold a full day NCIM meeting at that venue

A proposal was made for holding elections at the Mid-Year Meeting with the officers and directors taking office July 1. The Annual Meeting would be held in August in conjunction with the AMS Summer Community Meeting. Logistics for tours and a dinner need to be worked out. The Board of Directors will undertake implementing this proposal.

#### *Announcements of Members*

Dick Westergard, NCIM Newsletter editor asked for items for the next newsletter. Jill Hasling asked members to go out into their community to tell people about NCIM.

#### *Remarks of the New NCIM President, Walt Lyons*

Walt told the members that they need to be ready for change. The NCIM of the next 10 years will not be the NCIM of the last 10 years. We should focus on the core essence of NCIM and do what we can with our limited time and personnel resources. So over the next 6 months Walt wants to find the 1 or 2 or 3 things that we really want to focus on to be better. Use those things to explain to people what NCIM is about. Walt wants to promote NCIM through outreach to students, outreach to industry, and professional development to our own members and other CCMs.

The members present expressed their appreciation to outgoing President, Jan Null for the fine job he did the past year. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m..