

Meeting agenda in black

Meeting notes from Henry Scharf [secretary] are in green + bold.

Updates to the minutes made after the original meeting are in bold italics.

Update (08/31/2020): *The committee voted to approve the meeting minutes by email.*

*Section on Statistics and the Environment (ENVR)
The American Statistical Association*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, August 3, 2020
3:00 – 4:30 pm Central Daylight Time**

Basic Zoom Meeting Information:

Link: <https://baylor.zoom.us/j/94598781664?pwd=TmdGQ3BNY0VBdlldqQVhlcj93ZXpCdz09>

Meeting ID: 945 9878 1664

Password: 8w720c

1. Welcome and introductions – Mandy Hering

In attendance: Mandy Hering [chair], Mevin Hooten [chair-elect], Chris Wikle [previous chair], Henry Scharf [secretary], Maggie Johnson [treasurer], Ephraim Hanks [program chair], Candace Berrett [program chair-elect], Wendy Meiring [council of sections], Hossein Rekabdarkolae [student paper award chair], Sylvia Esterby [award committee chair], Elizabeth Mannshardt [incoming chair-elect], Will Kleiber [publication chair-elect], Katie Banner [treasurer elect], Emily Kang [incoming program chair-elect], Kathi Irvine [chair before Chris W., co-organizer for ENVR workshop 2021]

Not in attendance: K. Sham Bhat [publications chair]

2. 2019 ENVR Executive Committee Meeting minutes already accepted, re-cap if needed– Henry Scharf
No comments.
3. Committee members for next year (Fellows, Paper Competition, Awards) – Mandy Hering
Awards: Sylvia is cycling out of awards committee, Mevin will appoint next member, ideally by September. Doug Nychka is next chair.
Student Paper Competition: Hossein is leaving student paper chair, Erin Schliep will be

next chair. Ephraim will join Alexandra Schmidt and Erin Schliep on the committee. Fellows: The committee needs a new chair. Chris W. recommended finding someone outside academia to help better represent/promote other sectors. It was noted that committee members need not be a fellow, they would just need to identify fellows as letter writers.

Wendy question: I don't think all letter writers are required to be fellows unless rules have changed. I am not a fellow, but previously wrote in support of a fellow nomination, which was successful. Can anyone confirm? Thanks.

4. Treasurer's report – Maggie Johnson

Thanks to Climate Corp and an inexpensive mixer for help balancing last year's budget. No spending yet this year. The mixer was postponed and travel for student papers is low, so ENVR is well under budget this year. The projected surplus is \$2-3k.

5. JSM Virtual Business Meeting/Mixer

- Decide when, who will host, how to organize

The committee discussed ways to make a virtual mixer more enticing for members. Typical business addressed at past mixers included: treasurer report, council of sections, student awards, Early Investigator and Distinguished Achievement awards. To be added: Data Challenge: 1 winner from 3 submissions.

Ephraim Hanks agreed to spearhead the effort to organize an effective mixer. Some potential structures discussed included: (i) breakout rooms of ~5-10 participants led by volunteer senior members who "understand" that a primary goal of the event is to welcome new members, especially students, (ii) pre-set discussion question(s), (iii) invitees do not have to have attended JSM, and we also do not need to restrict to only current ENVR members, (iv) each person on the EC will personally reach out to a few people in their network to invite them to the mixer, (v) targeting mid-sept to early october, final date to be chosen soon.

6. JSM Virtual "Roundtables." Candace's ideas were:

- Mentoring -- graduate students meet with a variety of senior statisticians (one from industry, academia, and government)
- Women in ENVR -- chance for the ENVR women to meet and learn from each other

- Early career speed "dating" -- five minute 1-on-1 chats round robin to get to know a bunch of grad students or early career statisticians. (Update: If we use the business meeting this way, this wouldn't be needed.)
- ENVR grant writing -- get a panel to discuss places to submit grants for environmental statistics and best practices for submitting
- Decide when, who will host, how to organize

Mandy suggested that the section could spread these roundtables out across the year to maximize their usefulness. It was suggested that we use the ENVR mixer as a learning experience and build what we learn there for the roundtables.

7. Conferences

- JSM 2020 – Ephraim Hanks

Ephraim requested that committee members and other JSM goers from the section give their feedback to him to be passed up to ASA.

- JSM 2021 – Candace Berrett

Official call for JSM 2021 sessions is already open. Submissions are due by September 8th. Candace will send out announcement to section members soon.

- ENVR Workshop at BYU – October 2021

New dates are Sept. 30th -- October 2nd 2021. The committee agreed that the workshop should be held next year even if it has to be virtual. It was noted that organizing a virtual version could require extra help from ASA, and a decision will need to be made in January 2021 or February 2021, at the latest.

- 2020 Data Challenge – Chris Wikle

Covid interruption appeared to limit submissions to just 3 for this year. The deadline was extended to next year (summer 2021). One winner will be announced from the submissions received this summer, and another from the submissions received next summer.

8. Publications and website – K. Sham Bhat

- Update your ASA profiles

(Post-meeting) [Mandy] emailed Sham to update the links on the ENVR website to the 2021 ENVR workshop. She has also asked him to update the faculty and student award winners. For 2019 and 2020, as Sylvia Esterby suggested, the section will put "No nominations received." for the Distinguished Achievement Award.

9. Student paper competition committee report—Hossein Moradi

32 papers were submitted this year.

- This year, we had 2 winners and 3 honorable mentions. The winners were to receive \$1200 each, and the HM's were to receive \$600.

<https://community.amstat.org/envr/recognitionandawards/envrstudentpapercompetition>

Results:

Suman Majumder -- Winner

Wanfang Chen -- Winner

Nathan Wikle, Ben Seiyon Lee, and Ghulam Qadir -- honorable mention

However, we only have to reimburse \$40 for each student's registration fee, so $5 \times \$40 = \200 .

- Decide on number of awards and award amounts for 2021

Student papers: For the current year, the section initially committed \$1200/\$600 for 2/2 winners and honorable mentions. The section ultimately identified 2 winners and 3 honorable mentions (Chris W. committed to support the 5th award). Hossein noted that it takes a long time to review the papers (32 submitted this year), and it would be good to have more time available. Hossein invited two extra reviewers to help review submissions. It was suggested that the next student paper competition do the same if necessary. It was noted that the dates for submission and review may be inflexible as the ASA is interested in aligning sections' competitions. One suggestion was to request earlier submissions if students are able, but not enforce an earlier deadline. Wendy Meiring is going to check with COS if the submission date can be earlier in the year.

Wendy's update after COS Reps Feedback Meeting (Aug 18): yes, we are permitted to specify any earlier deadline we like as our ENVR student paper submission due date.

Rick Petersen said that some sections are specifying different submission deadlines.

Hossein noted that most students used the full week consideration period before responding. One honorable mention passed on the award because they won a paper award from the computation section.

Thanks to Brain Reich for fastrack publication option in JABES, which at least one student utilized.

For next year, the committee agreed to award 2 winners and 3 honorable mentions at the same support level of \$1200/\$600.

10. Distinguished Achievement & Early Investigator Awards committee report— Sylvia Esterby

6 nominees for the ENVR Early Investigator Award (EIA), but no nominees for the ENVR Distinguished Achievement Award (DAA)

EIA Winners:

Stefano Castruccio, Ph.D. 2013

University of Notre Dame

Citation: For his outstanding contributions in the development of statistical models for global data, renewable energy, air pollution and data visualization, as well as for his public engagement on environmental topics, and service to the profession.

Joseph Guinness, PhD 2012

Cornell University

Citation: For ground-breaking research in environmental statistics applications, including weather, climate, and soil chemistry; for innovation in computational methods for massive spatial-temporal datasets, particularly spectral methods; for successful mentoring of junior researchers; and for significant service to the environmental statistics community.

Sylvia sent some documentation of the award process to Mandy for consideration. The section had good quality letters and submissions for EIA. Following the authority granted to the Committee by the 2019 motion of the Executive Committee, the Awards Committee determined the winners of the EIA, and sent letters to the winners and all nominators. The section had no candidates for the distinguished achievement award. The lack of candidates appears to date back to ~2018. Sylvia noted that the website is blank for 2019 and 2020 for DAA; perhaps it should say “no submissions” instead.

One possible remedy for the lack of DAA candidates was suggested by Mandy: The chair could look into length of membership and identify potential candidates. It was also suggested that the lack of candidates might be an artifact of the current seniority/age demographics that passes with time.

Two award winners were selected. Committee tried to balance tradeoff of too many winners devaluing award, vs. turning down excellent candidates. Two was the most natural breakpoint this year. In general, it seems like we should try to err on the side of more EIA winners as they provide support for early researchers toward promotion and/or tenure, but not at the expense of devaluing the award.

11. Fellowship nomination committee report – Chris Wikle

From Mandy: Jennifer Hoeting successfully nominated Alexandra Schmidt this year. Jennifer is willing to stay on the committee but would like for someone else to take the lead on nominating.

12. Council of Sections report and Diversity Initiatives – Wendy Meiring

From Wendy: The committee agreed there is no need to increase dues. October 31st is a hard deadline for budget proposal from treasurer. November 15th is the deadline for election slates [Chris will prepare]. The annual report is due by December 31st [Mandy will prepare].

Wendy will contact Phil Scinto to request the latest ENVR charter that ASA has on record. The current version on the ENVR website is from 1995. Mandy recalled that the most recent revision occurred under Kate Calder as chair. Section Charters must be reviewed every 3 years, and this is our year to review. No revision is required, however we should review and if we then wish to revise our charter, the final proposed changes must be submitted by December 31, 2020, and voted on in 2021. If we want any revisions, we should discuss any changes under consideration with Phil (COS Co-Chair for our Sections Group), allowing sufficient time for discussions before the Dec 31 submission deadline.

Update after Aug 18 COS feedback meeting: Wendy will email Kate Calder and request the latest version she has in her records. Wendy will then forward to ENVR board, and also to Rick Petersen (ASA) and Phil Scinto.

Update (08/31/2020): The most recent charter was revised in 2018. The committee voted to approve the existing charter by email.

There is an Award for Outstanding Section Service (est. 2018), for which the section is allowed to select one member. Selections will be due sometime in April 2021.

There is a new ASA tool to assist in welcoming new members. Wendy will find additional information.

Wendy's Update from Aug 18 2020 COS Reps feedback meeting after all Section Board Meetings. The ASA web page with welcome message and instructions, is <https://community.amstat.org/councilofsections/officershandbook/chair/newmemberwelcome>

There is a Storytelling Leadership Workshop 9/29 for section leaders by Wendy Martinez. Board Leadership is encouraged to register for it.

Wendy sent copies of relevant documents from the COS meeting to all committee members.

The section and the ASA seek ideas for connecting diversity committees within ASA and for promoting under-represented members of ENVR. Wendy has met with two Section Members who contacted her prior to our board meeting. Both are very interested in contributing to diversity initiatives within ENVR.

Wendy: update from Aug 18 COS feedback meeting. No additional diversity resource updates yet from ASA Board since info I forwarded for ENVR board meeting. Wendy asked other COS reps about other sections' diversity initiatives. At least 3 other sections within our COS subgroup are also in early stages of discussing diversity initiatives. At least one of them is discussing potentially having a section diversity rep/committee. Wendy anticipates that there is strong potential to collaborate with closely-related sections on DEI. Rick from ASA will let COS Section reps know any ASA updates on DEI resources and initiatives. Natalie Cheung let us know that there was an Impact Workshop last week, and she will try to provide some resources to COS reps. Diversity-related ASA committees may be interested in working with Sections.

13. Other business?

List of Officers for 2020:

- Chair: Amanda Hering
- Chair-Elect: Mevin Hooten
- Past-Chair: Chris Wikle
- Secretary: Henry Scharf
- Treasurer: Maggie Johnson

- Program Chair: Ephraim Hanks
- Program Chair-Elect: Candace Berrett
- Publications Chair: K. Sham Bhat (2019-2020)
- Awards committee: Sylvia Esterby (Chair; Kathi Appointed), Doug Nychka (Chris Appointed?), Victor DeOliveira (Mandy Appointed)
- Student Paper Competition: Hossein Moradi Rekabdarkolae (chair), Erin Schliep, Alex Schmidt
- Fellows committee: Jennifer Hoeting (already served 5 years), Chris Wikle
- Council of Sections: Wendy Meiring (2018-2020)

List of Officers for 2021:

- Chair: Mevin Hooten
- Chair-Elect: Elizabeth Mannshardt
- Past-Chair: Amanda Hering
- Secretary: Maggie Johnson
- Treasurer: Katie Banner
- Program Chair: Candace Berrett
- Program Chair-Elect: Emily Kang
- Publications Chair: Will Kleiber (2021-2022)
- Awards committee: Doug Nychka (Chair, Chris Appointed), Victor DeOliveira (Mandy Appointed) Yulia Gel (Mevin Appointed)
- Student Paper Competition: Erin Schliep (Chair), Alex Schmidt, Ephraim Hanks
- Fellows committee: William Christensen (Chair), Jennifer Hoeting, Chris Wikle
- Council of Sections: Debashis Mondal (2021-2023)