



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association

Lakeview Resort

Morgantown, West Virginia

June 27, 1999

The Annual Business Meeting of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association was called to order at 3 p.m. by President Kevin Boyle. Minutes of the June, 1998 meeting in Ithaca, New York were approved as printed and distributed to the membership in volume 27, number 2 of the *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer John Halstead reported that the Association continues to be in sound financial condition. As of June, 1999, NAREA is maintaining a checking account balance of \$10,484.69, with the spring issue of *ARER* yet to be billed. NAREA holds three certificates of deposit valued at \$9,884.23, \$2,681.94, and \$3,828.86 for a total of \$16,395.03. Outstanding page charges for the *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* total \$1,991.15. Total holdings in checking and certificates of deposit are thus \$26,879.72. Department chairs are reminded to mail in their \$75 contribution to the northeastern departments/NAREA reunion at the 1999 AAEA annual meetings in Nashville.

Page charges account for the majority of NAREA revenue, while payments to Sheridan Press account for the majority of expenses. *ARER* issues 27 (2) and 28 (1) cost the Association \$21,585.07, for which \$19,630.61 was billed in page charges. Thus the journal, while not totally self financing, recovered about 91% of expenses (not including \$2,500 in editorial fees still owed Cornell University) through page charges, with the remainder subsidized through general funds. It is also worth considering that a considerable portion of the *ARER* contains "non-article" materials such as abstracts and minutes. A second major expense this year will be the NAREA/Northeast Universities Reunion hosted at the 1999 AAEA meetings in Nashville. Total expense should fall between \$600–800, with about half of the bill paid by the Association and half by member universities.

The Association again had to file a form 990-EZ, which applies to non-profit organizations which have more than \$25,000 in gross receipts. The Association has been paying a fee of \$1.00 per membership for dues collected to AAEA for handling our membership dues in conjunction with their own fees each year, based on a previous agreement; this has cost us several hundred dollars this year.

Membership

Current total membership in the Association is 444, with 79 library members, 46 student members, 280 general

members, and 39 honorary members. This compares with total membership of 482 one year ago, so Association membership has dipped somewhat. It is reasonable to expect an additional 60–70 members by year end, punctuated by a large number resulting from the Morgantown meetings.

Editor's Report

Via letter, Editor Harry Kaiser apologized for not being able to attend this year's NAREA annual conference, since he had prior commitments which had to be honored.

The April issue of the *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* has been completed and was mailed out in April, 1999. There are 11 articles in this issue, including two articles on the special theme "Agricultural and Resource Dimensions of Global Environmental Change." There likely will be additional articles published in the fall issue of *ARER* from this special call for papers.

Since May 1998, 75 manuscripts were submitted to *ARER* 17 manuscripts were accepted (23%) and 25 rejected (33%). The remaining manuscripts (44%) are either in the revise-resubmit or review-not-yet-complete category. Kaiser noted that he continues to be impressed with the overall quality of manuscripts that have been submitted to the journal.

The editorial board voted on the 1998 outstanding journal article award. The winning article is: Timothy J. Richards, Paul M. Patterson, and Pieter Van Ispelen "Modeling Fresh Tomato Marketing Margins: Econometrics and Neural Networks."

Editor Kaiser expressed his thanks to the reviewers and editorial board members for their help in reviewing manuscripts.

Program Committee Report

President-Elect Jim Dunn, unable to attend the conference due to a family emergency, reported for the program committee (composed of himself and Martin Shields) via letter that the program committee received 61 abstracts for selected papers and symposia; 54 of these were accepted for presentation. Rejections were based more on lack of program space than on quality of abstracts.

Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee Chair Alberto Manalo reported that he and Bruce Lindsey have reviewed the financial records

maintained by John Halstead, NAREA Secretary/Treasurer, and finds that they represent an accurate account of the Association's treasury from July 1, 1998 to June 1, 1999.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee (Bobby Gempesaw-Chair, Robin Brumfield, and Gerard D'Souza) reported that Loren Tauer, Cornell University, was elected as President-Elect. Alberto Manalo, University of New Hampshire, and Leslie Small, Rutgers University, were elected as Directors. Alan Collins was elected as Secretary/Treasurer. The committee thanked all the candidates for their willingness to serve NAREA and for their support of the association.

Awards Committee

The distinguished member and honorary life member awards committee (Emilio Pagoulatos-Chair, James Opaluch, and James Leiby) reported that the recipient of the NAREA Distinguished Member award for 1999 is Linda Lee. The Master's thesis awards committee (Janelle Larson-Chair, Kellie Raper, Silvia Weyerbrock, Qingbin Wang, Terry Hurley, and Leroy Hansen) reported that the winner of the Outstanding MS Thesis Award was Alexi Soshnin of Cornell University, for his thesis titled "Estimation of Elasticities of Demand for Imported Meat in Russia." MS Awards of Merit were awarded to Michael Buescher, University of Vermont, "Effective Rural Development Strategies: A Framework for Optimizing Community-Business Matches"; Xiaobo Zhang, Cornell University, "Food Demand in China: A Case of Guangdong Province."; and Michael Price, Rutgers University, "Sustaining the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery: Economic Viability in a Restricted Industry."

As noted in the Editor's report, the ARER Article of the Year award was presented to Timothy J. Richards, Paul M. Patterson, and Pieter Van Ispelen for their article "Modeling Fresh Tomato Marketing Margins: Econometrics and Neural Networks."

Recognition was accorded to retiring board members Conrado "Bobby" Gempesaw (past president), Daniel Lass (director), Lois S. Willett (director), Nicole Ballenger (director), and John M. Halstead (secretary-treasurer).

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee (Bobby Gempesaw-Chair, Steve Reiling, and Cathy Wessels) reported that the Association continues to be in excellent financial health and recommends no changes in membership dues or page charges. The Committee also recommended that the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer be given the authority to move funds among accounts in the event that it is necessary to cover large short-term expenses. Finally, the Committee expressed its appreciation to John Halstead for his exemplary service as NAREA Secretary/Treasurer during the last three years.

NAREA Membership Committee Report

The NAREA Membership Committee (Charles Abdallah-Chair, Gregory Poe, and Steve Swallow) noted NAREA membership has been increasing over time and the association is now in a strong position as a regional professional association of agricultural economists. The committee has several ideas for continuing the Association's position and possibly enhancing it. These include:

1. *Department Contact.* To further increase visibility and promote NAREA activities, a departmental contact would be identified. This person would be responsible for letting students and other departmental staff know about the organization and alert these individuals to important events and deadlines. These departmental contacts would also serve a role in providing feedback to the association that should help NAREA meet its membership's needs.

2. *Targeted Recruitment.* A high proportion of the current membership and those that participate in annual meetings are academic agricultural economists from land grant institutions. Opportunities may exist in several areas to expand membership beyond this base.

- a. *Industry and Extension.* More of the annual meeting or space in the journal could be directed to topics or methods of interest to applied agricultural economists working in extension or industry (including consultants, non-governmental organizations). Brochures or meeting advertisements could be shared through existing NAREA members that have extension appointments.

- b. *Academics in non-land grant universities.* There are numerous universities and colleges in the Northeast with economists on their faculty. Many of these economists' interests overlap with those of our membership. This may be especially true in the areas of natural resources/environment and coastal issues. A concerted effort could be undertaken to recruit members from non-land grant colleges and universities. Brochures could be targeted at members of other professional associations (e.g., Association of Environmental and Resource Economists) or directly to economics departments in these institutions to attract new members.

1999 Annual Meeting

Steve Swallow reported that the NAREA 2000 meetings will be hosted by URI at the URI Alton Jones campus. The site offers approximately 32 rooms for overnight occupancy, so double occupancy is strongly encouraged for those wanting to stay on-site. The on-site accommodations will include all meals (which should be well presented). Overflow accommodations will be available at the Best Western, about 10 minutes by highway (with direct access to the highway and from the highway to Alton Jones). Participants staying at the Best Western will be charged a separate fee for meals.

The conference center at Alton Jones is in a "remote" location, so alternative dining arrangements are absent (save for a truck stop). However, this site was a vacation spot for dignitaries, including President Eisenhower, and it offers an extremely pleasant setting. Also, Newport is

within about 45 minutes, the beaches are within 30 minutes or less, the Pequot Indian casino (the world's largest casino) is within about 20 minutes, Providence is within about 20 minutes or less, and several "Management Areas" (state conservation lands) and ponds border the campus (and there are ponds and trails throughout the campus).

Plans are being made for a Monday evening dinner on site. Rates will be \$185.00 single occupancy and \$135.00 double occupancy per person, per day for June 11–13, 2000. The rate includes overnight accommodations, breakfast, morning break, mid-morning coffee refresh, lunch, afternoon break, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner.

Other Business and Announcements

a. 1999 AAEA Meetings

NAREA will again host a joint reception with northeastern universities at the national meetings in Nashville, Tennessee.

b. Discussion on Revised NAREA Awards

Following the introduction of a proposal in the 1998 business meeting to institute an NAREA special award, a revised draft of the award entitled the "NAREA Award for Outstanding Public Service through Economics" was presented to the membership both in the newsletter and in individual registration packets. A discussion followed.

Swallow described the basic purpose of the award, which is to reward socially positive contributions, enhance the reputation of NAREA, and to provide career guidance for younger economists via a "role model" effect. Epp asked why an emphasis was placed on non-economists, which tacitly implies that economists may not be doing "policy relevant" research; Swallow responded that, while professional or academic economists would certainly be eligible, there are a number of non-economists making contributions who might be recognized. Pagoulatos suggested incorporating the proposal objectives into the specific wording of the award. Several members noted wording changes that might improve the document. Day suggested that the Association consider limiting the award to younger individuals.

Hastings raised the issue of committee membership, which is not explicitly defined in the proposal. President Boyle replied that since President elect Dunn could not attend this year, it would be unfair to impose the committee structure without his input; committee construction was thus deferred to the October, 1999 executive board meeting. Hastings noted that a change in the Association by-laws would require specific wording as to the makeup of the committee.

Discussion then shifted to making the first award in 2001 essentially *ad hoc*, with a change in the by-laws to be voted on in the 2000 business meeting. Poe suggested that the award could be handled, at least in the short run,

by the current awards committee, with the option of amending the by-laws later. Pagoulatos and Gempesaw concurred, suggesting we vote on the proposal as amended, with the current president appointing a temporary committee. Hastings reiterated the specific and precise nature of the process of amending the by-laws—essentially, what is voted on in the business meeting should be the exact wording of the new amendment.

President Boyle then suggested that the exact wording could be published in the Newsletter for a vote in 2000. Mackenzie then moved to approve the proposal as amended, Halstead seconded. An ad hoc committee will be appointed to make the award in the amount of \$1,000 to an individual for 2001. Vote was 21 in favor, 1 against.

c. Future Meetings of NAREA:

2000 Rhode Island
2001 Maine
2002 Pennsylvania
2003 Nova Scotia
2004 New Hampshire
2005 Maryland

Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee composed of Steve Hastings and Don Epp moved that the following be placed in the minutes, with copies forwarded to appropriate administrative officials: "Be it resolved that the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association express its sincere appreciation to the faculty, staff, and students of the Division of Resource Management at West Virginia University who arranged the facilities and special events for our annual meeting and who extended outstanding hospitality during our stay in West Virginia.

"Further be it resolved the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association expresses its appreciation and thanks to James Dunn, President-Elect, and the selected papers committee, Martin Shields, Chair, and to the members of the Program Committee for their efforts in organizing an outstanding program for the Annual Meetings of the Association."

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Bobby Gempesaw expressed his gratitude on behalf of the association to outgoing President Boyle. President Boyle thanked the association for the opportunity to serve, and also thanked outgoing Secretary-treasurer John Halstead. Secretary-treasurer Halstead also expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve NAREA.

The imaginary gavel was passed from Kevin Boyle to incoming President James Dunn.

Motion to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Halstead
Secretary-Treasurer