

Minutes of the ASA Environment and Technology Council Meeting
August 10, 2006
Montreal, Canada

Present: Robert Brulle, Beth Caniglia, Steve Zavestoski, Stella Capek, Maurie Cohen, Kari M. Norgaard, Tom Rudel

The Chair, Stella Capek, called the meeting to order at 9:00 PM. The chair submitted her report. In her remarks, she summarized the written report, and noted the special ASA visit to the Akwesasne site went very well. She discussed the potential for a local field experience at next year's meetings, the possibility of a roundtable session organized as an "Author meets the Critics" session, and co-sponsoring a session with the Community and Urban Sociology Section at the 2007 ASA convention. She also reported on the efforts to "Green" the ASA and recommended follow-up. Since Timmons Roberts was unable to attend the meeting, Stella Capek summarized his report, with an emphasis on the efforts this past year to gain media visibility for section members with expertise on disasters after Hurricane Katrina. She noted that he will be the organizer of the 2007 sessions, and that she and Timmons are very interested in receiving input from members about the direction of the Section and its activities.

Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Brulle, submitted and summarized the report on the Section's budget. Stella Capek thanked him for his excellent work during the past three years.

Bob Edwards was unable to attend the session, and submitted the Nominations Committee report in writing (attached). In his absence, Stella Capek welcomed the new officers, and thanked the retiring officers for their contributions. Elections will be needed for 3 new officers, including section Chair-Elect, and chairs of the Membership and Teaching and Training committees.

Beth Caniglia submitted the Membership Committee Report. She reported that we have 373 members, and plans to conduct a survey of members regarding ways to increase section membership.

Richard York was unable to attend, and submitted the Publications Committee report in writing. All of the publication committee activities are going well.

Maurie Cohen submitted the report of the Policy and Research Committee. He discussed the upcoming symposium on the "Future of Environmental Sociology" and tentative plans to conduct a similar meeting at future ASA meetings. He then discussed the awarding of the Outstanding Publication Award and Student Paper Certificate.

Lori Peek discussed the activities of the Teaching and Training Committee, which is building a listing of environmental sociology graduate programs. Future plans include developing a new syllabus listing, which is renewed every five years.

Dana Fisher gave a report on the excellent meeting of RC24 at the ISA conference in Durban. She noted that U.S. sociologists are underrepresented in the section, and discussed ways in which individuals can join the section. As secretary/treasurer of RC24, she can assist members in joining this society.

There was an extended discussion of gender bias in response to a letter submitted by Jan Buhrmann (attached). It was decided that the membership chair will conduct a demographic analysis of the section membership. In addition, all of the organizers of thematic sessions and other invited presentations will make a special effort to ensure a representative gender mix on their panels. Stella Capek then announced that she

would write a letter to Jan Buhrmann regarding her concern and the actions the council is taking to address them.

The council adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert J. Brulle
Secretary-Treasurer