**4/21/16 CASS Call**

Adrienne Sponberg (ASLO)

Emily Tyner (ASLO)

Paul Gabrielson (PSA)

Jane Rowan (SWS)

Randy Fuller (SFS)

Bob Hughes (AFS)

Taylor  (AFS)

Doug Austen (AFS)

Michelle Baker (SFS)

Kim Ponzio (SWS)

Susan Park (CERF)

Shelley Arnott (ASLO)

**Agenda:**

**1.**     **Recap of CASS booth at the USA Science and Engineering Festival**

Adrienne provided a summary of the festival budget. Invoices were sent to all participating societies and have all been paid. Thank you!

Emily explained the booth activities, which included the great plankton race, alginate gel beads, water scarcity demonstration with colored beads, and a career corner/aquatic sciences photo booth. The diversity of CASS volunteers was helpful in answering a range of visitor questions. Volunteers were great to work with and she enjoyed organizing and working the festival.

Paul reported that the booth was popular all three days with crowds at some points being three deep. Friday visitors were students who seemed engaged and prepared for the festival; Sunday was slightly less crowded. He appreciated the CASS booth, explaining that we were able to do more with CASS than as individual societies.

Jane offered similar support for a CASS booth and enjoyed the festival.

There was a request from a few members to access festival photos. Adrienne and Emily will setup a photo sharing site.

**2.**     **Update on CASS joint meeting**

The group agreed that 2022 would be the first possible year for a joint meeting. 2022 does not conflict with the European Federation of Aquatic Sciences meetings (meets on odd years) and no member societies have meetings booked that far in advance.

AFS is interested in participating, possibly by proposing multiple symposia but may not be a co-sponsor. AFS could have a strong role even if their group’s annual meeting is separate from a CASS joint meeting. SWS had a positive experience at JASM and thinks 2022 could work. The year also works for SFS. Late May/early June was suggested as an ideal time for a joint meeting but Michelle pointed out that mid-May is tough as universities are still finishing up. Early June might attract more people.

Randy said that we’ll need to decide on a conference management group. ASLO and SFS both use Schneider Group, which could be an option.

Society reps need to take 2022 back to their respective boards for discussion. Michelle agreed to lead society meeting representatives in drafting a letter of intent for circulation to society boards. It was suggested that a joint meeting MOU be given to all presidents for review by the end of 2016. For now, a letter of intent will be sufficient for society reps to share with their boards.

Susan thinks the CERF board would be interested in participating and their meetings are biennial on odd years so a 2022 meeting would work. She’d like a list of talking points about the joint meeting to share with them. Michelle offered to prepare a list this week and share with the group. Adrienne will send Michelle that list of call participants.

**3.**     **CERF interested in rejoining CASS**

Susan joined CERF in February and is based out of Richmond, Virginia. CERF has about 1,300 members. Members are international but primarily in North America, Mexico, and Canada. The society puts out the Journal of Estuaries and Coasts. CERF and was a founding member of CASS with an active role early on. They went through some organizational changes for a few years and pulled back from consortium activities. Now they would like to rejoin and are particularly interested in becoming more involved in public policy. They have no dedicated policy staff and level of engagement in policy initiatives has waxed and waned. Members are enthusiastic but have limited engagement as an organization, it would be great to have the collaborative power of CASS. They see SERF as becoming stronger through the consortium partnerships.

All societies said they’d welcome CERF back into CASS and see their inclusion as strengthening the consortium. Doug will update the CASS MOU to reflect CERF’s inclusion and send it out for signatures.

**4.**     **Possible fall briefing based on the USEPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys (wetlands, lakes, coastal, streams, rivers).**

The EPA office is supportive of this activity. Bob suggested putting it off for a bit. Adrienne suggested it be discussed on the May call. The May call should be focused on policy with AFS leading the initiative.

5.     **CASS participation at**[**SACNAS 2016 conference**](http://sacnas.org/events/national-conf).

Paul suggested that CASS might want to have a booth at the Society Advancing Chicano and Native Americans in Science conference. The meeting will be held October 13-15 in Long Beach, CA. The conference is held annually and extremely well attended (thousands of students), mostly undergraduates. The mornings are scientific sessions, training for students, etc. The afternoon is an opportunity for students to explore booths and meet universities and federal agencies. A booth costs $1,000 and exhibitor registration is $465/person. PSA had 3 people at the booth last year and that worked well. This allowed for a couple people at the booth while another explored the hall and looked at posters, connecting with students studying algae. Most all the students and their advisors didn’t know about PSA and the society offered free membership to some of these students. The 2017 meeting is in Salt Lake City. The cost is prohibitive for individual societies to participate yearly but could be possible through CASS collaboration. The booth could have brochures, information on internships/fellowships, posters, etc. Students visiting the booth are already interested in what’s being offered they just need to learn about CASS members. PSA, ASLO (?) and AFS are all interested in booth sponsorship. SACNAS represents all sciences, not just ecological.

The SACNAS registration just opened up but booths go quickly. Adrienne suggested we coordinate SACNAS planning over email.

Michelle (?) explained that SFS recently attended a similar events called [MANRRS](http://manrrs.org/) (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences) in Florida. MANRRS might be a better fit for CASS because it has a natural resources focus. There was interest among call participants in learning more about MANRRS.

**Next call:**

The next call will be more policy focused with AFS providing more information about their policy program. The usual CASS call date did not work for the majority of call participants so a poll will be forthcoming to find a time that works for most.