



**Bioenvironmental Sciences Professional Board
9th Annual Spring Meeting
Friday, April 9, 2021**

9:04 AM BOARD MEETING - Call to Order – Craig Holloway

- Board Member Introductions (Attendance):
 - **Quorum Reached:** In attendance: Candice Boeck, Jamie Bryan, Coy Crain, Laura Fiffick, Jim Formby, Bryan Gay, Aaron Geyer, Christina Higginbotham, Randall Hodo (ex-officio), Craig Holloway, Harrison Ireland, Juan Ludwig, Ana Partin, Heather Podlipny, John Sorkness, Dawn Steph, Kenneth Tramm, Brittany Westphal, Wally Zverina, Matt Zidek
 - Absent: Eric Ables, Samantha Best, Doug Anderson, Cedric Robinson
 - Staff: Heather Wilkinson, Sandy Pierson, Krista McCallum, Sam Murdock
- Approval of previous meeting minutes (November 6, 2020).

Motion to approve by: Jamie Bryan, Seconded by: Candice Boeck
Unanimous Approval.
- Fall meeting – November 5 (Game against Auburn)
 - Room block at Home 2 Suites (300 Texas Ave, College Station, TX 77840).
 - Book room by October 15. To book use the link below or call the hotel directly 979-709-8288 with group name TAMU Plant Path & Microbiology.
<http://group.home2suites.com/7wydf>

9:15 AM Committee report back to entire Board

1. Student Development and Mentoring (John Sorkness Chair; Samatha Best Vice-Chair)
 - a. KPIs:
 - i. 15 full time or internship postings on the BESC Facebook page (9 current), might need to start posting on TikTok and/or Twitter to reach students
 - ii. Fall Workshop – aim to recruit 28 students and 14 board members
 1. review resumes, mock interview and give students feedback
 - b. Environmental Professions Workshop with NAEP – round table discussion with board members and students, no date set yet
 - c. Host 2 events per year, have 450 LinkedIn Members.
 - i. Networking events held in restaurants/bars/offices in the major metropolitan areas. Virtual meetings during the pandemic. Record breaking attendance with 21 students. Gift card giveaway to all students.
 - ii. We currently have 428 LinkedIn members, increasing goal to 500

2. Finance and Marketing (FDM): Jamie Bryan (Chair)
 - a. KPI's
 - i. Get in front of at least 3 different schools
 - ii. Get the discretionary fund up to \$10,000 so that we can begin with annual scholarships
 - b. Not a good time for fundraising
 - c. Tailgate with Fall meeting
 - d. High school Outreach-Recruitment
 - i. Unable to get into schools due to COVID restrictions
 - ii. Career Fairs were zoom presentations but not a good fit for our Board
 - iii. Reach out again after school ends for options next year
 - iv. Sandy Pierson - Committee at A&M charged with creating marketing campaign to increase undergraduate enrollment for BESC
 - v. Craig Holloway – suggested the committee create the presentation to utilize in schools in the Fall.
 - vi. Heather Wilkinson – create a video which could be used in schools in place of board member or in addition to. Video can be sent to counselors to show in classes.

3. Curriculum: Heather Podlipny Chair; Aaron Geyer Vice-Chair
 - a. KPIs:
 - i. Create/update [BESC Professional Board Member Spotlight](#) questionnaire. (Complete)
 - ii. Course peer review/evaluation, as needed on faculty member request. (Complete)
 - iii. Two faculty interactions per year. (3 Complete)
 - iv. Submittal to faculty of four case studies. (3 Complete)
 - v. Submittal to faculty of two periodicals/articles. (1 Complete)
 - b. Dr. Verchot panel in February – Brittany Westphal was a speaker
 - c. Coy Crain conducted a well reinstallation demonstration in March
 - d. Heather Podlipny presented at Dr. Verchot's class
 - e. Discussion internally to assist Dr. Ebbole classes
 - f. Reaching out to coordinate speakers for NAEP meetings
 - g. Craig Holloway
 - i. Reminder: Fall meeting will require a Keynote Speaker and the Curriculum Committee is tasked with identifying the speaker.
 - ii. Do we need to identify a sub pathway in BESC depending on the career direction such as Consulting, EHS, etc.? Department is already offering various pathways in different majors.
 - h. Heather Wilkinson – BESC is science heavy degree, some students go to graduate school, public health, biotechnology, etc. ENST is more policy heavy and natural resource classes. Agree to not put BESC in tracks but do not agree the current options provide enough options.
 - i. Sam Murdock – customization in BESC provides more specialization. Science intensive in BESC.
 - j. Heather Wilkinson - BESC is flexible and doesn't pigeon hole students into one career, which is a benefit.

10:05 AM New Board Member Nominations and Vote

1. Members who roll off in Fall 2021 (* wish to be re-nominated):
 - a. Coy Crain*
 - b. Christina Higginbotham*
 - c. Heather Podlipny*
 - d. John Sorkness*
 - e. Wally Zverina*
 - f. EMPTY POSITION
2. Procedures for nomination and voting (as detailed in Spring 2015 minutes)
 - a. Names submitted for consideration that are not selected will be brought to the Board twice; if they are not selected after two years, they will be dropped off the nomination list. They are eligible to be re-submitted at any time.
 - b. Board members should rank the nominees with “1” being the first choice. All nominees should be ranked.
 - c. Ballots will be tabulated with the nominees ranked. Heather Wilkinson will contact the top nominees and invite them to join the Board. If they decline, Heather will move down the list until the positions are filled. – (There are 6 positions available)
3. Nominations

Nominee	Nominator	
Kyle Alexander	Coy Crain	BESC Graduate 2017
Coy Crain	Craig Holloway	Current Board Member
Christina Higginbotham	Coy Crain	Current Board Member
Leslie Loveless	Ana Garza	BESC Graduate 1998
Elizabeth Nelson	Laura Fiffick	BESC Graduate 2013
Heather Podlipny	Christina Higginbotham	Current Board Member
Chelsea Proeschel	Laura Fiffick	BESC Graduate 2011
John Sorkness	Heather Podlipny	Current Board Member
Wally Zverina	John Sorkness	Current Board Member

4. Results

NOMINEE	
Coy Crain	6 electees in alphabetical order
Christina Higginbotham	
Leslie Loveless	
Heather Podlipny	
John Sorkness	
Wally Zverina	
Kyle Alexander	others in order of contact if needed
Elizabeth Nelson	
Chelsea Proeschel	

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM Fall 2021 Board Meeting Business

1. Expectations for Committee Reports
 - a. Suggestion for committees to meet monthly to ensure we are accomplishing KPIs.
2. Keynote Address Suggestions
 - a. Jamie Bryan: Legislature in session, potential climate and energy legislation effects on careers
 - i. Ana Partin suggested: Sam Gammage from TCC because he has knowledge of the above topic
 - ii. Bryan Gay: a friend is lead council and lobbyist for energy company; His son is at A&M;
 - b. Kenneth Tramm: Chairperson of Texas Professional Board of Geoscientists; she setup environmental program at TCU
 - c. Aaron Geyer: Railroad Commissioner – energy policy and mix between renewables and oil and gas; daughter is an Aggie
 - d. Send other ideas to Heather Podlipny
3. BESC Poster Symposium – in person
4. Tailgate – Friday night of Fall Meeting

11:15 AM Other Business

1. Heather Wilkinson is requesting assistance Regulations and how students need to interpret federal, local and state regulations.
2. Sandy Pierson – Need what can be done with the BESC degree; most are unaware of the possibilities of law, medical, etc.

11:25 AM Closing Remarks - Craig Holloway

11:30 AM Adjourn