

MAREO Meeting Abstract
September 27, 28, Front Royal, Va.

Purpose: MAREO Executive Board and members met to discuss the current status of NEON, further determine the optimal organization and governance of MAREO, and determine the next steps that should be taken to function as an observatory for NEON.

Attendance: Executive Committee, interim leadership (Francisco Dallmeier, Bob Gardner, Eric Nagy), and 31 members representing a range of institutions within the MAREO region. An Executive Committee meeting with the members took place before the MAREO meeting (Mike Bass, R. C. Jones, Mark Lukenbach, Brent Yarna, Mike Bowers, Mike Reiter, Mary Beth Adams, Anthony S. Overton, Jack Webster)

Presentations and Discussions:

- Status report on NEON by Bruce Hayden
- Overview of AIBS summer workshops on grand challenges by Rina Aviram
- Membership discussions of role of MAREO within NEON
- Membership recommendations to insure an effective and productive MAREO
- Approval of MAREO Executive Board working resolution

Actions:

- Summary and recommendations
 - Enthusiastic support for NEON
 - Uncertainty regarding appropriate organizational model for regional observatories
 - Need to reach out to diverse regional community
- Committee formation
 - Vision and Mission (B. Yarnal, M. Reiter)
 - By-laws and governance (R. Gardner, M. Bass, W. McShea)
 - Resource Identification (E. Nagy, C. Jones)
 - Community Outreach (M.Luchenbach, B. Adams)

Next steps:

- Preliminary committee reports prepared for Executive Committee meeting in February 1-2, 2005.
- Development of by-laws and governance model by June 20'05.
- Formal membership organizational meeting in September 2005.
- Formal report to membership summarizing NEON activities in November 2004.
- Continue MAREO website development and post updated registered field research stations.
- Help in identifying candidates for the NEON Committees.