

AMS-NWA Memphis Chapter

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2021

Opening

The virtual business meeting of the AMS-NWA Memphis Chapter was called to order at 7:10pm on May 18, 2021 by President Dorian Burnette.

New Business

- The Treasurer's Report was given by Erik Proseus. The scholarship fund balance is \$1,021.50. Scholarship donations totaling \$120.06 were deposited. The general checking account balance is \$1,012.15.
- President Burnette reported that, to date, no applications have been received for this year's scholarship. Consideration will be given next year on changing the scholarship amount and the timing of the application process to encourage applicants.
- Chapter officer elections were held for the 2021-2022 year. Current officers were nominated to retain their positions and the membership vote was unanimous: President Dorian Burnette, Vice President Ned Savage, and Secretary/Treasurer Erik Proseus.
- Future meetings were briefly discussed and a suggestion was made to consider a Saturday date for our summer lunch gathering.

Presentation

Our speaker for the evening was Dr. Andrew Joyner, Associate Professor at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) and new State Climatologist for the Tennessee Climate Office (TCO). Dr. Joyner is assisted at the Climate Office by William Tollefson, also of ETSU. The TCO website is <http://www.etsu.edu/tn-climate/> Tennessee is the second to last state to have its own climate office. It provides state- and county-specific products, data, modeling, and climate summaries, as well as serving state government and other entities with weather and climate data and trends. After describing the role of the TCO, Dr. Joyner reviewed recent climate trends in the state in comparison to the recent past. He also provided a review of the September 2019 "flash drought" event in TN and indicated that the office is working on a review of the major winter events of this past February.

As the climate office is really just getting off the ground, there are many plans for the future. Dr. Joyner encouraged discussion and idea-sharing on needs and concerns from members. Future plans include: working towards the creation of a mesonet for the state; creating a Heat and Health Vulnerability Tool and a Weather/Hazard Index; providing workshops and training on resilience for communities; providing climate information and risk assessments to help improve economies, perhaps also targeting metro transit planning organizations; working with Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) on deploying a Road Weather Information System

(RWIS); and building a climate data portal for general use. There were several members that had a particular interest in a state mesonet, with discussion on a variety of topics to close out the meeting. Dr. Joyner mentioned that the 2021 Tennessee Climate Data Summit is May 25-26 and presentations will be made available on their website after its conclusion.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm by President Dorian Burnette.

Minutes submitted by: Erik Proseus, Secretary

Approved by: Dorian Burnette, President