



Summary of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of September 6-7, 2011

Call to order: President Thomas Tobin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on September 6, 2011. Also present were Directors William Anderson, David Friedman, Marshall Lew, Joseph Maffei, Farzad Naeim, Ellen Rathje, and Ivan Wong, Executive Director Jay Berger, and Publications Manager Eloise Gilland.

Secretary/Treasurer for 2012: The Board unanimously approved of Lew's recommendation of Janiele Maffei to serve as the next EERI Secretary/Treasurer.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report Overview of Revenue and Expense and Investment Reports: Lew reported that the revenue for the year has been better than forecast in the 2011 budget, although the projected deficit of \$204,400 is not closed completely. Berger said it had been closed by two-thirds as a result of grants received and cost savings, and estimated that the deficit at year's end should be around \$60,000.

The combined balance sheet showed a year-to-date positive revenue for Association Programs of \$175,850 as of July 31, 2011. Adding this to the opening fund balance for Association Programs (January 1, 2011) results in a total fund balance of \$559,887. Association Program liabilities as of July 31, 2011, were \$161,321, resulting in total assets of \$721,208. The Endowment Fund's total assets on July 31, 2011, were \$1,591,320. The balance for the combined Association and Endowment Programs is \$2,312,528.

Finance Committee recommendations for 2012: The Board reviewed Lew's memo of September 2 containing several Finance Committee recommendations following its review of the draft 2012 budget. Considering what EERI needs to maintain financial stability for several years ahead, not just 2012, the recommendations are as follows: (1) Given the increasing costs of services, an 8% dues increase in all membership categories for 2012. There has been no increase for three years. (2) A salary increase for the staff averaging 3%. The staff has not had an annual increase in the last 2 years (3) Consider alternative means of delivery to members of some traditional print products.

2012 Budget: The Board reviewed the 2012 preliminary budget worksheet, which projects a deficit of \$203,448. If dues were increased by 8% for regular, retired, and young professional members, and if *Spectra* subscriptions were also increased by 8%, the deficit would be reduced by \$35,366. If the *Newsletter*, *Roster*, and *Spectra* were not printed and mailed, the deficit would be reduced by \$90,000. The Board approved of increasing dues by approximately 8% across most membership categories. The deficit cannot be reduced in one year, and a dues increase is among a range of deficit-reduction options. The best option is to recruit new members to achieve income growth.

IT Plan progress: Berger reported that good progress is being made on the IT Plan for 2011. With help from the three EERI interns, much was ac-

complished over the past two months. The last phases, to be completed by the end of the year, are a new online store and the revamping of the members-only area.

Funding proposals submitted in 2011: The Board reviewed the table summarizing 19 funding proposals submitted since the February Board meeting.

NSF RAPID Researcher Workshop proposal: Berger reported that EERI was awarded a \$49,000 grant by NSF to organize and manage a workshop for RAPID awardees on emerging research needs coming from the New Zealand and Japan earthquakes and tsunami

World Bank projects: Berger indicated that negotiations with the World Bank on the collaboration between EERI and the Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) are near completion, with three tasks identified for a total value of \$280,000 over two years.

FEMA Cooperative Agreement: Berger reported that FEMA recently accepted EERI's Statement of Work for the 2011-2012 Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$355,000. The agreement provides support for the technical seminar series, maintenance of the Mitigation Center, the Seismic Design Competition, the Oral History Series, special issues of *Spectra*, the Graduate Student and Housner Fellowships, the 2012 National Earthquake Conference (NEC), and EERI student and regional chapters.

Housner Fellows Program:

Tobin reported that the Housner Fellows Management Committee has completed development of the Housner Fellows Program for the Board to approve. The Board authorized the Housner Fellows Program as explained in the program description and approved of Kenneth Stokoe as an additional member of the Housner Fellows Management Committee.

Virginia earthquake: Greene reported that Anderson and Jim Beavers are co-leaders of the Virginia Earthquake Reconnaissance Team. A report will be published online. A two-page summary of major lessons will be given to the federal agencies and every member of congress.

SPI projects for 2012: The Board reviewed a message from Sharon Wood, chair of the Special Projects and Initiatives Committee, indicating that the committee recommended that for 2012 only, endowment funds be used to support the Learning from Earthquakes Program because of the large number of important earthquakes in 2010 and 2011. The Board approved a motion to ask Marjorie Greene to assemble a list of identifiable projects focusing on the Virginia earthquake in consultation with Anderson and Beavers.

Regional chapters: Wong said a new EERI Salt Lake City Regional Chapter is getting launched. Salt Lake City has a good core group, as 97 people have expressed interest in joining a chapter, including members of SEAU and emergency managers. Wong said Portland, Oregon, will have an EERI chapter soon, as 44 people have indicated interest after 100 were contacted. Wong has talked to staff and members of the Cascadia Region Earth-

quake Working Group (CREW) and the Structural Engineers Association of Washington, and all were in favor of an EERI chapter in Washington state. CREW is interested in establishing a memorandum of understanding with EERI. Wong will also explore the idea of a regional chapter in Atlanta with DesRoches and another in Charleston, S.C., with his and EERI's contacts in the area. Anderson will do the same in Washington, D.C. Tobin said a group in New York City has scheduled a chapter-organizing meeting for November 10.

Spectra editor honorarium:

Berger said the editor of *Earthquake Spectra* receives a \$600 honorarium for each issue published. This rate has been in place for at least six years. The Board approved a motion increasing the *Spectra* editor honorarium to \$1,000. Naeim pointed out that Polat Gulkan's term as editor expires at the end of 2012.

Special issues of EQS on New Zealand and Japan:

Berger reported that he is participating in preliminary discussions with Gulkan, Masayoshi Nakashima, Jack Moehle, and Greene regarding publication of a special issue of *Earthquake Spectra* on the March 11, 2011, Japan earthquake and tsunami. The Japanese will produce many volumes on the event in their language, but are also interested in an English language summary of 15-20 papers.

Tobin has e-mailed the president of the New Zealand Society of Earthquake Engineering expressing EERI's commitment to working collaboratively with NZSEE on the publication of a special issue of *Spectra* on the Christchurch earthquakes, and made suggestions about how it

would complement an issue of the NSZEE Bulletin.

Earthquake Spectra transition from AIP:

Stalnaker reported that the top two priorities in the process of transitioning *Spectra* away from the AIP publishing platform are: 1) to continue using the current peer-review management software, and 2) to focus on replacing the production services and online hosting by AIP's Scitation; the latter will no longer be available after June 2012. The Board unanimously approved the plan as outlined by Stalnaker and Berger to: 1) immediately initiate a contract with eJournal press to provide the peer review management software, ensuring a seamless transition; 2) seek two proposals for a package of production services and initiate a contract with the top choice by October 15; and 3) hire a consultant for the limited services of assistance with evaluating the proposals for production services and with selection of an online hosting platform.

World Bank project with Japan assistance:

Berger reported that he, Greene, and Tobin were recently informed in a phone call with several staff members of the World Bank that Japanese officials would like the World Bank to provide support in documenting lessons from Tohoku and sharing their experience with the rest of the world. The World Bank requested EERI's help in creating a Global Advisory Group to help determine what worked and what did not during the earthquake and tsunami, to identify gaps in existing knowledge, and to provide general advice to the Japanese program.

Publication Policy Committee:

Rathje reported that during the recent Publication Policy

Committee conference call, a social scientist said that while *Spectra* is not the preferred journal for social scientists in earthquake-related fields, spe-

cial issues do lend themselves to the social sciences. Maffei suggested having a social science theme issue or monograph. Tobin suggested a

monograph on how to use social science to reduce risk.

ADJOURN: Tobin adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.