



August 28, 2013

<http://www.ecosystemresearch.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013

President

John (Jay) A. Arnone III
Division of Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
Desert Research Institute (DRI)
2215 Raggio Parkway
Reno, NV 89512
(775) 673-7445
Jay.Arnone@dri.edu

Secretary

Lucinda Johnson
Natural Resources Research Institute
University of Minnesota
5013 Miller Trunk Hwy.
Duluth, MN 55811-1442
(218) 720-4251
ljohnson@nrri.umn.edu

Treasurer

Amelia K. Ward
Center for Freshwater Studies
Box 870206
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0206
(205) 348-1796
award@biology.as.ua.edu

Members at Large

Ann L. Rypstra
Director, Ecology Research Center
Miami University
Department of Zoology
Oxford, OH 45056
(513) 785-3238
rypstral@muohio.edu

Nancy Huntly
Ecology Center
Utah State University
Natural Resources Bldg., Rm 314
5205 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-5205
(435) 797-2555
nancy.huntly@usu.edu

Past President

David E. Smith
Dept. of Environmental Sciences
University of Virginia, Clark Hall
291 McCormick Road
PO Box 400123
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4123
(434) 924-0561
des3e@virginia.edu

Dear AERC Member,

The AERC Board of Directors has developed some new and exciting activities for members that will be available during this fall's annual events in Washington DC that I would like to bring you up to date on. This year's events will take place on the 23rd and 24th of October. Please mark these dates on your calendar. I very much hope you will be able to join us. I would also like to thank you for paying your 2013 AERC dues.

After lengthy and thoughtful discussions during the last several months among AERC's Board Members, and after receiving feedback from some AERC member organizations, and through conversations I have had with AIBS staff, the Board has decided to modify slightly this year's activities in Washington. We will still hold our annual Congressional Briefing and have our annual Business Meeting. The theme of this year's briefing is "The Role of Ecosystem Science in Food Security" (see below). The Board has decided, however, to forego the Symposium this year in order to keep costs down, relative to those normally incurred for renting of a venue for the symposium and catering costs at the symposium. This decision will hopefully allow the AERC to remain economically viable while testing out some alternative ways to enhance value to AERC members.

One enhancement the Board thought we could pursue this year would be to sponsor a workshop for graduate students, postdocs, and new junior faculty of AERC's member institutions that would align directly with the main mission of the AERC: communicating the importance of ecosystem science in defining public policy. To this end, we have arranged for members of AIBS' Public Policy Office to offer to AERC members a workshop on how to communicate with the media and congressional members and staff. The members of the Public Policy Office are former congressional staffers. The half-day workshop will be held at the offices of the AIBS in Washington where there will be no venue costs and no additional costs to AERC of putting on this workshop (beyond the contribution that the AERC makes each year to the AIBS, our umbrella sponsor organization). The workshop will be held from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm on 23 October at the AIBS offices on I (eye) Street.

In order to further enhance the workshop experience for students, postdocs, and junior faculty members, each participant/registrant will be coached prior to the workshop on how to prepare and write a 1-2 page briefing statement. Each statement would articulate why federal support for ecosystem research is important, using each researcher's own "ecosystem science" (broadly defined). At the workshop, each participant will orally present her/his statement (2 min each) with critique provided by the AIBS workshop leaders

(former staffers). The other reason for requiring this active participation is to enable each workshop attendee to apply for travel funds from his/her own university/institution that are frequently available to students, postdocs, and other faculty members giving presentations at conferences or workshops. Hopefully, one day AERC's budget will allow the organization to help participants with travel expenses to future workshops!

To solidify this workshop training, all AERC member participants—and indeed all AERC members attending the events in DC—are invited to attend the actual congressional briefing given by our three speakers on the morning of the following day (24 October 2013). The U.S. House of Representative's Rayburn Building likely will be the venue for the briefing. Finally, on the afternoon of the 24th, time will be available for workshop participants and other AERC members in attendance to actually meet with their own congressional delegations in their DC offices. The AIBS team will be happy to arrange these visits with each congressional delegation. Your AERC dues support this service, so you or someone else from your organization should take advantage of this opportunity!

This year, workshop participation is limited to 30 people, so registering folks from your institution as soon as possible will be advantageous. Hopefully, this new series of coordinated events will be viewed favorably. If so, we can continue them in the future at AERC's fall events.

Here's the tentative schedule for this year's AERC events in Washington DC:

October 22, 2013	Arrive/overnight in Washington DC (e.g., Hotel Lombardy)
October 23, 2013	8:30 – 12:30 Workshop at the American Institute of Biological Sciences (coffee/tea & pastries breakfast—delivered to AIBS) 1444 I Street NW Washington DC 22101
	12:30 – 13:30 Lunch brought in to AIBS (sandwiches)
	13:30 – 17:30 Annual Business Meeting (finish lunch) AIBS
	19:00 – Dinner together somewhere in DC (optional)
October 24, 2013	9:00 – 9:30 AERC Board and Speakers travel to Rayburn Building
	9:30 – 10:00 Board and Speakers meet with Dr. Rob Gropp in cafeteria
	10:00 – 10:30 Set up in briefing room (all AERC member participants gather in room)
	10:30 – 11:30 Briefing: “The Role of Ecosystem Science in Food Security”, and questions from staffers and congress people Our briefing speakers this year are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Elena Bennett, Associate Professor, McGill University, Department of Natural Resource Sciences • Dr. William Easterling, Professor and Dean, Pennsylvania State University, Department of Geography • Dr. Dorceta Taylor, Professor, University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources and the Environment (AERC member institution)
	12:00 – 13:00 Lunch with speakers at a DC restaurant
	13:30 – 16:30 AERC member meetings with respective congressional staffs if scheduled; or departure from Washington

To wrap up here, just a reminder that AERC Board members continue to be very interested in hearing from you about ways to encourage input and regular participation of AERC's membership, especially in the annual fall events in Washington or in other locations around the country. The Board would like to hear your thoughts on how we can improve our effectiveness in meeting our stated mission (www.ecosystemresearch.org), or perhaps how the mission should be changed, and whether membership should be expanded to include environmental sciences other than ecosystem science specifically.

Thanks again for your continued involvement in the AERC! I look forward to keeping in contact. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, ideas, or suggestions.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Arnone III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John ("Jay") A. Arnone III
AERC President