

Minutes 2011\_2012\_ VSEC\_E\_meetings

Minutes of the  
NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee E-Meetings  
July 2011 to April 2012

The NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee held a series of E-meetings on a variety of issues during the period from July 2011 to April 30, 2012. Executive Board members participated in the meetings via email, telephone and regular mail.

August 22, 2011 to September 1, 2011 - Establishment of Outreach Committee

An e-meeting was called by Chairman Dick Mitchell for the purpose of establishing a special committee to be named the Outreach Committee. Vice Chairman Terry Mitchell was designated to be the meeting chair for conduct of this meeting.

The following motion was made by Dick Mitchell and seconded by Ray Sira:

"I move that the NSS Vertical Section create a special committee named the Outreach Committee. The purpose of the Outreach Committee will be to develop a plan of action that includes but is not limited to the following goals:

- 1) Increase awareness across the Vertical Community, both within and outside of NSS, of the existence of the Vertical Section and what the Section can provide;
- 2) Increase the membership of the Vertical Section in numbers, and broaden its age distribution to better reflect the current caving population;
- 3) Define methods to obtain more involvement and communication of members within the Vertical Section.

The Chairman of the Vertical Section will appoint the chairman of the Outreach Committee. The committee chair will then recruit and appoint additional members of the committee, attempting to comprise its membership with a representative cross-section of the Vertical Section. The committee will formulate a recommended plan of action to be submitted by Feb 1, 2012, to the Executive Committee for approval and implementation."

Following a period of discussion, a vote was held with 8 in favor and 1 not responding. The motion passed and the Outreach Committee was established with Terry Mitchell appointed as Chairman.

NOTE: Due to personal issues, Terry Mitchell later had to resign from the position of committee chairman. In April 2012 Marty Reames was appointed as Outreach Committee Chairman.

NOTE: There were other discussions on various topics between Executive Committee members throughout this period. None of these are recorded in these minutes since no motions were made or voted on and they did not constitute E-meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Boehle

(Rev.0)  
Approved by EC e-meeting 05/xx/2012

Minutes of the  
NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee E-Meetings  
May 2012 to June 2012

The NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee held a series of E-meetings on a variety of issues during the period from May 2012 to June 12, 2012. Executive Board members participated in the meetings via email, telephone and regular mail.

August 22, 2011 to September 1, 2011 - Establishment of Outreach Committee

Minutes previously approved 5/20/2012 (see below). Following is an amended NOTE:

NOTE: Due to personal issues, Terry Mitchell later (10/20/2011) had to resign from the position of committee chairman. In April 2012 Marty Reames was appointed as Outreach Committee Chairman. As of May 9, 2012, Marty recruited four other members to serve on the committee.

May 4, 2012 to May 23, 2012 - NSSVS Awards

The VS Board has been making efforts to formally recognize those who have made significant contributions to and otherwise served the Vertical Section over the years. In addition, the VS Board recently established criteria to guide the Awards Committee in considering nominations for the Vertical Section Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is intended for individuals who have provided a contribution to vertical caving, recognized nationally, that has benefitted the activity in terms of technique, equipment, or knowledge base.

The Awards Committee received a nomination recommending that an award be given to Bill Cuddington: Pioneer of the Single Rope Technique that revolutionized vertical caving in the United States. On May 17, 2012, an e-meeting was called to consider this nomination. After review and discussion, as of May 23, 2012 there was a unanimous vote in favor of the award. The VS Board conducted this action without the knowledge of EC members Bill and Miraim Cuddington in order to maintain the surprise of the award.

May 11-20, 2012 - Approval of minutes from VSEC regular and E-meetings

The minutes from 2010-2011 E-meetings, from the Sunday July 17, 2011 VSEC meeting, and from 2011-2012 E-meetings through April 30, 2012 were approved (with one typographical correction) by unanimous consent of the VSEC as of the close of the E-meeting on May 20, 2012.

May 11-23, 2012 - Approval of amendment to Outreach Committee's Plan of Action submission date

When the EC established the Outreach Committee on September 1, 2011 (see previous minutes), a date of February 1, 2012 was set for the submission of a recommended plan of action. With the delays in getting this committee off the ground that date had passed. The purpose of this action is to provide an amended target date for the committee to report to the EC. A motion was made (Bill

Boehle) and seconded (Ray Sira) that the date previously established for the NSS Vertical Section Outreach Committee to develop a recommended plan of action and submit it to the Executive Committee for approval and implementation be changed from February 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the VSEC as of the close of the E-meeting on May 23, 2012.

May 31 - June 3, 2012 - Approval of the updated Basic Vertical Course previously provided to the VSEC on May 17, 2012

As discussed in Glenwood Springs in 2011, Bruce Smith committed to update specific portions of the Basic Vertical Training Course. After receiving substantial feedback from many sources across the country, he has updated and made current the Basic Vertical Course which was last done in 2008. A motion was made (Bruce Smith) and seconded (Bill Boehle) to accept the updated version of the Basic Vertical Course.

Dick Mitchell moved (Bill Boehle seconded) that we Suspend the Rule of Bylaw 9 (B) (vii) d. which requires us to conduct a minimum 5-day discussion period before voting on an e-meeting motion, and that the vote on the main motion by Bruce Smith be conducted without discussion. Since this update was previously circulated to the EC for two weeks, it was desired to expedite this particular e-meeting process and approval, within our Rules of Order, so that Bruce will have enough time to finalize and publish some paper copies of the updated manual for distribution at the NSS Convention. The motion was approved by majority vote of the VSEC as of the close of the E-meeting on June 3, 2012.

June 12, 2012 - Appointment of Bruce Smith as Awards Committee Chairman

Due to his recent election to the NSS Board of Governors, and his commitments thereto, Dick Mitchell stepped down as Chairman of the Awards Committee. He has appointed Awards Committee member Bruce Smith as the new Chairman, consistent with the Vertical Section By-Laws Section 5), (F).

NOTE: There were other discussions on various topics between Executive Committee members throughout this period. None of these are recorded in these minutes since no motions were made or voted on and they did not constitute E-meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Boehle

(Rev.1)  
Approved by EC e-meeting 1/xx/2013