



# ACR Environment and Public Policy Section Newsletter

February 2004

## SAVE THE DATE EPP MIDYEAR CONFERENCE MAY 21-22 IN PORTLAND, OREGON

Thanks to the hard work of Tom Fee, Michael Mills, ACR staff and many others, we can alert you to some basic information about the EPP Section Mid Year Meeting. Members will get further information about registration and hotel reservations in the coming weeks.

The Heathman Hotel in downtown Portland will be the site and the theme is "2004 Leadership Forum: Challenges and Strategies for Environmental and Public Policy Conflict Resolvers." The section is working in partnership with the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR), the Oregon Mediation Association, the Policy Consensus Initiative and others.

Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> is reserved for pre-conference meetings such as a USIECR-organized working session on the Conflict Assessment Project; a meeting of Policy Consensus Institute's affiliates; and a working session about Diversity and Equity issues, including a progress report on the EPP mentoring committee. There will be an informal opening reception on Thursday evening and the conference will be all day Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22 until lunchtime.

Some of the conference's 15 sessions on Friday and Saturday are: Science and Technology; the state of institutionalization of conflict resolution, public conflict in the urban environment; Research/Practice Update; Native American Tribal Mediation Network; Ethics; Cultural Competency; Collaborative Monitoring; and a Pacific Northwest case study.

Details are being worked out for an event at the new Portland State University Native American Education Center and/or Portland Town Hall.

If you are not a member of the EPP Section and want further notification, contact Lynne Kinnucan of the ACR staff at [lkinnucan@ACRnet.org](mailto:lkinnucan@ACRnet.org) or (202) 464-9700 ext. 247.

## Profile of Carie Fox

by Cindy Cook

Carrie Fox is a woman of energy. Her conversation is bursting with ideas and book references, question marks and exclamation points.

If ACR were to hold a "Most Eclectic Background" competition, Carrie would be a finalist. She grew up in a variety of settings, including Paris, Tehran, Geneva, and Pennsylvania. Her education includes a BA in Philosophy, a Masters Degree in Soil Morphology, and a JD. She jokes that clients who might be put off by the agrarian folksiness of her Iowa State MS, or by her high-brow Reed College BA, are comforted by the balance that the two degrees, together, provide.

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## ACR Environment and Public Policy Section Newsletter

### Profile of Carrie Fox, continued

Carrie is the principal of Fox Mediation, based in Portland, Oregon and has been mediating and facilitating for ten years. She concentrates her practice in the transportation, natural resource, and land use arenas, and does some workplace mediation. She teaches Environmental Conflict Resolution at Portland State University. She greatly enjoys offering skill-building courses for parties, as the opportunity arises.

It's clear that Carrie loves her work. She describes herself as being "in a state of creative befuddlement," and she uses this to her advantage. She talks about "the power of the lightly held hypothesis." To illustrate she described a situation in which parties are grappling with issues that seem unmanageable. She plans to bring them analytic models that might be helpful. If the ideas and information are useful to the parties, she'll be pleased; if not, she can pick up the thread that they want to use.

In our free-wheeling phone interview, Carrie wondered where our profession is headed. She commented that for a relatively young profession, we seem to have lot of rules. She worries that this tendency toward dogma

may stifle creativity. She would like support from others in ways to be creative and experiment with new ideas and techniques, while maintaining her professionalism—she also would like to find more and better ways to support the creativity of others!

Her hobbies include learning to play the piano (she's concentrating on classical music), reading (her tastes are broad-ranging from systems theory and organizational development to "trashy romances, provided that there's no bodice-ripping") and, as a mother of two, "survival."

Carrie is planning to participate in the Environmental and Public Policy Mid-Year Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon on May 21 and 22, 2004. She looks forward to meeting other sector members there, and will be "deeply and mortally offended" if you don't attend. (OK, maybe she didn't actually say this, but I'm pretty sure she may have thought it. This is *not* the shameless plug for the conference that it may appear to be.... She *did* tell me that Portland has Powell's Bookstore as well as the highest per-capita number of microbreweries in the States, in addition to the conference, so there should be much to please everyone).

This is the first in a regular series of profiles of EPP section members. We are selecting profilees (we prefer not to think of them as "victims") on a more or less random basis, though we hope to profile people that represent a diversity of backgrounds and experience. We see this series as a way for us to get to know each other. We plan to include people who are newer to the field as well as "old-timers." If you would like to be profiled, or, better yet, you would like to profile someone else in the field, please contact Cindy Cook at [ccook@adamantaccord.com](mailto:ccook@adamantaccord.com) or Mary Orton at [mary@maryorton.com](mailto:mary@maryorton.com).

### Top Ten Reasons why the May 21-22 Conference will be *More Fun than Thought Humanly Possible*

10. Brilliant, insightful speakers, including: Dr Seuss (not yet confirmed)
9. Scintillating Topics, including: the composting conflict, Left Coast vs. Right Coast, the Howard Dean Fanatics remix of Mary Skelton Roberts acceptance speech as section co-chair.
8. Networking Opportunities. See and be seen with the likes of: Tom Fee, Imelda Marcos, Dr. Seuss
7. Site Visits to some of the more famous sites in dispute resolution history, including the Willamette Valley Wineries
6. It's a tax-deductible trip to Portland!
5. For members who live in the Portland area, you don't have far to travel, and it's *still* tax deductible.
4. Portland has a very high microbrewery to population ratio.
3. From downtown Portland, it's an hour's drive to the beach or the slopes.
2. If lots of people register early, we won't have to sell the Section leadership into slavery to pay the conference costs.
1. We solemnly promise that absolutely no mention will be made of Mickey Mouse.

**Save the Dates: May 21-22, 2004!**



## ACR Environment and Public Policy Section Newsletter

### *Help Build the Section*

#### ACR Environment and Public Policy (EPP) Section Committees

January 2004

Please contact the appropriate conveners/chairs if you are interested in a particular area of work. Contact Section Co-Chairs: Tom Fee (2002-2004) [tomfeenj@aol.com](mailto:tomfeenj@aol.com) or Mary Skelton Roberts (2003-2005) [mskelton@cbuilding.org](mailto:mskelton@cbuilding.org) if you want to contribute or learn more about the section in a way not covered by a committee.

**BUDGET:** [new]—(Treasurer)—OPEN—proposed as function of EPP Leadership Council.

**COMMUNICATION:** John Stephens, convener ([stephens@iogmail.iog.unc.edu](mailto:stephens@iogmail.iog.unc.edu)) and Cindy Cook, Mary Orton and Lynne Kinnucan (ACR staff).

**Publications:** The Critical Issues Papers (Hewlett Foundation funded) have been published and are being disseminated in a variety of ways. These Papers (available at <http://www.mediate.com/acrepp/pg5.cfm>) were intended to “consider the meaning of environmental and public policy practice and the impact of the field, within the context of public participation, deliberative democracy, and transparency between citizens and their governments” (from the preface to the printed version of the Critical Issues Papers). A working group will assess how to develop new projects, publications and activities based on this initiative.

**Web site, e-newsletter and on line development—**working with Colin Rule and Lynne Kinnucan

#### CONFERENCES:

**Annual ACR 2004 Conference program committee—**Greg Bourne, Bill Potapchuk, [bill@communitytools.net](mailto:bill@communitytools.net)

**Mid-year meeting 2004—**Tom Fee (serving as convener) Michael Mills (local lead Portland, OR), Martha Bean, Joan Calcagno, former Chris Carlson, Frank Dukes, Kirk Emerson, Kris Erbes, Elaine Hallmark, Deb Nudelman, Donna Silverberg, John Stephens, and more to come.....

**Future midyear conferences 2005 and beyond (new):** need volunteers to do site selection based on EPP criteria and begin strategic conference planning process

#### DIVERSITY AND EQUITY COMMITMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION:

**Diversity Mentoring Workgroup—**Co-chairs Juliana Birkhoff [jbirkhoff@igc.apc.org](mailto:jbirkhoff@igc.apc.org) and Mary Skelton Roberts and a team including: Jeff Blair, Xantha Bruso, Kathleen Conway, Joan Calcagno, Jan Marie Fritz, Laura Kaplan, Rafael Montalvo, Paddy Moore, Monique Pierel, Gregory Sobel, Larry Williams and Lynne Kinnucan and Mark Wilson from ACR staff.

**Diversity and equity liaison to ACR** (ACR requirement for all sections)—Rafael Montalvo [rafaelm@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:rafaelm@mail.ucf.edu) has been serving in this role for several years. Interest has been expressed by Larry Williams and others

**ELECTION/NOMINATIONS:** Bob Jones, Martha Bean, Glenn Sigurdson and others were involved in 2003. We need volunteers for 2004 to begin nomination process and coordination. (This is an ACR requirement and procedure.)

**ETHICS:** Janice Fleischer [jfleischer@sfrpc.com](mailto:jfleischer@sfrpc.com) has expressed interest. We need additional volunteers.

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:** [new] (proposed)—Probably starts with list of former co-chairs plus recent volunteers including Rosemary Romero (ACR President), Greg Sobel, Bob Jones, Frank Dukes, Mary Orton, Bill Potapchuk, Cindy Cook. Teleconference to be scheduled for February and meeting at mid year conference.

**MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** OPEN. Includes orientation, welcoming new members, recruitment, services, inquiries, etc.

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## ACR Environment and Public Policy Section Newsletter

### Help Build the Section, continued

**RESEARCH:** OPEN. Liaison to ACR research section needed. Tom Fee attended in Orlando, we need a volunteer or two. Project coordination and information sharing: how to keep members updated needs to be discussed.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:** Strategic directions/critical issues papers—Tom Taylor, [taylor@mailier.fsu.edu](mailto:taylor@mailier.fsu.edu) Frank Dukes, [ed7k@virginia.edu](mailto:ed7k@virginia.edu) and others. *Section future:* see leadership council proposal.

### *Additional Committees discussed and/or proposed recently:*

1. Advanced practitioner issues and ACR policy—mentioned Bob Jones, Gail Bingham, et al as possible leaders to assist
2. Formal liaison roles to other ACR sections (internal) and other organizations (external)
3. Section Project Development and Fundraising

## Member Communications & Updates

**Patrick Field** was selected to facilitate the Hudson River PCB Dredging Project's Community Advisory Group. The major issue to be addressed is the impacts on upstream and downstream communities of dredging in the Hudson River to remediate PCBs. Pat is Vice President of the Consensus Building Institute in Cambridge, MA.

**Cindy Cook** of Adamant Accord is designing and facilitating a public input process regarding wind power development on state lands for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. She is teaming with Crystal Sarno of The Perspectives Group to develop objective informational materials to “ground” the discussions. Cindy would love to hear from practitioners who are working on similar projects. She can be reached at [ccook@adamantaccord.com](mailto:ccook@adamantaccord.com).

If you want to connect with other EPP members on a particular subject, or have a short update, please send it to [mary@maryorton.com](mailto:mary@maryorton.com). We reserve the right to edit for space, and ask that you send no more than one update per calendar year.

## EPP Section Meeting Summary: October 17, 2003 Coronado Springs Disney Hotel, Orlando, Florida

1. **Introductions**—Co-chairs **Rosemary Romero (2001-03)** and **Tom Fee (2002-04)**. Persons present introduced themselves.
2. **Welcome to old and new members.** Members who were attending their first meeting were recognized and welcomed.
3. **Update on election.** The new co-chair, Mary Skelton Roberts (2003-05), senior mediator at the Consensus Building Institute was announced. She was not able to attend the meeting. She replaces outgoing co-chair Rosemary Romero, whose term has ended and who is the new ACR President.

4. **Acknowledgements—Successes and challenges reviewed.** EPP Section accomplishments since the Section meeting in San Diego in 2002 were reviewed. They included:
- The mid-year meeting was held April 2003 in Washington, DC. More than 100 people attended and the Section broke even financially.
  - The Critical Issues Papers (Hewlett Foundation funded) have been published and are being disseminated in a variety of ways. These Papers (available at <http://www.mediate.com/acrepp/pg5.cfm> ) were intended to “consider the meaning of environmental and public policy practice and the impact of the field, within the context of public participation, deliberative democracy, and transparency between citizens and their governments” (from the preface to the printed version of the Critical Issues Papers).
  - The EPP Section has sponsored and supported an on-line dialogue on conflict and situation assessment, thanks to Concur, Raab associates, the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR), and others.
  - Membership involvement in Section and ACR-wide committees and leadership groups is growing.
  - EPP Section members presented several Orlando 2003 sessions and trainings.
  - The Section has a renewed commitment to diversity and equity.
  - The Section has responded to inquiries from prospective members and others.
  - The Mentoring Committee, co-chaired by Juliana Birkhoff and Mary Skelton Roberts, will continue to work to address diversity and equity and develop new strategies for mentoring.

Challenges facing the Section were noted, including:

- According to ACR organizational standards, all ACR Sections must:
  - Have a newsletter
  - Sponsor a mid-year meeting (either in person or telephonically) and an annual meeting of the Section
  - Operate a Web page
  - Offer other products of value for members, e.g., career advice, mentoring, news alerts, assistance with problems, etc.
- Other needs include an annual report in March, a budget report, a diversity and equity liaison, elections, committees, ethics

#### 5. **Mid-year planning group report**

The 2004 mid-year meeting is scheduled for May 20-22, 2004. Kirk Emerson (USIECR) and Frank Dukes (Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia) reported on the initial planning for the meeting, followed by a discussion of strategies and options.

Possible topics so far, from an email distributed before the meeting and augmented at the meeting:

- Conflict Assessment. Perhaps a one-day session, limited to 20 participants. This would be based on the ongoing work of Mike Eng and Larry Fisher from USIECR with the On-Line Dialogue effort in which many EPP members are participating.
- ECR Evaluation. Focus would be on discussing findings from various evaluation efforts launched in the last few years and the potential impact on practice, training, etc. This would include the multi-agency ECR case evaluation effort sponsored by USIECR under Patricia Orr's direction.
- Tribal sessions focused on Native American issues. Among these might be progress on the tribal mediator network that Sarah Palmer from USIECR is coordinating.
- Collaborative Monitoring. The USIECR FACA committee and many others are interested in this issue, which could be the basis of a session. Larry Fisher from USIECR is willing to assist on this.
- Institutional developments and their impact on the field. This might include discussion of State DR offices disappearing or devolving, changes in support from foundations, etc.
- Cultural competency
- Diversity
- Case databases
- Ethics

It was agreed that the meeting should include field trips, and examples were given for the Seattle area. It was agreed that the meeting would be held in the Northwest area, probably in the Seattle or Portland areas.

Other program suggestions included:

- Link with recent work at the Salt Lake City, Utah conference in September 2003 of the Community Based Collaboratives Research Consortium (CBCRC)
- Collaborative research
- We need to mix and balance urban and "great outdoors" settings and issues
- Seek links with other Sections: Organizational Conflict Management Section, Research, others

Logistical considerations were also discussed:

- We need to work two to three years out on planning our mid-year meetings. Look at the recent report of the ACR-wide strategic conference report committee.
- We need to understand ACR's selection criteria for mid-year meetings and other ACR policies. For example, the site needs to be accessible and inexpensive, and needs to house all participants. The proposed locations will be assessed and a budget and business plan developed with staff. Staff makes the final site decision.
- We need to identify partners and colleagues and seek cost sharing and effective joint marketing of the event.

#### **7. Annual ACR 2004 conference in Sacramento, CA**

The next annual conference of ACR will be held in Sacramento, CA, September 29 through October 2, 2004.

#### **8. Development of an EPP Council—budget, continuity, collaborative leadership**

This idea has been discussed over the years. It was explained as follows in an email from the co-chairs before the meeting: "The Family Section brought over from AFM a council that acts like an executive committee and is made up of 'elders' and others from the Section. This Council also includes a treasurer to help work with the Section Budget. Our council could be composed of past chairs and perhaps used as a vehicle for others who are looking for leadership opportunities within EPP and ACR. This would also serve as a larger network of people who could help guide the co-chairs with their work and provide a sounding board for issues and ideas."

If all past chairs and co-chairs served on the council, this would involve approximately 20 to 25 people. The purpose would be to help the Section and Section leadership coordinate, communicate, and plan more effectively. When tasks arise, this group would be available to triage and respond.

Several people emphasized the need to include newer members on such a Council. The following people expressed interest at the Section meeting or have mentioned interest in past:

Rosemary Romero, Greg Sobel, Bob Jones, Frank Dukes, Mary Orton, Bill Potapchuk, Cindy Cook.

If others are interested, or volunteered at the meeting and are not included on the list above, please contact one of the co-chairs: Tom Fee, [tomfeenj@aol.com](mailto:tomfeenj@aol.com), or Mary Skelton Roberts, [mskelton@cbuilding.org](mailto:mskelton@cbuilding.org). After teleconference planning, an initial meeting will be scheduled for 2004, possibly at the mid year conference

#### **9. Review leadership/committee commitments/liasons/assignments**

Volunteers were requested for various committee and additional roles. If your name was not captured at the meeting, or if you want to volunteer—and we hope you do—contact one of the co-chairs: Tom Fee, [tomfeenj@aol.com](mailto:tomfeenj@aol.com), or Mary Skelton Roberts, [mskelton@cbuilding.org](mailto:mskelton@cbuilding.org).

BUDGET [new] (Treasurer)—proposed as function of EPP Leadership Council

COMMUNICATION—Chair—John Stephens, and Cindy Cook, Mary Orton and Lynne Kinnucan (ACR staff)

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MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT—Includes orientation, welcoming new members, recruitment, services, inquiries, etc.

RESEARCH—Liaison to ACR research section needed. Tom Fee attended in Orlando; we need a volunteer or two. Project coordination and information sharing: how to keep members updated needs to be discussed.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS—Strategic directions/critical issues papers—Tom Taylor, Frank Dukes, and others.  
*Section future:* see leadership council proposal.

#### ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES DISCUSSED AND/OR PROPOSED RECENTLY:

Advanced practitioner issues and ACR policy—mentioned Bob Jones, Gail Bingham, et al as possible leaders to assist  
Formal liaison roles to other ACR sections (internal) and other organizations (external)  
Section Project Development and Fundraising

#### **10. Mentoring commitments**

#### **11. U.S. Consensus Council report**

#### **12. Advanced practitioner issues revisited—ACR**

#### **13. Other business**

#### **14. Thanks to Rosemary and next steps**

Rosemary Romero was warmly thanked for her service as co-chair of the Section.

#### **15. Adjourn**