

## **ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT SPECIALTY GROUP BY-LAWS**

### **I. Name and Purpose of Specialty Group**

The name of the group is the Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group (ERASG) of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA). The purpose of the group is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge among practitioners, researchers, scholars, teachers, students, and others interested in applications of ecological risk assessment, to encourage collaborative research, to aid in advancing the state of the science, and to provide leadership and play an active role in advancing issues related to the use of risk tools in environmental policies.

### **II. Members of the ERASG**

Members shall consist of all people with an interest in ecological risk analysis and risk assessment who indicate a desire to be members by submitting their names to the Secretary-Treasurer or the Secretariat, and who pay the annual dues to the Society for Risk Analysis. It is the option of the Executive Committee to request dues for membership to the ERASG.

### **III. Meetings of Members**

Annual meetings of the ERASG will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis. Announcements of the annual meetings will be included in the printed program of the Society.

Additionally, at least one conference call per quarter is recommended to engage the group and to solicit ideas and member input. More than four group conference calls per year are encouraged, including additional group webinars on focused topics or areas suggested by the membership.

### **IV. Government of the ERASG**

A. At least three Officers will govern the ERASG: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional officers can include Chair-elect, Past-chair, Communications, Outreach, etc., based on volunteers. There are also options for co-chairing to split the workload among interested parties.

B. The duties of these officers are:

Chair: Chair an Annual ERASG Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis, work with SRA officials to organize ERASG sessions, meetings, or panels, and take other actions requested by the ERASG's Officers or that are in the interest of the ERASG. Select student Merit Award winner (can proceed via committee). Initiate and lead quarterly conference calls for the group.

Secretary and/or Treasurer: Maintain a record of actions of the ERASG's Officers and the meeting, working as appropriate with the SRA Secretariat, maintain the financial records of the ERASG, and communicate relevant information to the ERASG membership.

Chair-Elect: Coordinate and encourage the development of symposia for the annual meeting and solicit and track ideas for presentations at open teleconferences or other activities of the group. The chair-elect may stand in for the chair at a meeting should the president be unavailable.

C. The election of officers shall be by e-mail ballot prior to the ERASG Meeting at the Annual Meeting or by volunteer at the annual meeting, with the elected officers taking office at the conclusion of the SRA Annual Meeting. The election of officers shall proceed as follows:

1. Prior to the annual ERASG Meeting, the Executive Committee shall inform ERASG members of the nominations through the *RISK Newsletter*, a mailing, or other means. The Executive Committee shall also inform members to whom they can send additional nominations. Any nominee who indicates a willingness to serve if elected shall be added to the ballot.

2. If no nominations for the position of Chair-Elect are made, the Executive Committee, at its discretion, will (1) appoint one of the Officers to this position for a term ending at the next annual business meeting of the ERASG, or (2) create a position of rotational Chair for that year, and appoint individual members of the Executive Committee to terms of rotation, each to be specified by the Executive Committee.

3. If no nominations for the position of Secretary or Treasurer are made, the vacant position will be appointed by the Executive Committee (1) from the Officers, or (2) if no Officer is willing to accept the vacant position, then from the ERASG general membership, for a term ending at the next annual business meeting of the ERASG.

4. Election that occur via email shall be by confidential ballot. Officers shall be elected by a plurality vote. In the case of a tie, the winner will be chosen by drawing lots.

5. Question or conflicts regarding any election shall be settled by the Executive Committee.

6. In the event that an officer is unable or unwilling to complete their term of office, the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy with an individual of their choosing on an interim basis until the next election, at which time a replacement (possibly the individual selected for the interim) will be elected to fill the remaining term of the officer (i.e., for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2-year position).

D. The terms of office for ERASG Officers are:

Past-Chair: 1 year

Chair: 1 year, after which she or he succeeds to Past-Chair

Chair-Elect: 1 year, after which she or he automatically succeeds to Chair

Secretary and Treasurer: 2 years

## **V. Amendments to the By-Laws**

Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed by the Executive Committee, by a majority vote of the participants at the Annual ERASG Meeting, or by a petition containing the signatures of 25 percent of ERASG members submitted 30 days prior to the Annual ERASG Meeting. Amendments to these By-Laws become effective immediately after approval by two-thirds of the members returning their email ballots – an email ballot will take place at the request of 10 percent of the members at the Annual ERASG Meeting.

## **VI. Implementation of these By-Laws**

These By-Laws will go into effect when approved by a majority vote of those present at the Annual ERASG Meeting or immediately after approval of these By-Laws.