AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the Council of the AMS, New Orleans, LA
January 12, 2025

Participants--- President Anjuli Bamzai, President-Elect Dave Stensrud Past-Presidents Brad Colman and Rich Clark, **Councilors**: Mona Behl, Kandis Boyd, Dana Carlis, Rebecca DePodwin, Gina Eosco, Rong Fu, Andrew Humphrey, Bill Kuo, Cliff Mass, Michelle Mainelli, Erin Coughlan de Perez, and Bernadette Woods Placky. **Council Members Absent:** Rachel Hauser. **Interim Executive Director** Brian Papa and **Secretary/Treasurer** Bruce Telfeyan. **Commissioners**: Tony Broccoli, Walter Robinson, Ankur Desai, Kristie Franz, Clark Evans, Stephen Bieda, Heidi Centola, Sue Ellen Haupt, Erica Cei, Justin Pullin, Kevin Kloesel, and Kim Klockow. **Student Observer**: Dillon Blount. **AMS Staff**: S. Armstrong, H. Baguskas, B. Farley, C. Gorski, P. Higgins, J. Ives, B. Mardirosian, A. Mancinelli, J. Nin, R. Perriello, A. Price, K. Putsavage, K. Savoie, and G. Whittaker; **Incoming President-Elect:** Alan Sealls, **Incoming Councilors:** Stephen Bennett, Danielle Breezy, Jenny Frankel-Reed, Stephanie Herring, John Lanicci, and Russ Schumacher. **Incoming Secretary:** Todd Glickman; **Incoming Treasurer:** Rich Spaulding. **Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus:** Rick Rosen. **AIP Guest Speaker:** Michael Moloney.

Minutes Recorded by: Bruce Telfeyan and Todd Glickman
Note: If anyone sees their name in the minutes and prefers that this not be shown, please advise the Secretary-Treasurer so that corrective action can be taken.

1. Quorum Check and Introductions

President Anjuli Bamzai called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM CST on 12 January 2025. Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Telfeyan confirmed the presence of a quorum and all participants introduced themselves.

2. Confirmation of E-Votes, Consideration of Consent Agenda, Review of November 2024 Minutes

a. President Bamzai explained that per Massachusetts law governing nonprofit organizations, any email ballot for which there was not unanimous “yes” votes must be affirmed. S/T Telfeyan reviewed the three items requiring approval of the Council as they did not obtain unanimous approval by electronic vote. A motion was made and seconded to affirm these decisions, and the motion was passed unanimously.

b. S/T Telfeyan provided a review of the Consent Agenda and highlighted the items brought up to date in the Organizational Procedures. A motion was made and seconded to approve the matters in the Consent Agenda and the motion was passed unanimously.

c. The November 2024 Council minutes were approved unanimously.

3. 2025 AMS Priorities

Interim ED Brian Papa reviewed the four key priorities for the Society for 2025. These included the following matters of relevance:

a. Continued progress towards achieving a break-even budget.
b. Enhancing communication within the salaried staff and with the many volunteers to the Society.
c. Ensuring transparency in all we do.
d. Achieving stability in our operations to greet the next Executive Director.
e. Striving to work in a productive and beneficial way with the incoming administration in the US.

4. Incoming CWWCE Commissioner Recommendation

Current CWWCE Commissioner Heidi Centola opened the discussion by stating that incoming Commissioner Jennifer Sprague-Hilderbrand needed to step back due to a possible conflict-of-interest in her new role within NOAA. Tanja Fransen, a former AMS Councilor and the MIC at NOAA/NWS Portland, OR was suggested to step into the role. There were many supporting remarks, and a unanimous vote occurred approving her appointment as incoming CWWCE Commissioner. After one year, Tanja will become the Current Commissioner and during this year, a new incoming Commissioner will need to be identified and approved by the Council.

5. AMS Budget Update and Five-Year Forecast

AMS CFO Andrea Mancinelli and Interim Executive Director Brian Papa gave a detailed explanation of the proposed five-year budget for AMS. Assumptions, levels of confidence and risks were outlined. The report focused upon these primary areas:

a. 2024 Budget Performance
b. Updates to the 2025 Budget
c. The methodology employed for the five-year budget planning
d. The overall five-year budget forecast
e. Five-Year Net Operating Income Projections

The Council had a good discussion and questions were answered. Budget priorities for this year were identified as:

- Work towards a break even budget by 2026 without sole dependence on additional staffing reductions,
- Focus on communication, transparency, and collaboration with staff and volunteers,
- Hand off a financially and operationally stable organization to the new ED,
- Address any challenges or opportunities associated with the change in the Federal administration.

Further discussion of the topic will occur at the Finance Committee meeting during the week. No decision on the part of the Council was required.

6. Commissioner and CIC Reports

The six AMS Commissioners and Chair of the CIC gave brief reports updating the activities of their respective groups. There was lively discussion on each of the reports and the Commissioners and Chair received the thanks of the Council for their thorough efforts in supporting all of the volunteers within their groups. No further action on the part of the Council was required.

7. Enthusiast Proposal Update

Cliff Mass gave a presentation on his ideas to establish “WeatherBand2.” His stated goal was to substantially raise the visibility of AMS’s role in supporting enthusiasts and generate new income for the Society. After robust discussion, the sense of the Council was that Dr. Mass should continue to develop his proposal with additional details. This would include estimates for expenses for FTEs and support costs. Cliff agreed to bring back details to Council at a future meeting.

8. Update from AIP – Michael Moloney

Dr. Michael Moloney, CEO of AIP, gave an informative presentation to Council on the state of his organization, and how AMS benefits and can partner with AIP. No action on the Council’s part was required.

9. Bylaws Discussion

Incoming President Stensrud presented a proposal to amend the Bylaws (Article VI, paragraph 4) regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director. He explained that the goal is to have a clearer set of duties for the next ED. There will be some small additional finetuning including consideration of some additions proposed by S/T Telfeyan. Once the Council agrees on proposed wording, the draft will be reviewed by our legal Counsel. Finally, after the required 30 days have passed, the Council will consider formal adoption of the new wording.

10. Executive Director Search

Incoming President Stensrud updated the Council on the process to hire a new Executive Director for AMS. The first question involved the consideration of hiring an Executive Search Firm (it was noted that the budget for such action is already in place). After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded, then voted unanimously to proceed with a request for proposal for selection of a firm. Next was discussion of the search committee membership. There was significant discussion among the Council, and three motions were considered:

(a) The first motion was to accept the membership slate as presented (one name was added after the meeting agenda was prepared). This motion was moved, seconded, and approved.
(b) A second motion was presented to add an early career/graduate student member. This motion was moved, seconded, and approved.
(c) A final motion was made to add the Secretary as an ex-officio, non-voting member. After discussion, this motion was rejected.

11. Departures

President Bamzai thanked S/T Telfeyan for his four years of service as Secretary-Treasurer of the AMS. She presented him with a gift as a token of thanks for his dedicated service. She also thanked Commissioner Anthony Broccoli for his six years of service as the Publications Commissioner.

12. 2025 Council Meeting Schedule

With consideration of the lateness of the hour, Incoming President Stensrud said he would communicate to the Council by email about the future meeting schedule.

13. Statements Process Update

Associate Executive Director Paul Higgins gave a detailed discussion of the importance of AMS Statements, and the processes for suggesting, debating, and approving them. He reviewed the progress made by the Committee on AMS Positions and Statements and noted that all Council members are welcome t participate in the meetings and discussions. No decision on the part of the Council was required.

14. Closing

President-Elect Stensrud presided over the closing as President Bamzai departed for duties overseeing the presidential forum. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and approved without dissent at exactly 2:00 PM CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Telfeyan
Outgoing AMS Secretary-Treasurer

Todd Glickman
Incoming AMS Secretary