Minutes of the 20 January 2008
Meeting of the Council of the
American Meteorological Society (AMS)

Participants: AMS President Rick Anthes, President-elect Walter Dabberdt, Past President Franco Einaudi, Past President Walter Lyons, AMS Executive Director Keith Seitter. *Councilors*: Kelvin Droegemeier, Marcia Politovich, Robert Weller, Mary Altalo, Steven Rutledge, Joseph Schaefer, J. Marshall Shepherd, Richard Carbone, Kenneth Crawford, Amanda Lynch, William Proenza, and Dian Seidel. *Commissioners*: John Toohey-Morales, Commission on Professional Affairs; George Frederick, Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise; Joseph Friday, Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise [newly appointed]; Julie Winkler, Education and Human Resources Commission; Robert Serafin, Planning Commission [newly appointed]; Dave Jorgensen, Publications Commission; Roger Wakimoto, Scientific and Technological Activities Commission. Also present: Incoming President-elect Thomas Karl, Incoming Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen. *AMS Staff*: AMS staff participated throughout the meeting, including Bill Hooke, Gary Rasmussen, Joyce Annese, Barry Mohan, Corinne Kazarosian, Ron McPherson, Genene Fisher, Anthony Socci, and Wendy Thomas. Mark Fernau served as the recorder. Absent: Joe D'Aleo, Jenni Evans, Ray Ban, and Planning Commissioner George McVehil.

0.0 Agenda

President Anthes brought the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. He thanked those councilors who are rotating off and welcomed new members.

1.0 Minutes/Mail Ballots

President Anthes presented the approved Executive Committee minutes from 18 September 2007 and the summary of the 2007 mail ballots of the Executive Committee. Council unanimously approved the minutes from the 19–20 September 2007 Council meeting after making one correction and unanimously affirmed the 2007 mail ballots.

2.0 New President-Elect and Councilors

Incoming President-Elect Thomas Karl and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen were introduced and welcomed, as well as new Councilors Jennifer Alexander, James Hurrell, Timothy Spangler, and Richard Clark. After a discussion of the three "Fifth Councilor" candidates, the Council voted to appoint Franklin Nutter as the Fifth Councilor.

After the vote, there followed a discussion about "private sector" representation on the Council and possible approaches for getting more private-sector Councilors and/or increasing diversity on the Council. The Council charged the Planning Commission with looking into additional ways to achieve these outcomes and to come to the Executive Committee at its April 2008 meeting with alternatives.

3.1 STAC Commission Report

Commissioner Wakimoto summarized his report, which included individual committee reports and names of new members of the committees and boards of the Commission. The STAC Commission meeting, the day before, included extended discussions on nonmember vs. member conference registration fees, student award guidelines, one-day and two-day conference registrations for students, and the potential benefits of exclusive hotel contracts.

Following the report, the Council discussed the member/nonmember fee issue. President Anthes summarized the "sense of the Council" on two points: 1) The Council shares STAC's unease about the significant percentage of speakers at the annual conference who are not members of AMS. An approach to dealing with this problem is to charge a larger registration fee to nonmembers but allow the incremental difference to be credited toward membership; and 2) The Council encourages further exploration of instituting a 1-day student registration fee.

3.2 Publications Commission Report

Commissioner Jorgensen reported on the submission rates for each journal. Overall, submissions are down by 200 per year since 2005, although published pages and articles are at an all-time high. It is not clear if color charges are related to the decline in submissions. Most journals have improved the time needed to reach initial review decisions, which has been a priority within the Commission. President-elect Dabberdt has asked STAC and the Publications Commission to look at impacts of establishing an online compendium of meteorology.

3.2.1 New Journal Covering Policy and Societal Impacts

President Anthes reported that a potential chief editor candidate for the proposed policy journal who would be speaking at the Editors' dinner. President Anthes said the Executive Committee is favorably inclined to move forward with the new journal but wants to see a more detailed business plan and time line to financial self-sufficiency. It was the "sense of the Council" to recommend going forward with the journal and development of a business plan, but official approval was not given at this time.

3.3 Professional Affairs Commission Report

Commissioner Toohey-Morales reported on three short courses at the 2008 annual meeting, a mentoring program, the continued growth of the CBM program, and an essay to broadcasters published in the August 2007 *Bulletin.* He reported that CCM program is dealing with the most applications submitted since 1989/90. Given this positive development, the Council unanimously approved a CCM board request for two additional new members to grade examinations and do oral reviews. Commissioner Toohey-Morales reported that the continued professional development activity and other procedural changes are all running smoothly.

3.4 Education & Human Resources Commission Report

Commissioner Winkler distributed an updated annual report and the latest revised draft of the strategic plan that is being developed by the Commission. Priorities have been added to the

strategic plan since September. The Commission will begin to implement some of the strategic plan in conjunction with President-elect Dabberdt's planned initiatives. Incoming Commissioner Serafin expressed a desire that there be interaction with the Planning Commission's education-related efforts.

3.5 Planning Commission Report

Incoming Commissioner Serafin gave the report on behalf of Commissioner McVehil, who could not attend the meeting. Priorities are to complete the existing education report and recommendations, and to report to the Executive Committee on the "balance" issue by April. Ethics in publications was also discussed, with topics including the extent to which data, algorithms, and related materials should be made available. It was mentioned that the social sciences community has developed ethics guidelines that might prove instructive and that section 12 of the AMS Constitution includes relevant language.

3.6 Weather and Climate Enterprise Commission Report

Commissioner Frederick summarized the written report and activities of the Commission. The Commission Steering Committee had met the previous day and discussed a number of Commission initiatives. The Council unanimously approved Shaun McGrath as a new member of the Steering Committee. Following a request by Commissioner Frederick for Council input, there was a discussion about the AMS Policy Statement on National Weather and Climate Priorities. President Anthes reported on the Executive Committee discussion of the previous day and its recommended changes. A number of other suggestions were made, and Commissioner Frederick said these would be passed back to the drafting committee.

4.0 Lecturers

The Council unanimously approved Joseph Pedlosky as the next Haurwitz Lecturer and Soroosh Sorooshian as the next Walter Orr Roberts Lecturer.

5.0 Constitution and Bylaw Changes

The proposed changes to the AMS Constitution involving meetings and electronic mail ballots were overwhelmingly approved by the AMS membership (95% in favor). Changes to the Bylaws are now needed to provide consistency with the Constitution and to be in conformity with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Council unanimously passed the bylaw changes as presented.

6.0 Requirements for AMS membership

Executive Director Seitter asked that the Council first approve the draft Interpretive Memorandum on AMS Membership to provide clear guidance on membership criteria and then consider working toward amending the Constitution to make it more concise. Clear Constitutional language would then replace the need for an Interpretive Memorandum. Commissioner Toohey-Morales pointed out that the CCM qualifications refer to AMS membership, so that wording will need to be changed as soon as possible after Council action.

Council unanimously approved the Interpretive Memorandum after making some edits to the text.

At this point, President Anthes left the meeting to open the WeatherFest and President-Elect Dabberdt took over the Chair.

7.1 Statement Guidelines

Edits were made to the proposed revised "Guidelines for Statements of the American Meteorological Society" before the Council unanimously approved the edited document.

7.2 Community Priorities

This Statement was discussed by Council earlier as part of Tab 3.6.

7.3 Transition Document

This document was not ready for presentation. It was noted that it must be consistent with the priorities Statement, so the discussion of that Statement will provide input to this document.

At this point, President Anthes returned to the Chair.

7.4 Status of Other Statements

A draft of the Space Weather Statement was presented, and President Anthes reported on changes recommended by the Executive Committee before the Statement is posted for public comment. The Council offered further suggestions. The Council unanimously approved posting the draft Space Weather Statement, with the changes discussed, for the 30-day public comment period.

8.0 Strategic Goals

President Anthes summarized the Executive Committee discussion about the need for a process to periodically review, and if necessary, revise the strategic goals, and a proposed schedule for doing so that would result in a revised set of goals every 3 years. The Council agreed with this approach.

9.0 External Review Update

Executive Director Seitter summarized the work being done to implement the external review recommendations. There was a discussion about approaching foundations for funding of new and existing initiatives, and Executive Director Seitter discussed ways to improve chances of success in that effort.

10.0 2007 Budget Update

The Council was informed that the 2007 budget year is expected to close very near to breaking even despite opening with a significant loss at the San Antonio annual meeting resulting from the severe and widespread ice storm. The publications budget had a surplus because of the record number of printed pages, which should help cover deficits in other areas of the budget.

11.0 Honorary Members

The Council was reminded that this year's Honorary Members are Tiruvalam N. Krishnamurti and Alfred K. Blackadar. President Anthes solicited nominations for next year.

12.0 External Funding

Executive Director Seitter reported on 21st Century Campaign/and other development efforts, which have been very successful and continue to support a large number of scholarships and fellowships for students. Executive Director Seitter reported that two additional companies have joined the Corporate Patron program, bringing the total number to five. The Council suggested some additional corporations that might be approached for Patron support.

13.0 Committees of the Executive Committee

Reports of the Investments and the Local Chapter Affairs Committees were provided to the Council with no additional discussion.

14.0 Meetings

The Council was provided a report on current and future annual and specialty meetings.

15.0 Status Reports

The Council was provided written reports on Publications, K-13 Education Initiatives, Membership, Public Outreach, Policy Program, and Public Awareness. There were only a few minor comments about these status reports. Executive Director Seitter reported that several applications have been received for the director of the Education Program, and a decision will be made soon. Dr. Hooke asked for help in promoting participation in the Summer Policy Colloquium.

After thanking everyone for a good year and suggesting that unwanted Council packets be left with AMS for recycling, President Anthes adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.