AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the 21 May 2024
Council of the AMS

Participants--- President Anjuli Bamzai, President-Elect Dave Stensrud, Past-Presidents Brad Colman and Rich Clark, **Councilors**: Kristen Averyt, Kandis Boyd, Rebecca DePodwin, Gina Eosco, Rong Fu, Michelle Mainelli, Cliff Mass, Andrew Humphrey, and Eri Coughlan de Perez (Note: Councilors Cynthia Atherton—*departed from the Council on 27 March 2024,* DaNa Carlis, Rachel Hauser, Bill Kuo, and Bernadette Woods Placky were unable to attend.) **Executive Director** Stella Kafka and **Secretary-Treasurer** Bruce Telfeyan, **Commissioners**: Tony Broccoli, Kristie Franz, Kevin Kloesel, Mike Augustyniak, Erica Cei, Justin Pullin, Kim Klockow, and Melissa Burt, **Student Observers**: Dillon Blount and Matthew Hamel, **AMS Staff**: S. Armstrong, B. Farley, C. Gorski, P. Higgins, J. Ives, A. Mancinelli, B. Mardirosian, B. Papa, A. Price, K. Putsavage, K. Savoie, and G. Whittaker**, Visitors**: Robert McLaughlin (AMS Legal Counsel)

Minutes Recorded by: Bruce Telfeyan
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. Roll Call, Call to Order, and Quorum Check

President Anjuli Bamzai called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm EDT on 27 March 2024. Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Telfeyan called the roll, confirmed the presence of a quorum, and noted that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Second Vote (confirming e-votes) and Consent Agenda Approval

A motion was made and seconded to formally reaffirm all non-unanimous decisions made by e-mail ballot during February and March. Following a brief discussion the motion was approved. Past-President Colman raised a question of why the Council also voted to affirm unanimous decisions by e-mail ballot in as much as the Constitution does not require this. Legal Counsel McLaughlin noted that in today's world with enhanced communications and remote meetings, it is broadly accepted that electronic ballots are sufficient from a legal standpoint. He also noted that, at the same time, the Council can certainly choose to reaffirm a unanimous electronic ballot.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

ED Kafka introduced the Consent Agenda for consideration by the Council. This consisted of the following items:

a. Revised Charter of the International Affairs Committee
b. An informational report on possible improvements to the AMS Awards and Honors processes
c. AMS Education Program Strategic Future
d. Committee on Ethics memo and report
    - Approve the revised Code of Conduct and Associated Procedures for a 30-day member comment period.
    - Concur with Ms. Friedrichs appointment to the Committee on Ethics.
e. AMS Nominating Committee, Preliminary Report to the Council

A motion was brought forward and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. Following discussion, the motion was approved without dissent.

4. Approval of March Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was put forward and seconded to approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 27 March 2024. Past President Colman brought up a minor correction in the fourth paragraph which was agreed to by unanimous consent. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Snapshot on Governance

ED Kafka provided an overview of the governance of the AMS. This report included the following areas of note:

- Governance System Entities
- Governance Structure Organizational Chart
- Financial Committees

The presentation was warmly received by the Council and staff members with no questions. President Bamzai thanked the ED for the in-depth information.

6. Finance Items

a. 45 Beacon Street Driveway Easement:

AED Stephanie Armstrong provided an overview of the driveway offer from our neighboring property at 46 Beacon Street. AMS Legal Counsel Robert McLaughlin presented the general terms offered by our neighbors who would like to have access to our driveway for access to several parking spots and improved access to their building. He asked for authorization from the Council to enter into negotiations with the owners of 46 Beacon Street. A motion to provide the requested authorization was brought forward, seconded, and adopted without dissent.

b. 2024 Financial and Budget Update:

CFO Andrea Mancinelli provided the 2024 budget forecast summary.

- Overall, the 2024 net income forecast is favorable to budget by $162K and net operating income is favorable by $172K

- Direct contribution margin has improved by $282K from the existing budget authorization

- Net Income for Q1 of 2024 was $2.5M, a favorable variance of $1.4M compared to budget

-- Favorable variances partially due to the successful Annual Meeting as noted above

-- Approx. $500K of the favorable variance is related to Annual Meeting vendor bills not finalized by vendors in time to include in Q1 financials; these will be booked in Q2.

-- Investments performed very well in Q1 resulting in $700K of income.

President Bamzai thanked the CFO for the thorough report.

7. Process for 2024 AMS Annual Elections

At the request of President Bamzai, S-T Telfeyan disconnected from the meeting for this discussion. The report of the Nominating Committee was reviewed and thoroughly discussed. The recommendations of the Committee were thoroughly deliberated. The Council appointed Becky DePodwin as being in charge of overseeing the election process for 2024. President Bamzai noted sincere thanks to Committee Chair Sonia Kreidenweis, Vice-Chair Bradford Johnson, and the entire Committee for their extensive efforts over the past five months.

8. Education Department Updates

AMS Education Director Aaron Price presented the department update. He emphasized the goal of having the department be financially independent within a few years while also making the materials more accessible to those who cannot afford them. He noted that the AMS Education Department, established in 1991, is highly respected among teachers,

professors, and within the meteorological community. However, the evolving educational landscape and funding climate present substantial challenges. He covered the following areas:

- Increase Revenue by Adopting Open-Access Textbook Distribution
- Re-Orient Teacher Professional Development
- Diversify Our Programming (expanding beyond teachers to a more direct focus on students, informal educators, and the general public).

President Bamzai conveyed the thanks of the Council to Aaron and his staff.

9. Proposal on Community Engagement

Councilor Cliff Mass proposed the creation of an "AMS Weather Community" to better engage the large and growing weather enthusiast community. The key elements would be:

- Dividing the US into regional AMS communities with online interactions and discussions about local/regional weather
- Providing some national content on major weather events and topics like climate change
- Generating revenue through membership fees, advertising, and monetizing the regional content
- Leveraging existing AMS members and local chapters to help build and moderate the regional communities

The council was supportive of the idea and provided full agreement for Cliff to form a team to develop a more detailed proposal for a pilot community engagement.

10. Governance Updates

Each of the groups provided updates of their respective efforts:

- Group 1: Council (Cliff Mass, Gina Eosco, Rachel Hauser)
- Group 2: Executive Committee (Becky DePodwin, Kandis Boyd, Kristen Averyt)
- Group 3: Standing Committees (Bernadette Woods Placky, Cindy Atherton, Erin Coughlan de Perez)
- Group 4: Culture and Inclusion Cabinet (Andrew Humphrey, Mona Behl, Rong Fu)
- Group 5: Commissions (Bill Kuo, DaNa Carlis, Michelle Mainelli)

Broad discussion ensued on pairing of first-year Council members with third year members to help ease the transition to serving on the Council. President Bamzai acknowledged that these are time-consuming activities and expressed thanks to Michelle, Mona, and DaNa for their extensive efforts.

11. Open Mic Matters and Adjournment

a. Commissioner Erica Cei raised issues regarding statement drafting teams and the Council Liaisons. The statements involved were:

- Best Practices for Preparing Students for Private Sector Employment (Council Liaison – Becky DePodwin)
- Best Practices for Flood Elevations (Council Liaison – TBD)

S-T Telfeyan clarified the important role of the Council Liaison to the drafting team and emphasized that the Liaison is a full member of the drafting team.

b. President Bamzai thanked all members for their attentiveness and support in carrying out this meeting. She expressed special thanks to Kristen Averyt and Cynthia Atherton with their departures from the Council. Several other members joined in voicing thanks to Kristen and Cynthia.

c. Separately, a motion was brought forward and seconded to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in executive session without staff members or the Commissioners (but including the ED and S-T). The motion was approved without dissent and the meeting adjourned into the executive session at 5:40 pm EDT.