AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the Council of the AMS via Zoom
September 25, 2024

Participants--- President Anjuli Bamzai, President-Elect Dave Stensrud Past-Presidents Brad Colman and Rich Clark, **Councilors**: Kandis Boyd, Dana Carlis, Rebecca DePodwin, Gina Eosco, Rong Fu, Rachel Hauser, Bill Kuo, Cliff Mass, and Erin Coughlan de Perez, **Council Members Absent:** Mona Behl, Andrew Humphrey, Michelle Mainelli, and Rong Fu, **Executive Director** Stella Kafka and **Secretary-Treasurer** Bruce Telfeyan, **Commissioners**: Tony Broccoli, Kristie Franz, Heidi Centola, Erica Cei, Jennifer Henderson, Justin Pullin, and **CIC Chair** Melissa Burt, **Student Observer**: Dillon Blount, **AMS Staff**: A. Price, S. Armstrong, B. Farley, C. Gorski, P. Higgins, J. Ives, A. Mancinelli, B. Mardirosian, B. Papa, K. Putsavage, K. Savoie, and G. Whittaker**, Finance Committee Chair** Rich Spaulding, **Investment Committee Chair** Paul Try, **Auditors from Tonneson & Co** John Harradon and Mike Sullivan

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. Call to Order and Quorum Check

President Anjuli Bamzai called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM EDT on 25 September 2024. Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Telfeyan called the roll, confirmed the presence of a quorum with thirteen voting members in attendance. He noted that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was put forward, seconded, and adopted to formally approve the minutes of the Council meeting on Aug 8 – 9, 2024.

3. Auditor's Report

Mike Sullivan of Tonneson & Co provided a thorough summary of the Audit of the AMS. He noted that there were no discrepancies worthy of note and praised the work of CFO Andrea Mancinelli and staff. He reported their finding of a mortgage interest error in our favor that the mortgage bank acknowledged and promptly corrected. Tonneson President John Harradon thanked the AMS for our hospitality and thorough cooperation with their team. A motion was brought forward and seconded to accept the draft audit report and approved without dissent. President Bamzai thanked the Tonneson team for their cooperative efforts with our staff.

4. Finance Committee Report

Chair Rich Spaulding provided a report of the Finance Committee activities and review of past budget performance and future expenses and projected income. The Committee will have a meeting in New Orleans in January.

5. Investment Committee Report

Chair Paul Try reviewed our investments and our philosophy for managing them. This review included the restricted and unrestricted funds. He noted that at this time there was only a very minor adjustment to our portfolio ratio of equity holdings to bonds. President Bamzai thanked Rich, Paul, and the committees for their thorough work for the Society.

6. Early Career Leadership Academy (ECLA)

Erica Cei and Katy Putsavage gave a thorough report of the activities and future efforts of the ECLA. They reviewed the efforts and programs to build and sustain a diverse network of

early career leaders in weather, water, and climate science. They noted that over the most recent six years, 130 ECLA graduates have filled over 190 volunteer positions across AMS boards and committees. A majority of the program's graduates took on their first leadership role after program completion. In terms of the ECLA budget, co-location with another meeting is likely to be too costly. The staff is exploring the possibility of Boulder, CO and Boston AMS Headquarters as other low-cost options. There is a budget shortfall for the program with $35K in the budget for FY 2025. There are efforts to try to support participant travel through grants and sponsorships.

7. Budget Overview and Discussion for FY 2025

CFO Andrea Mancinelli gave a thorough update on the FY 2025 budget.

a. The focus of the budget goals was on strengthening the AMS brand, especially for publications. Additionally, efforts continue to reduce expenses where excessive costs are identified, perhaps reviewing and modifying some priorities, and exploring possibilities of investing in different areas of emphasis for Society programs. She noted expense management/reductions as follows:

- Publications review of vendor partnerships initiated in 2024 with positive budgetary impact to be realized in 2026.
- Education agreement with PennWest to save a minimum of $40K in 2025 and an additional $40K in 2026
- Possible sale of 44 Beacon Street with a real estate broker set for selection by the end of October 2024 and a subsequent recommendation to place the property on the market by February 2025.
- Research to determine if there are options to reduce the cost of the Washington DC office lease which runs through March 2027

b. A discussion followed on the modification of BAMS with the key matter being whether the print version should be continued. A motion was brought forward and seconded to transition to a monthly pdf version of BAMS with a termination of the print version. Following an in-depth discussion, the motion was approved without dissent.

c. After settling this matter, a motion was brought forward and seconded to approve the proposed budget for FY 2025. The subsequent discussion on the budget brought forward the plan that the AMS staff would provide five-year forecasts of the budget with differing scenarios. The scenarios would be evaluated in an effort to achieve a balanced budget. Following lengthy and productive discussion, the AMS budget was approved without dissent.

8. Financial Policy Updates

Due to time constraints, this discussion on policy was postponed until the next Council meeting.

9. Awards Oversight Committee Recommendations

This review and discussion of AOC recommendations was put on hold until the November Council meeting.

10. Update on Selection of the Fifth Councilor

President Bamzai provided an update on her recommendations. Final action to select the Fifth Councilor will take place at the November Council meeting.

11. Other Business

a. S-T Telfeyan noted that sufficient time had passed since DaNa Carlis had proposed amending the Bylaws to remove Article V, Paragraph 5i, pertaining to the existence of the Committee on Public Policy (COMPUP). A motion was brought forward and seconded to

remove the subject paragraph. The motion was voted upon and unanimously approved.

b. S-T Telfeyan provided an update on the amended Constitution and noted that he was set to publish the newly approved version the following morning (September 26, 2024). He pointed out that when this occurs, his office (Secretary-Treasurer of the AMS) will cease to exist. He expressed his willingness to serve as both the Secretary and the Treasurer of the AMS (the newly separated offices) for the remainder of 2024 and until the Annual Business meeting in New Orleans in January 2025. He noted that the Society clearly needs someone to fill the positions until permanent appointments can be settled upon. A motion was brought forward and seconded to confirm the interim appointments. After brief discussion, the motion was quickly approved with expressions of thanks by Council members.

12. Adjournment

President Bamzai expressed thanks to all participants and guests for their hard work. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The Council voted to adjourn the meeting without dissent at 5:50 PM EDT.