AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the 3 May 2023
Meeting of the Council of the AMS via Zoom

Participants--- President Brad Colman, President-Elect Anjuli Bamzai, Past-Presidents Rich Clark and Mike Farrar; **Councilors;** Joan Alexander, Kristen Averyt, Mona Behl, Kandis Boyd, DaNa Carlis, Shuyi Chen, Erin Coughlan de Perez, Mark DeMaria, Rebecca DePodwin, Rong Fu, Rachel Hauser, Mike Henry, Andrea Lang, Michelle Mainelli, and Bernadette Woods Placky; Executive Director Stella Kafka and Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Telfeyan; **Commissioners;** Tony Broccoli, Lis Cohen, Sue Ellen Haupt, Mike Augustyniak, Eric Cei, Susan Jasko, and Melissa Burt; **Student Representative:** Aaron Alexander; **AMS Staff;** S. Armstrong, B. Farley, C. Gorski, P. Higgins, A. Mancinelli, J. Ives, B. Mardirosian, B. Papa, K Putsavage, K. Savoie, and G. Whittaker; **Visitor;** Marla Bobowick (self-assessment advisor)

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 Colman called the meeting to order at 12:07 EDT on 3 May 2023. Secretary-Treasurer Telfeyan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum and informed the participants that the meeting was being recorded. President Colman reviewed the meeting agenda (and the most recent updates) and highlighted key areas of note for the meeting. He also acknowledged the recent outage of the AMS website and related issues of concern.

2. Ransomware Attack on AMS Servers

Brian Mardirosian provided a thorough update on the attack and efforts to restore the AMS website and the AMS Community page. He addressed many questions about the vicious attack and the extraordinary efforts of our staff members to address concerns and help return to a normal footing. Council members expressed profound appreciation for the hard work in this difficult situation.

3. Council Self-Assessment

ED Kafka introduced the topic stressing the importance of this effort of assessment and reflection. She reviewed her many accomplishments since joining AMS in January 2022. She introduced Marla Bobowick, a consultant who specializes in nonprofit management and leadership, and has vast experience with board governance, strategy, research, and publishing. Marla stressed the importance and benefits of the upcoming Council self-assessment.

4. Consent Agenda

Discussion opened up with comments about how the consent agenda process was working as a new mechanism for our meetings. There was broad agreement that the process was functioning nicely and allowing routine items to be addressed quickly. Erin suggested that we employ e-mail prompts via the Community to encourage discussion of the various items in the agenda prior to the Council meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda and approved unanimously.

5. Approval of January Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the January Council meeting in Denver and approved without dissent. President Colman provided an overview of the new guidelines for the Council minutes. There were no comments or concerns.

5. Equity Assessment

Melissa Burt and Katy Putsavage provided on update on recent progress with the AMS equity assessment. They also gave a complete review of upcoming events and encouraged all Councilors to share their valued input with the CIC members.

6. Staff Hires

ED Kafka provided an update on new hires to the AMS staff and ongoing efforts in this regard. Several long-term staff members have retired and intensive efforts are ongoing to hire successors. This included a new Director of Education and a Grants Manager for the Society. Council members voiced their appreciation for the thorough efforts of the AMS staff.

7. AMS's Climate Science and Services Strategic Initiative Update

President-Elect Colman provided an update on the efforts of his task force and the envisioned key activities for his strategic plan. These efforts will form a solid foundation for AMS activities at the 2024 Annual Meeting. AED Paul Higgins provided a game plan for a framework for this effort. President Colman provided information about collaborative efforts with the Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP). Several ideas were brought forward of including a diversity of groups so as to reach out to for fresh ideas and innovation. These groups included early career professionals and students.

8. Summer Council Retreat

Plans for the Summer Council Retreat were presented. This will occur from 18 – 20 July in Boston. It will include three parts: a Council Self-Assessment, a working lunch with a focus on Emergency Risk Management, and strategic planning. The strategic planning will involve the formation of an ad hoc team, probably led by the Planning Commission with Council members encouraged to participate. This team will plan how to conduct the retreat and what approach to follow. We may choose to bring in outside consultants or opt to use our own resources. Several Council members volunteered to join in helping to shape the effort.

9. Roles of Volunteers in the AMS

ED Kafka initiated the discussion with an overview of the important roles that volunteers play in making the Society function meaningfully and effectively. She stressed the importance of the interactions and collaboration between volunteers and staff members. She introduced the idea of separating the S-T position into separate roles of Corporate Secretary and Treasurer. S-T Telfeyan presented his position that the position functions effectively as it is currently constituted. Various Council members provided diverse perspectives on this proposal. There was some agreement that this matter would be a matter of further discussion at the July Council meeting.

10. Rapid Response Proposal for AMS Statements

This was an initial discussion on how to posture the Society to respond quickly with new or revised statements or other formal positions that AMS may take. There was broad acknowledgement that in the fast-paced societal developments that we experience, we need to be able to adapt and react quickly. This will be the focus of further discussion at the July meeting.

11. **Closing**

President Colman thanked the Council and AMS staff for joining together and contributing to achieve an extremely productive Council meeting. The next Council meeting will take place in Boston the week of July 17th. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm EDT.