

AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the Council of the AMS, Washington DC and Zoom
August 8th and 9th 2024

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, Rachel Hauser, Bill Kuo, Michelle Mainelli, Cliff Mass, Erin Coughlan de Perez, and Bernadette Woods Placky **Council Members Absent**: Rong Fu and Andrew Humphrey **Executive Director** Stella Kafka and **Secretary-Treasurer** Bruce Telfeyan, **Commissioners**: Tony Broccoli, Kristie Franz, Mike Augustyniak, Erica Cei, Kristi Franz, Jennifer Henderson, Justin Pullin, Kim Klockow, and **CIC Chair** Melissa Burt **Student Observer**: Dillon Blount, **AMS Staff**: A. Price, S. Armstrong, B. Farley, M. Fernau, C. Gorski, J. Hanley, P. Higgins, J. Ives, A. Mancinelli, B. Mardirosian, B. Papa, K. Putsavage, K. Savoie, and G. Whittaker, **AMS Legal Counsel** Robert McLaughlin, **Visitor**: Art Coleman.

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 8:32 AM EDT on 8 August 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 on E-Votes and Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to formally adopt and approve all non-unanimous decisions made by e-mail ballot since the May Council meeting. Following a brief discussion the motion was unanimously approved. A motion was brought forward and seconded to approve the consent agenda. After brief discussion, the motion was adopted without opposition.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was put forward, seconded, and adopted to formally approve the minutes of the Council meeting on May 21, 2024.

4. Snapshot on Governance

ED Stella Kafka provided a thorough review of the snapshot on governance and addressed several questions from Council members.

5. Discussion on Finances

a. CFO Andrea Mancinelli provided an overview of the AMS's financial position, including revenue, expenses, and net income. She highlighted that publications and meetings are the main revenue drivers, while expenses have been reduced through process improvements. The council discussed the need for more transparent and timely financial reporting.

b. AED Brian Papa presented KPIs and trends for membership, BAMS peer review, career development, and community engagement. Key points he noted included slow but steady growth in membership, strong BAMS peer review submissions, and increasing social media and website engagement. Brian also provided an update on the AMS publications program, including the financial performance, trends in submissions and accepted articles, and

subscription revenue. He outlined plans to invest in marketing, develop more read and publish agreements, and strengthen internal processes and staffing.

c. Brian also presented the financial details for the BAMS magazine and peer review content, noting that the magazine is a significant cost center while the peer review content remains profitable. The council discussed options for restructuring or potentially sunseting the magazine.

d. Director of Meetings Jen Ives presented an update on the financial performance of meetings, including the Annual Meeting, Specialty meetings, and the performance of our hybrid approach to meetings.

6. Governance Recommendations and Next Steps

a. The recommendation that the CIC be placed alongside the Council was discussed. S-T Telfeyan noted that Article VII, paragraph 1 of the Constitution vests “the corporate powers of the Society” entirely in the Council which serves as the governing body of the Society. He pointed out that no other body can share the position of the elected Council. AMS Legal Counsel fully concurred with this assessment and the proposal was withdrawn.

b. Numerous governance recommendations were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Committee on Public Policy (COMPUP). The motion was approved. S-T Telfeyan noted that an amendment to the Bylaws will be needed to remove Article V, Paragraph 5I which stipulates the existence of the COMPUP. Councilor Carlis gave notice of this required amendment with the intent for the Council to vote to remove the subject article from the Bylaws at the September meeting.

c. There was discussion on a proposed new Committee of the Council to focus on AMS Positions and Statements (with the formal name of “Committee on AMS Positions and Statements”). A motion was brought forward and seconded to approve the committee for a trial period not to exceed the end of CY 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. The other suggestions regarding governance were discussed and tabled for future review and consideration as may be appropriate.

7. Equity Assessment Outcomes

Melissa Burt and Katy Putsavage provided a thorough review of the insights gained from the Equity Assessment. They led open discussions of future endeavors on behalf of the Society. Additionally, they provided an update on the equity and inclusion assessment. This included plans to collaborate with commissions and councils to inventory current DEI activities and develop goals, actions, and metrics to advance DEI efforts across the society.

8. Fifth Councilor Discussion

a. President Bamzai led the discussion of the process to select the Fifth Councilor. She requests that Council members send Becky DePodwin (cc Anjuli) with any sector recommendations and specific suggested names by 7 September. This would be followed by the EC sending the Council suggested names for an e-vote by early October.

b. Approval by the Council would be targeted for the third week of October so that the Fifth Councilor could be announced in concert with the results of the annual election. She noted that the Fifth Councilor should bring fresh insights into AMS thinking. She promoted the idea that perhaps an emerging sector that is not well-represented on current Council and/or AMS community should be considered.

c. She noted that we need to include Philanthropy/Foundation as sectors to include and noted that Cyndi Atherton stepped down earlier this year. Replacement from this sector is President Bamzai’s personal preference.

d. She also noted that with the departure of Kristen Averyt and Cyndi Atherton from Council, as per our Bylaws, Cyndi's slot will be filled by the candidate getting the next largest number of votes in the fall elections and will serve out the remaining two years of Cyndi's term.

9. Partnership Opportunities

President Bamzai led the discussion and identified the goal of broadening our sponsorship base. She reviewed the sectors of our partners: Corporate and Institutional Members, Sponsors, Corporate Patrons, and Underwriters. She reviewed corporate sponsorship that provides necessary funding to execute programs that support the AMS mission. Examples include:

- Meetings
- Fellowships and Scholarships
- DEI Initiatives
- Policy Program
- K-12 Education

She noted that corporate sponsorship for 2023 encompassed forty-four Corporate Sponsors bringing in \$450,000 in support of programs and initiatives

Her perspective on corporate sponsorship included the following with recommendations included:

- AMS membership comprises all three sectors (academic, government, private)
- Unrestricted funds sponsors provide enable AMS attain mission goals
- Sponsorship is a vital component of AMS efforts

When we receive sponsorship offers, she feels that our default response should be:

- When there are no allegations of impropriety or other ethical concerns: Accept, acknowledge, and convey appreciation for sponsor support
- Furthermore, we should Flag or include a notation if funds are restricted and have the Council and/or Staff check for potential conflicts; then accept if all is clear, and convey appreciation for sponsor support
- Finally, we should decline if there are any criminal allegations.

10. Break for Executive Session

There was a motion to interrupt the Council Meeting for an Executive Session. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

11. Navigating the New Legal Landscape Affecting DEI

The Executive Session ended, and the Council resumed with a warm welcome to Prof Art Coleman, Founder Partner of Education Counsel: Policy, Strategy, Law, Advocacy. He provided his perspective of the new landscape for affirmative action efforts and initiatives in the wake of the June 2023 US Supreme Court ruling on the matter. In his presentation, he made it clear that he rated the majority ruling to be not well reasoned as he rated it a "D+." He proceeded to cover the following areas of interest:

- a. The New Legal Landscape
 - The SFFA decision: the ruling, takeaways and implications for enrollment
 - State law trends: historical and current developments
 - Policy development baselines
- b. The Path Ahead
 - Navigating mission and legal risk
 - Focus on narrative and policy design
 - Policy development baselines
- c. Conversation and Questions

Following discussion, several questions, and Prof Coleman's responses and insights, President Bamzai expressed the thanks of the Council for his presentation and insights.

12. AMS Climate Science and Services

a. Past President Brad Colman led the wide-ranging discussion on a vision for climate science and services. He opened the topic by sharing that our Policy Program has been developing a strategic framework to advance and enable the climate enterprise, building on the success of the weather enterprise. This aligns with calls from the ocean and climate communities to do for climate what AMS has done for weather - bringing together the public, private, academic, and NGO sectors. The climate enterprise initiative is funded by a 5-year grant from NASA.

b. The policy program has been developing a strategic framework to advance and enable the climate enterprise, building on the success of the weather enterprise. This aligns with calls from the ocean and climate communities to do for climate what AMS has done for weather - bringing together the public, private, academic, and NGO sectors. The climate enterprise initiative is funded by a 5-year grant from NASA.

c. Brad noted that the AMS currently offers the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) program, which has 237 active members. His team is exploring options to modify or expand this program, such as adding climate-focused specializations or creating a separate Certified Consulting Climatologist program. Alternatively, AMS could develop a certificate program focused on climate science and services, which could appeal to a broader audience beyond just consultants.

d. The Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP) recently launched a Sustainability and Climate Risk Certificate program. The team is exploring potential collaboration opportunities, such as jointly offering a certification or having GARP provide discounts to AMS members for their program.

e. In closing, Brad emphasized that the team will continue to explore the various certification and training program options, focusing on developing a business plan and financial analysis to determine the feasibility and sustainability of each approach. They will present more detailed proposals at the September council meeting.

13. Looking Ahead: Annual Meeting 2026

President-Elect Dave Stensrud gave an overview of his thoughts for the 2026 Annual Meeting set for Houston, TX, with framework of "Thinking Fast and Slow." His draft theme title emphasized the human factor. He shared information on the two distinct systems of thinking found in social science research:

- Our default mode, which is characterized as Fast and Intuitive, and
- An alternative mode which is slower and deliberative, perhaps more logical in nature.

He would like to share this research with our community, as it impacts how we approach decisions, and expand efforts in providing professional development opportunities. His overview was well received by the Council, and many provided suggestions for the theme title. Dave will provide updates of his efforts with the organizing committee in the coming months and the final title.

14. Weather Band 2 Update

Council member Cliff Mass gave a thorough update on efforts to launch his Weather Band 2 proposal. He noted that the AMS must develop a strong relationship with the lay weather community for many reasons. These included the financial health of the Society, the importance of encouraging the diversity of our membership, and our efforts to inform and educate the general population. He advocated that AMS create a new online entity entitled "WeatherCommunities" "or WeatherBand2." His proposal envisioned:

- **A hybrid model:** centered on local interactions but includes national content/interactions.
- **Monetization:** advertising and fees for enhanced capabilities.

There was broad discussion with numerous challenges highlighted as well as opportunities to reach out to weather enthusiasts. AED Papa noted that before financial commitments are made, Council will need to assess the risks and opportunities associated with this endeavor and decide what we might stop funding to pay for the new program.

15. Open Microphone

a. As noted in paragraph 6b of these minutes, S-T Telfeyan noted that an amendment to the Bylaws will be needed to remove Article V, Paragraph 5I which stipulates the existence of the COMPUP. Councilor Carlis gave notice of the need for the amendment to the Bylaws so that it can be formally enacted at the September Council meeting.

b. Funding issues and concerns for the Early Career Leadership Academy were discussed. There was broad agreement that we need to develop creative funding solutions in order to sustain ECLA. Many of those present noted that this is a case-in-point of the need to plan ahead with a view on securing necessary funds to continue beneficial programs.

16. Adjournment

President Bamzai expressed thanks to all participants and guests for their hard work for the entire week and noted the great efforts and support from the AIP hosts and the AMS staff members. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The Council voted to adjourn the meeting without dissent at 2:08 PM EDT on August 9th.