

AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the 22 January 2017
Meeting of the Council
Seattle, WA

Participants — President Frederick Carr, President-Elect Matthew J. Parker, Past-Presidents William Gail and Alexander MacDonald, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen, and Executive Director Keith Seitter. *Councilors*: Wendy Abshire, Phil Ardanuy, Andrea Bleistein, Carol Anne Clayson, William Easterling, Sue Ellen Haupt, Susan Jasko, James Kinter, Dennis Lettenmaier, Michael Morgan, Kevin Petty, Nicole Riemer, and Alan Sealls. [Councilors Cullen and Furgione were absent.] *Commissioners*: Wendy Abshire (Planning), William Mahoney (Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise), Robert Rauber (Publications), Raj Pandya (Education and Human Resources), Dave Stensrud (STAC), and Maureen McCann (Professional Affairs). *Incoming President-Elect, Councilors, and Commissioners*: Roger Wakimoto, Elizabeth Austin, Donna Charlevoix, John Cortinas, Pam Emch, Gene Fisher, Tanja Fransen, Dave Gochis, Adam Sobel, and Bruce Telfeyan. *AMS Staff*: Joyce Annese, Stephanie Armstrong, Joe Boyd, Tom Champoux, Lee Gordon, Claudia Gorski, Paul Higgins, William Hooke, Jeff Rosenfeld, and Melissa Weston. Annese and Seitter served as recorders.

[The numbering of the following sections follows that in the agenda, but the sections are listed in the order they were addressed at the meeting.]

0.0 Agenda

A quorum being present, President Carr called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and welcomed all. President Carr took this opportunity to welcome the new President-Elect and Councilors and reviewed the agenda.

5.0 100th Anniversary Campaign

Campaign Chair Susan Avery led the discussion regarding the campaign and informed the Council that \$3.4 million has been raised or pledged thus far. The campaign's consultants, Bruce Bigelow and Carol Kolmerton, reviewed the various ways of giving to support the Society.

1.3 Minutes of the Council Meeting

Council reviewed and approved the minutes from its meeting on 22–23 September 2016 along with the minutes of the 10 November and 28 November 2016 teleconference calls.

1.5 Consent Items on Council Mail Ballots

All Council e-mail ballots not previously approved unanimously were formally approved, and ballots that were “provisionally approved” were formally approved.

2.0 New President-Elect and Councilors

President Carr introduced the new members of the Council and noted he is looking forward to working with them over the next few years.

2.1 Ballot Structure and Guidance to Nominating Committee

President-Elect Parker reviewed the format used for the most recent ballot which was designed to improve sector representation on the Council. Council voted to continue using the same ballot structure this year. It asked the Nominating Committee to provide any recommendations for possible changes to next year's ballot in its report to the Executive Committee (EC).

2.2 Should Student Members be Allowed to Vote

Council discussed whether students should have the right to vote, but did not reach a clear consensus on the issue. It did agree that student representation on the Council should be explored, just as it has encouraged student members serving on all boards and committees. Council showed interest in a new approach by the Association of American Geographers to include a student representative on its Council that is elected by student members. Council asked the Planning Commission to explore this approach and make recommendations.

3.4 Education & Human Resources

Commissioner Pandya recommended a cross-Commission task force be organized to work with the Membership Committee on ways to retain members when they transition from student member to full member. Councilor Fransen volunteered to be the Council liaison for this task force. Commissioner Pandya also suggested we examine teachers' place in the Society and address the issues that impede their involvement. Commissioner Pandya thanked staff for their help and introduced incoming Commissioner Donna Charlevoix. Council acknowledged Raj for his contributions as commissioner.

3.1 STAC

Commissioner Stensrud reviewed his report and introduced next Commissioner Telfeyan and Future Commissioner Fisher. Council acknowledged Dave for his work on the Scientific and Technological Activities Commission, which has over 400 volunteers under its purview.

3.2 Publications

Commissioner Rauber reported on Commission activities, highlighting the improvements in review and production times that have occurred over the past few years.

3.3 Professional Affairs

Commissioner McCann reviewed her report. President-Elect Parker reviewed the EC's suggestion to revise the proposed terms of reference for the Board of Operational Government Meteorologists to be less prescriptive about the composition of the Board. Commissioner McCann will work with Secretary-Treasurer Rosen to reword the text. Council approved an increase in the size of the Board to between 8 and 12 members.

[Council briefly recessed from 10:10-10:30 a.m.]

3.3.1 Proposed Weathercast Climate Communication Award

Executive Director Seitter reviewed a proposal from a potential donor to award up to seven annual small cash prizes to weathercasters for effectively communicating climate change. President Carr reviewed the EC recommendation to have one larger award that includes communicators beyond weathercasters. The EC also felt the award must come from an endowed fund rather than an annual donation. Council asked Executive Director Seitter to raise these issues with the potential donor.

3.5 Planning Commission

Commissioner Abshire reviewed her report and the Commission's current activities. Council thanked Commissioner Abshire for her efforts on behalf of the Commission, and it acknowledged incoming Commissioner Richardson.

3.6 Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise

Commissioner Mahoney expressed his appreciation for the help of Past Commissioner Glackin and Future Commissioner Emch. He noted there are over 300 volunteer members within the Commission, and he reviewed its recent activities.

4.0 Organizational Procedures

Secretary-Treasurer Rosen reviewed the edits to the Organizational Procedures that had been approved at the fall Council meeting, as well as new changes that were proposed based on prior decisions. Council approved the changes to the document. To allow Council to continue ensuring that Commissions are achieving balance and diversity goals, it was suggested that staff provide statistics on sector affiliation and other demographic data as members are added to boards and committees.

6.3 Local Chapter Affairs Committee

Council reviewed the committee's report. The committee is reviewing a proposal to establish Corporate Chapters, and it will report back to Council at a later date.

6.5 Centennial Committee

Past-President and Centennial Committee Chair Gail reviewed the progress of the Centennial Committee and its future plans. He reviewed a number of recommendations coming from the committee and sought Council feedback on each. Council approved the recommendation that staff's expertise and experience be more fully utilized in developing approaches to transform the Society.

[President Carr left the meeting at 11:35 a.m. to open WeatherFest. President-Elect Parker assumed the chair.]

[Council recessed for lunch from 11:38-11:55 a.m.]

6.5 Centennial Committee (cont.)

Chair Gail described the concept of a virtual Heritage Center which would tie in the past, present, and future in our field. After discussion, Council encouraged Chair Gail and the committee to keep moving forward.

6.6 Finance Committee

Council supported the EC recommendation to create a Finance Committee with an Audit Subcommittee, separate from the Investments Committee. To assure the two committees remain informed about each other's actions, the chair of the Finance Committee would be an *ex officio* nonvoting member of the Investments Committee, and the chair of the Investments Committee would be an *ex officio* nonvoting member of the Finance Committee.

6.7 AOC—8 year Awards Review

President Carr outlined the process involved in the review of the Society's awards every eight years by the Awards Oversight Committee.

7.1 International Affairs

The Council reviewed the report from the International Affairs Committee. There were no action items.

8.2 Best Practices for Publicly Sharing Weather Information via Social Media

The final draft of the statement was approved by Council.

[President Carr returned at 12:20 p.m.]

8.3 Bachelor's Degree in Atmospheric Sciences

Councilor Morgan led the discussion of this item. After Council recommended small edits, it approved releasing the Statement for the 30-day member comment period.

Freedom of Scientific Expression

Council reaffirmed this Statement.

7.2.1 AMS Meetings Task Force

To respond to the recommendations from the Committee on Researcher Involvement in the AMS (RIC) about meetings, President Carr proposed a list of 11 members to form a task force to review the recommendations and work toward their implementation. Council approved the formation and membership of the task force, to be chaired by Carolyn Reynolds.

7.2 Committee on Researcher Involvement

Council approved a recommendation to sunset this committee in no more than two years. It approved extending Xubin Zeng as chair until the committee is retired, at which time the committee's list of any potential future considerations could be transferred to the Planning Commission.

9.0 2016 Budget Update

Executive Director Seitter provided an update on the status of the budget.

10.0 **Honorary Members**

Council was reminded of those being honored this week and were requested to pass along suggestions for future honorees.

11.0 **Building in Time for Unstructured Discussion in Council Meetings**

Executive Director Seitter will work with the President to build in time for unstructured discussion in Council meetings. Moving award decisions to a summer conference call will help free up some time during the fall meeting. The EC will also consider the suggestion of a separate retreat for Council.

11.1 **Drawing Young People into Society Activities**

Councilor Bleistein encouraged Councilors to use their networks to bring new people, including students and those in their early career, into Society activities.

11.2 **BAMS Issues**

Issues surrounding *BAMS*, including delays in publishing manuscripts because of increasing submissions, were discussed. Council supported a recommendation to form an ad hoc committee to study these issues and requested the EC to take action.

[President Carr left the meeting at 1:03 p.m., and President-Elect Parker assumed the chair.]

11.3 **Responding to Questions and Comments as a Councilor**

Council recommended a section be created on the website with frequently asked questions as an additional resource to members. Executive Director Seitter noted that Councilors should always feel free to contact him about member questions or direct the member directly to him.

12.4 **2019 & 2020 Annual Meeting**

President-Elect Wakimoto described his thinking about a theme for the 2019 Annual Meeting, which will likely deal with understanding resilience to extreme events.

14.0 **Other Matters**

Director of Education Abshire spoke about the AMS Education Program and her goal to raise its visibility to members and others.

President-elect Parker thanked all those rotating off Council and retiring Commissioners, which Council acknowledged with a round of applause.

Council adjourned at 1:12 p.m.