

**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the 26-27 September 2019**  
**Meeting of the Council**  
**Boston, MA**

**Participants---** President Jenni Evans, President-Elect Mary Glackin, Past-President Roger Wakimoto, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen, and Executive Director Keith Seitter. **Councilors:** Elizabeth Austin, Melissa Burt, Kristie Ebi, Tanja Fransen, David Gochis, Erica Grow, Jen Henderson, Bob Henson, Wayne Higgins, Kim Klockow-McClain, Gary Lackmann, Shirley Murillo, and Jim Steenburgh. [Councilors Cortinas and Sobel were absent.] **Commissioners:** Tony Broccoli (Publications), Kevin Goebbert (acting EHR), Pam Emch (Enterprise), Genene Fisher (STAC), Maureen McCann (Professional Affairs), and Yvette Richardson (Planning). [Commissioner Charlevoix was absent.] **Guests:** Bill Gail, Doug Hildebrand, and Courtney Schumacher. **Staff:** Wendy Abshire, Stephanie Armstrong, Joe Boyd, Beth Farley, Claudia Gorski, Paul Higgins, Bill Hooke, Brian Mardirosian, Brian Papa, Kelly Savoie, and Gwendolyn Whittaker. (Some participated via teleconference, and not all guests and staff attended the entire meeting.)

*[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 of voting members being present, President Evans called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. EDT and welcomed all.

## **0.1 Council Retreat – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Councilor Burt served as facilitator for the Council retreat in her role as co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force. Through extensive discussion, Council agreed to create a Culture and Inclusion Cabinet (CIC) as a new entity in the AMS framework that would address issues of culture, diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and social justice. The CIC would sit directly below Council in the Society's organizational framework, working across all commissions, and the chair of the CIC would be included in all Council deliberations in ways similar to the commissioners. President-Elect Glackin and Councilors Burt, Henderson, and Lackmann will work on terms of reference (ToR) for the CIC with the goal of these being approved by Council in January for announcement of the CIC at the 100th Annual Meeting.

Council agreed to sunset the DEI Task Force at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, and it thanked Burt, co-chair Susan Avery, and the task force with a round of applause for their efforts.

*[Council briefly recessed during the Retreat from 9:25 to 9:45 a.m. and at the close of the Retreat from 10:45 to 10:52 a.m.]*

## **1.0 Meeting Minutes and Mail Ballots**

President Evans noted the minutes from prior EC meetings and EC mail ballots are available for Council's information. Council voted to reaffirm its mail ballots

approving minutes of its prior meetings. Council voted to also reaffirm all of the mail ballots since its last meeting that did not have unanimous approval. Council also voted to: approve the establishment of a student chapter at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi that was provisionally approved by e-mail ballot sent on 16 January; approve the establishment of pre-college chapter at Swampscott High School that was provisionally approved by e-mail ballot sent on 7 February; approve the reactivation of the Northeast Oklahoma Chapter and change its name to the Route 66 Chapter that was provisionally approved by e-mail ballot sent on 12 April; and change the name of the Cape Canaveral Chapter to the Space Coast Chapter.

### **3.1 STAC**

Commissioner Fisher reported on the many activities in the commission. She noted the new mid-career lectureships were not receiving many nominations but hoped this is because the change was still new. Council discussed the value of allowing nonmembers to serve on committees in order to engage them with the Society, but also the need to encourage them to become members once they were in that role.

#### **3.1.1 Named Symposiums**

Council approved Named Symposiums honoring Richard Johnson and Kevin Trenberth for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Council suggested that the Awards Nominations Committee be asked to work toward increasing the diversity of nominations for Named Symposiums. Council approved a change in the guidelines for submitting Named Symposium proposals to include a nomination letter and up to three letters of support.

### **3.2 Publications**

Commissioner Broccoli reviewed his extensive report on AMS publications, highlighting an apparent rebound of submissions following drops the last two years, the increased selection of open access by authors, and the expected impact of lowering author charges. He noted experiments on significance statements in two journals, as well as enhancements expected to be included in the new journal platform.

Council approved the several requests made by Commissioner Broccoli: three year appointments of Mingfang Ting as the new co-chief editor of *JClim* and Anne Smith as chief editor of *JAS*; two-year reappointments of Tim DelSole as co-chief editor of *JClim* and Greg McFarquhar as chief editor of the Monographs; a revised ToR for *WCAS*; and the title of a special section of *WAF*.

*[Council recessed for lunch from 12:08 to 1:02 p.m.]*

### **5.3 Awards Oversight Committee Report**

Awards task force member Courtney Schumacher joined the meeting by teleconference for this agenda item and led the discussion on possible new awards. Council voted to approve the naming of an award after a living person on a case-by-case basis, and it voted to approve creating a new award for climate research. Council went into executive session to discuss possible names for the new award. Following the executive session, Council expressed its willingness to consider replacing existing names on awards with new ones in order to increase the diversity of named awards without

greatly increasing the total number of awards. It charged the Awards Oversight Committee with developing a ToR for the new climate research award in consultation with relevant STAC committees and with discussing the potential for renaming existing awards.

*[Council briefly recessed from 1:58 to 2:02 p.m.]*

## **2.1 Finance Committee Task Force Report**

Finance Committee Chair Katy Schmoll joined the meeting by teleconference for this agenda item and briefed Council on the report of the Finance Committee Task Force. Council discussed the recommendations.

## **2.2 2020 Proposed Budget**

Council discussed at length the proposed 2020 budget and possible cost reduction options that might bring it closer to the target bottom line recommended by the Executive Committee.

*[Council briefly recessed from 3:47 to 4:05 p.m.; Past-President Wakimoto left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.]*

Following a closed session, Council approved a plan for the Executive Committee to work with staff so that a revised budget can be presented to Council by 1 November for a vote, with contingencies should they be needed.

## **3.3 Professional Affairs**

Commissioner McCann briefed Council on activities of the commission, including cross-commission efforts on the Early Career Leadership Academy (ECLA). Council approved revisions to the ToR for the Board for Continuing Professional Development, changes to the CBM Procedures, and membership of the drafting committee that will revise the AMS Statement on Media Performance in Severe Weather. Council noted the update in the goals and objectives for the Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, but no vote was required. Council also approved changing the Commission structure to one that would include a Future Commissioner, Commissioner, and Past Commissioner, each with two-year terms, as is the case for STAC and the Enterprise Commission.

*Council adjourned for the day at 5:27 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:02 a.m. on 27 September with the same Council members present as the prior day except for Past-President Wakimoto.*

### **3.3.1 Change to CCM Procedures — Tech Report Overhaul**

Commissioner McCann reviewed the suggested changes to the CCM procedures, and Council voted to approve the changes pending an editorial correction and a legal review by AMS counsel.

### **3.3.2 Joint Professional Affairs and Education and Human Resources**

Commissioner McCann discussed the expected changes to the ECLA procedures and its ToR that would likely go to Council for approval in January. Council voted to approve the procedures document for the Certified AMS Teacher (CAT) certification.

### **3.3 (cont.) Professional Affairs**

After additional discussion about possible new language in the ToR for the Award for Early-Career Professional Achievement, Council recognized the language also appears appropriate for the other Society early-career awards. Council, therefore, directed the Awards Oversight Committee to bring it a combined recommendation.

### **3.4 Education & Human Resources**

Acting Commissioner Goebbert reported on the activities of the commission. There were no action items requiring Council vote.

### **3.5.1 Planning Commissioner Appointment**

With Commissioner Richardson excused from the room, Council voted to reappoint her for a second three-year term ending January 2023 as Planning Commissioner.

### **3.5 Planning**

Council reviewed Commissioner Richardson's report and its draft SWOT analysis. Council voted to reappoint Jared Lee for a second three-year term and appoint Kevin Petty for a three-year term, both ending January 2023.

## **10.0 Centennial Initiatives**

Past-President Bill Gail, chair of the Centennial Committee, joined the meeting by teleconference for this agenda item. He briefly introduced the five centennial initiatives whose implementation plans were before Council for final approval, noting their common "network" theme. Council discussed the illustration depicting the new initiatives and suggested possible changes to make it clearer. Council asked that effort be made to more fully integrate diversity and inclusion components into each initiative. It then voted to approve all five implementation plans, recognizing that ToRs will need to be developed or revised for any committees involved in implementing the initiatives. Council offered its thanks to Gail and the Committee for their hard work in developing these initiatives.

### **3.5 (cont.) Planning**

Commissioner Richardson reviewed ongoing activities in the Commission and the status of its five task forces.

### **3.6 Weather, Water, & Climate Enterprise**

Commissioner Emch briefed Council on activities in the Commission, including the establishment of ad hoc committees on the blue economy and on wildfires. Council approved merging the Committee on International Weather, Water, and Climate Strategies of the Commission's Board on Global Strategies (BGS) into Council's International Affairs Committee, with associated changes and corrections to the BGS

ToR and portions of the AMS Organizational Procedures. Council also approved changes to the Organizational Procedures dealing with the Commission Steering Committee, and it approved moving the Climate Services Committee from the Board on Enterprise Strategic Topics to the BGS. Council also appointed Jennifer Mahoney to the Commission Steering Committee for a three-year term ending January 2023.

### **3.6.1 New Future Commissioner for CWWCE**

Council discussed potential candidates for Future Commissioner but decided to wait until January to make the appointment.

### **4.1 Status of Statements in Process**

Council reviewed the statements in process, and Council liaisons to drafting committees provided updates on their statements. Council agreed that the existing Statement on Green Meetings would be allowed to sunset and move to the archived statement list.

### **4.2 Statements Needing Action**

Council reviewed existing statements that have expired or are close to doing so. Council recommended steps toward updating a few statements and agreed to allow the One Health statement to sunset in January.

Council discussed a possible Council liaison for the proposed Statement on Software Preservation and Access that the Executive Committee recommended move forward. Council asked staff to suggest statements it would find helpful in promoting AMS interests and activities.

### **4.3 Best Practice on Data Management**

Council approved this statement of best practice, subject to minor edits.

### **4.4 The Energy Sector and Earth Observations, Sciences, and Services**

Council approved this policy statement, subject to minor edits.

### **4.5 Possible “Transition Document” Statement**

President-Elect Glackin led a discussion on a proposed transition document statement to provide to the presidential campaigns and next administration. Council established a drafting committee made up of Councilors Henson, Burt, Klockow-McClain, President-Elect Glackin, and staff members Hooke and Higgins. Councilor Henson agreed to chair the committee. Council requested UCAR be contacted to learn its interest in issuing a joint statement or in coordinating efforts.

### **5.1 ARA, ORA, HRA, and Suomi Committees for 2020**

President Evans briefly informed Council about appointments to these committees of the Executive Committee.

## **7.0 Selection of Next Secretary-Treasurer**

President Evans informed Council that Secretary-Treasurer Rosen is willing to delay his retirement and serve an additional year. She then informed Council that the Executive Committee recommends Rosen be reappointed for a two-year term starting in January 2020, with the understanding that he will step down after one year. With Rosen excused from the room, Council voted to approve that reappointment. It also suggested that the next Secretary-Treasurer be appointed in January to allow a one-year transition for this individual.

*[Council briefly recessed from 10:25 to 10:47 a.m.]*

## **2.4 Future of CSP Transfers in Budget**

Council had a lengthy discussion on the role of the Community Support Program transfers in the budget. Council suggested that fuller briefings on the activities of each program be scheduled as Zoom meetings approximately bimonthly, with the Policy and Education Programs scheduled for the spring. It also suggested that all programs provide information on how they map to the Strategic Goals.

*[Council recessed for lunch at 11:35 a.m. and then went into executive session with only voting members and commissioners from 12:15 to 1:40 p.m.]*

On returning from executive session, Council provided guidance with respect to a number of issues regarding the CSP and budgets:

- Discontinue the practice of standard sum transfers known as CSP. The 2020 budget will retain the proposed amounts of transfer for 2020 as reflected in the proposed budget. In future years, Council will review and approve any transfers each year as part of the budget process.
- No further reductions in staff positions to achieve reductions in expenses. (Council further expressed its strong support for the staff.)
- Staff should explore ways to ensure that all meetings at least cover their direct expenses with income generated by the meeting.
- Every two months, a program area will provide a Zoom session on that program, recorded to allow later viewing, with the first being the Career Development Program in December.
- Council will be provided with a set of key performance indicators for each program each month.
- There will be no movement of funds from reserves without engaging the Executive Committee beforehand.

## **0.1 (cont.) Council Retreat – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Councilor Burt presented a draft skeletal ToR for the Culture and Inclusion Cabinet. Council provided suggestions for the ad hoc group to use as it continues to refine the terms for later presentation to Council.

*[Councilor Austin left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.]*

## **8.0 Professional Conduct and Change in Bylaws**

Task Force co-chair Lackmann led a discussion of the draft Code of Conduct, with Council suggesting modifications to the draft. Council voted unanimously to amend the Bylaws to include among Council's powers and authorities the ability to establish and update a Code of Conduct by at least two-thirds of the voting membership of Council. It then voted unanimously to approve the Code of Conduct as edited, pending legal review by AMS counsel.

## **11.1 International Affairs Committee**

Council approved changes to the ToR for the IAC that align with its absorption of the Committee on International Weather, Water, and Climate Strategies and that are less prescriptive on IAC membership.

## **5.2 Awards Nominations Committee Report**

Council reviewed the report of the ANC and discussed possible appointments to the committee.

## **5.3 (cont.) Awards Oversight Committee Report**

Council returned to a few remaining decision items in the AOC report. Council approved a change in wording for the AMS Lectureships and an expanded scope of the Sverdrup Gold Medal.

## **5.4 Fellows and Awards Nominations Committees for 2020**

Council voted to appoint Linnea Avallone, Mark Powell, and Dan Wilks to the Fellows Committee. Following up on its discussion of the ANC report, Council voted to appoint Amy Clement, Dara Entekhabi, Efi Foufoula Georgiou, Dennis Hartmann, Glenn Kerr, Natalie Mahowald, and Shawn Miller as new members for three-year terms ending January 2023.

## **6.0 Selection of Fifth Councilor**

Council discussed the kinds of experience it would seek in selecting the Fifth Councilor, with some agreement that expertise in nonprofit governance, policy, or diversity and inclusion would be desirable for this year's selection. Council agreed that further discussion would be pursued on the Council Community website with the goal of creating a short list for further consideration and vote prior to the closing of the regular election.

## **13.0 Enthusiast Offering**

Council briefly discussed the proposed enthusiast offering. There was support for the concept, and Council asked that staff continue to refine the proposal for discussion at the January Council meeting.

*Council adjourned at 3:17 p.m.*