

**Minutes of the 14 January 2007  
Meeting of the Council of the American Meteorological Society**

**Attendees:** A roll call determined that all voting and ex officio Council members were present except for Council member Robert Weller and Secretary–Treasurer Ken Spengler. In addition, all four incoming Council members and the incoming President-Elect attended. AMS Controller Barry Mohan attended, as did AMS Directors Ken Heideman, Bill Hooke, and Gary Rasmussen (recorder). Other AMS staff members attending included AMS Policy Program staff members Gina Eosco, Paul Higgins, Tony Socci, and Wendy Thomas.

**Précis—** President Franco Einaudi convened the meeting at 8:10 A.M. in San Antonio, Texas. He called for a 15 min break at 10:30 AM and a two hour lunch break at 11:30 A.M. At 3:50 P.M. Commissioner Morales left meeting to attend to another obligation. The Council voted to adjourn at 4:30 P.M.

**1. Minutes and Mail Ballots (Information and Decision)**

Executive Director Seitter asked if any Council member would like to discuss any topic in the minutes of the 25 September 2006 meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the AMS Council, or in the summary of mail ballots, both of which were distributed to all Council Members. With no one asking for discussion, the Council voted to approve the minutes and affirm the ballot decisions.

**2. Incoming President Elect and Councilors (Information)**

The EC recommended appointing Amanda Lynch to the 5th Councilor position. After a discussion of the other top candidates the Council voted to appoint her.

**3. Updated Commissioners Reports (Discussion and Decision)**

Because of the large number of topics to be discussed, and the limited time, President Einaudi asked the Commissioners to limit their reports to two minutes.

**3.1 Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC)**

Commissioner Wakimoto reported that he had not received reports from four committees. All 90 new appointments have been completed. Committee support of biometeorology and aerometeorology has expanded. The STAC meeting of 13 January 2007 hosted three guest speakers: Tony Hollingsworth, Dave Schultz, and Steve Koch. The first Program Chairs meeting was held on 13 January 2007. Attendee consensus was to post extended abstracts online and eliminate CD-ROMs. This will permit relaxing the abstract deadline, thereby encouraging submission of additional and more up-to-date abstracts.

**3.2 Publications Commission**

Commissioner Klemp reported that Dave Jorgenson will be the new Publications Commissioner. The Council voted to approve appointment of Elizabeth Ritchie as Editor of *Monthly Weather Review*.

**3.3 Professional Affairs**

John Toohey-Morales reported that nine CCM applications were received in 2006 (compared with only three received in 2005). The CCM Board is hosting a CCM forum this year, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the CCM program. The Forum will be taped and portions will be used in a Research Channel Program that will be underwritten by the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists. So far, 172 CBM certifications have been granted, which is about one fifth the number of the active Seal holders. For the first time since 1995, and the last time for quite a while, the Broadcast Conference is at this Annual Meeting. The Board for Private Sector Meteorologists has started a mentorship program. The Board for Continuing Professional Development Board is offering a number of new short courses.

**3.3.1 Oceanographer Certification**

Guest Leslie Rosenthal, a consultant to NOAA, led the discussion. The National Ocean Partnership Program is considering starting an operational oceanographer program, and NOAA's National Ocean

service would like to draw on AMS experience about the possibility of starting a new certification program for oceanographers, similar to the AMS professional certification programs, but independent of any society, and serving multiple professional societies. Some questions are:

- Would AMS be interested in administering such a program?
- Would AMS consider joining with other societies to endorse it?
- Is such a program needed?
- Can one certification support the entire field?
- What proficiencies are needed?
- Should we accredit education programs?

### **3.4 Commission on Education and Human Resources**

Commissioner Winkler discussed highlights of her report.

### **3.5 Planning Commission**

Commissioner McVehil discussed highlights of his report.

### **3.6 Weather and Climate Enterprise Commission (CWCE)**

Commissioner Frederick discussed highlights of his report. One concern is the perception of some of an AMS vacuum on advocacy. The Council voted to approve his appointments.

## **4. Lecturers (Decision)**

After Dr. Wakimoto discussed pool of nominees for three lecturer positions, and strongly endorsed the three nominees, the Council voted to approve all nominees.

## **5. Strategic Plan (Decision)**

Dr. Einaudi led the discussion, summarizing significant events leading up to formulation of the plan. A draft plan was posted for comments, and the comments received were incorporated into the final draft, which was before the Council for discussion and final approval. The lengthy Council discussion led to agreement on the following:

- The document name will be changed from “AMS Strategic Plan” to “AMS Strategic Goals”.
- The EC will accept suggestions for alternative wording from Council members and will do the final edit, removing language with unintended connotations, for example.
- Metrics for Commission support of the goals will be added later.
- The document will be reviewed each year by the Council in the context of reviewing progress toward the goals, but the intention is for the document to be fairly stable from year to year.
- The AMS Publications staff will do a careful copyedit.
- Footnote 3, on CWCE, will be removed.
- A goal on attracting and equipping students will be added.
- Wording on support for the international community will be strengthened.

The Council voted to approve the AMS Strategic Goals document, with new name and other changes listed above.

Dr. Einaudi thanked the large number of councilors and others who contributed.

## **6. Changes to Constitution, Bylaws, and Organizational Procedures (Decision)**

Dr. Seitter led the discussion. He noted that according the Massachusetts law, and since the Council is a deliberative body, changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Organizational Procedures must be approved by the Council during face-to-face meetings, or during telephone conference calls, so that everyone can hear all points made by the other members of the Council. We need formal documents consistent with Massachusetts law, and consistent with the AMS Strategic Plan. The change procedure is as follows:

- The Council approves the proposed changes,
- The proposed changes are published in the *Bulletin of the AMS (BAMS)*, and

- No sooner than 90 after they are published in *BAMS*, the membership votes on the changes by mail ballot.

### **6.1 Constitution and Bylaws**

Dr. Seitter noted that proposed changes 2 through 18 are at level 1, whereas changes 1 and 19 are at level 2. The EC suggested holding a single ballot vote on all level 1 and level 2 changes, and no one on Council disapproved. During the discussion the Council agreed that the language must be gender neutral, and that the introductory paragraph will acknowledge that mixed electronic and non-electronic communication mechanisms will be used during a long transition period. The Council voted to approve the proposed 6.1 changes.

### **6.2 Organizational Procedures**

After a thorough discussion the Council agreed:

- Commissioners will be empowered to make routine appointments without prior Council approval, but with Council concurrence. Commissioners will report appointments to the Council, and the Council will have the power to remove an appointed member.
- In item 12, we will use the word “author” rather than naming the author.
- Regarding WeatherFest, “general public.”
- The procedures will carry the date of the latest revision.
- Dr. Seitter will work with the Commissioners over the next few months to identify other needed changes.

The Council voted to approve the previously prepared proposed changes, plus the above.

### **6.3 Statement Procedures**

Dr. Seitter stated that the Council must approve statements during face-to-face meetings, or during conference calls.

### **6.4 Membership in AMS**

Dr. Seitter reported that the membership application has been simplified by removing requests for information that is needed only for Seal applicants. Dr. Anthes announced a goal to double membership in five years. Dr. Crawford suggested inviting the presidents of the National Weather Association (NWA) and the National Association of State Climatologists to Council meetings. Mr. Frederick approved, noting that the presidents of the NWA, National Council of Industrial Meteorologists, and the Commercial Weather Services Association are on the CWCE Steering Committee. Mr. Marsh suggested reaching out to the Air and Waste management Association. Dr. Anthes suggested forming a committee of Council Members to think deeply about enhancing the value of AMS membership. Kelvin Droegemeier and Marshall Shepherd volunteered to be members of the Committee. The Council voted to approve the proposals.

## **7. AMS Statements (Discussion)**

The Council authorized the radar committee to begin to assemble a drafting team for a new statement on frequency allocation. Dr. Rutledge volunteered to be Council Facilitator.

### **7.1 Statement Creation and Approval Process**

Dr. Wakimoto provided an overview of the new statement production and approval process, and the status of current statements. With the hurricane statement, too little time was allowed for responding to the large number of comments received. The Council can provide additional time, or can let the statement expire, and appoint a new drafting team. The climate change statement has received 130 comments and the team needs guidance on responding to comments. An update to the Weather Analysis and Forecasting statement is starting.

### **7.2 Statement on Hurricane Research and Forecasting**

Jenni Evans reported that the drafting team is willing to complete the statement if the deadline for completion is extended by an additional two months. After much discussion, the Council voted to extend the Hurricane Statement deadline until 21 March 2007.

### **7.3 Statement on Climate Change**

Gerry Potter reviewed the climate change statement process and the Council had a long discussion on the process, with much attention focused on how comments were handled.

### **7.4 WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones Statement on Tropical Cyclones and Climate Change**

Dr. Evans reported on development of the WMO statement and their request for AMS endorsement. After discussing the pros and cons of the short and long versions of the statement, the Council voted to endorse the complete statement and publish the short version.

### **8. Research Channel (Discussion and Decision)**

Walt Lyons provided an update. AMS has joined the Research Channel, and has submitted the tape on Ben Franklin's Science from History Symposium. Our series will be called AMS Journal, and it will be available to Research Channel viewers, as well as by streaming video, and video podcasts. The average viewership of each broadcast is 10,000. Future programs will require sponsorships, and Council oversight is needed. Our cost per show is between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The Council voted to continue the Research Channel Initiative, with brief reports to Council.

### **9. 2006 Budget Update (Information)**

The Council did not discuss the 2006 Budget Update.

### **10. External Review (Information and Discussion)**

Dr. Anthes provided an update. The External Review committee will provide a knowledgeable look at AMS operations by outsiders, with attention given to: investments, membership, organization, strategic plan, and funding sources. Jim Mahoney will chair the committee, which will meet in May, with visits to the Boston and DC offices. Dr. Einaudi noted that AMS will benefit from preparing for the visit, as well as from the recommendations we receive.

### **11. Corporate Development (Discussion)**

Dr. Einaudi led the discussion. We will need additional funds to implement the AMS Strategic Plan and to carry out all of our programs. Balancing the budget is difficult each year. We need to be more aggressive in raising funds to support a growing number of initiatives. There will be costs, which provide risks. How discriminating should we be in accepting funds? The Council discussed our needs for funding and various funding sources.

### **12. Student Representative on Council (Discussion)**

The Council did not discuss Student Representative on Council.

### **13. Honorary Members (Information and Discussion)**

The Council did not discuss Honorary Members.

### **14. External Funding (Information and Discussion)**

The Council did not discuss External Funding.

### **15. Committees of the EC (Information)**

The Council did not discuss Committees of the EC.

### **16. Meetings (Information)**

The Council did not discuss Meetings.

**17. Status Reports (Information)**

The Council did not discuss Status Reports.

**18. Other Matters**

The Council voted to approve the new members and the new student chapter.