

AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the 27-28 September 2005
Meeting of the Council

Participants—AMS Councilors participating were: President Walt Lyons CCM, President-Elect Franco Einaudi, Past President Susan Avery (by telephone), David Blaskovich, Joseph D'Aleo Jr. CCM, Jenni Evans, Jennifer Francis, Anthony Hollingsworth, John Jones Jr., Thomas Karl, Timothy Killeen, Stanley Marsh Jr. CCM, Thomas MacPhail, Julia Paegle, Marcia Politovich, and Chuck Wash. Ex officio members of the *Council* participating were: Executive Director Keith Seitter CCM, Secretary–Treasurer Kenneth Spengler CCM, and AMS Commissioners Brad Colman, George Frederick Jr., Joe Klemp, George McVehil CCM, John Toohey-Morales CCM, and Julie Winkler.

Other attendees included AMS Controller Barry Mohan and AMS Directors Joyce Annese, Stephanie Armstrong, Beth Farley, Claudia Gorski, Ken Heideman, William Hooke, and Gary Rasmussen (Recorder).

Not all of the participants and attendees were present for the entire meeting.

Précis—The *Council* met in the Rossby Room at the Boston Headquarters. Dr. Lyons called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, 27 September 2005. He called for a 15-minute break at 10:30 AM, a 45-minute lunch break at 12:15 PM, and 15-minute break at 3:45 PM. The meeting adjourned for the day at 5 PM and resumed at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, 28 September 2005. Dr. Lyons called for a 15-min break at 10:00 AM and adjourned the meeting at noon. Roll calls confirmed quorums were present both days.

DISCUSSION SYNOPSIS

Spengler Room (Decision)

During a brief absence of Dr. Spengler from the meeting on September 27th, Dr. Seitter requested that the *Council* name the small second floor conference room at AMS Headquarters as the *Spengler Room*, in honor of Dr. Spengler's 60 years of service to the AMS. The Council quickly and enthusiastically voted approval. Later in the day Dr. Lyons presided over a brief naming ceremony, which was attended by members of Dr. Spengler's family and the AMS staff.

0. Meeting Minutes and Mail Ballots (Information)

All meeting minutes and mail ballot summaries were approved by e-mail prior to the Council meeting and there was no new discussion.

1. Commissioners' Reports (Information and Decision)

1.1 STAC Commission

Per the recommendation of Commissioner Colman, as detailed in his report, the *Council* voted to hold named symposia at the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Antonio to honor Eugene Rasmusson and Akio Arakawa.

The *Council* discussed the draft *Guidance on Statements*, which is needed because current guidelines do not accurately reflect current procedures, and because the total time to approval for statements at present is much too long. The new guidelines address those shortcomings. In vetting them the *AMS Council Executive Committee (EC)* requested a few small changes to emphasize speed and to restore a table that compares the several types of statements. The *Council* approved the new statement, subject to first making the needed changes, which Dr. Francis volunteered to oversee.

Dr. Colman noted that the new *Satellite Statement* concerns the use of satellites in weather applications—broader applications will require a separate statement. The *Council* approved posting the statement to the AMS web site for the 30-day public comment period, subject to first removing mention of a “time of tight resources.”

1.2 Publications Commission

Per the recommendation of Commissioner Klemp, as detailed in his report, the *Council* voted to revise the journal Terms of Reference (TORs), subject to the addition of lightning to the *Monthly Weather Review* TOR.

The *Council* approved creating the requested additional editor positions as well as all nominations for appointments and reappointments for Editor and Chief Editor. Dr. Evans and Dr. Winkler left the room during the discussion and vote.

1.3 Professional Affairs Commission

Per the recommendation of Commissioner Morales, as detailed in his report, the *Council* voted to take all of the following actions: change the name of the *Board on Private Sector Meteorology* to the *Board for Private Sector Meteorologists*; adopt a new TOR for the *Board for Private Sector Meteorologists* to recognize its new focus on individual meteorologists working in the private sector; change the name of the *Board on Continuing Education* to the *Board on Continuing Professional Development*; approve all nominations for appointments for board and committee members and chairs; and approve the use of AMS logo on EPA materials for broadcasters, subject to prior review and approval by representatives of *STAC* and the *Board of Broadcast Meteorology*.

1.4 Education and Human Resources Commission

Per the recommendation of Commissioner Winkler, as detailed in her report, the *Council* voted to approve posting the *Statement on Earth Science Education* on the AMS web site for 30 days for public comments. Also, it approved all nominations for appointments and reappointments, for Commissioner, members and chairs of boards and committees, and alternates. Dr. Winkler left the room during the discussion and vote for her reappointment as Commissioner.

1.5 Planning Commission

Commissioner McVehil reported that the new *Weather and Climate Enterprise Commission (CWCE)* is doing well in building its board and committee structure, and in organizing events. Continuing efforts are needed to encourage greater participation of end users in the commission and its activities and to facilitate productive communications among members of all sectors of the enterprise. The CWCE should consider the possibility of preparing a draft AMS statement on the *National Research Council's Fair Weather* report and the new NOAA partnership policy, and should provide recommendations to the *AMS Council*.

Dr. McVehil reported that the *Planning Commission* is seeking input on the need for a strategic plan for the Society, and he received some from the *Council*.

Dr. Seitter discussed the *EC's* desire for the *Planning Commission* to help the *AMS Education Program* develop a strategic plan.

The *Council* voted to approve the nomination of Otis Brown for a second term as member of the commission.

1.6 Weather and Climate Enterprise Commission

Commissioner Frederick provided an overview of the *Commission's* activities over its first nine months. In 2005 the *Board on Enterprise Economic Development (BEED)* started to transition the AMS Corporate Forum to a new, more open approach. Beginning in 2006, all interested attendees will be able to register to attend. Previously, attendance had been limited to AMS Corporate Members, sponsors of AMS Fellowships and Scholarship, and invited guests.

BEED organized the 2006 Users Forum, which will feature talks by several high-level executives from several weather-sensitive industries at the Atlanta Annual Meeting.

The *Commission Executive Committee*, which consists of the Commissioner and Board Chairs, was established early in 2005. It meets monthly by teleconference. The *Commission Steering Committee* was established and its positions are being filled. The *Board on Enterprise Communication* and the *Board on Enterprise Planning* are being established earlier than planned in response to community needs.

The *Weather Coalition* and the *Commission* jointly organized and funded a successful *Community Meeting on the Future of the U.S. Weather Prediction Enterprise* in Boulder in July of 2005. A top priority for 2006 is to follow up on recommendations from this meeting and the earlier *Community Meeting on Establishing a National Mesonet* that was organized by the *Ad Hoc Committee on the Weather and Climate Enterprise*.

The commission web site was established. The AMS_PSL e-mail list, which falls under the purview of the *Board on Enterprise Communication*, continues to serve the community's rapid communication needs, and its base of subscribers continues to grow, with about 1600 recipients at present. An interactive message board was established to supplement AMS_PSL. Located on the AMS web site, it hosts threaded discussions and community resources.

The *Commission Executive Committee* considered the *Council's* request to possibly recommend a new name for the Commission, and concluded that keeping the current name would be best.

Mr. Jones observed that the *Steering Committee* members recruited to date included neither women nor minorities. He offered to provide a few recommendations, which Mr. Frederick accepted with appreciation.

AMS Statements (Discussion)

Dr. Seitter reviewed the status of the statements under development. Earlier in the meeting (see sections 2.1 and 2.4 above) the Council approved two statements for posting on the AMS web site for 30-day comment periods.

Budget (Discussion and Decision)

Dr. Seitter began the discussion with a broad overview of the budget cycle. He noted that the 2005 revised budget looks reasonably good. Given everyone's concern about keeping the K-13 Education Program viable over the next few years, Mr. Jones requested a review of its status by Ira Geer at the next *Council* meeting. Several other Councilors offered suggestions about growing the membership, including: make it easier to join, promote the associate membership, and promote more international participation.

Dr. Seitter presented the 2006 budget, which now lists the community support programs within the publications budget area. Publications revenues have always funded these programs and this change makes that easier to see. Dr. Klemp requested, and Dr. Seitter agreed to include an additional budget line to show publications budget performance prior to accounting for the community support programs.

The *Council* discussed page charges, publishing models, factors affecting journal subscriptions, and changes taking place in the publishing industry. The *Council* also discussed the AMS Policy Program, its marvelous programmatic successes, and its funding difficulties, as well as changes in meetings technology and how they affect the meetings budget. The *Council* consensus is that AMS needs to stay flexible and diligent in all of these areas if it is to remain viable in this changing environment.

The *Council* voted to approve the proposed 2006 budget.

Awards (Decision)

Dr. Avery joined the discussion by telephone for this discussion. The *Council* voted to accept all recommendations for awardees and citations, as detailed in the report of the *Awards Oversight Committee* (AOC). In other actions the *Council* voted to approve other recommendations of the AOC, including: the modified TOR for the Remote Sensing Prize, the new Helmut E. Landsberg Award, revised wording for the Bernhard Haurwitz Memorial Lecturer, and the new award for Science Journalism and Science Reporting by a Broadcast Meteorologist.

Dr. Evans requested approval now for an award for the staff and leadership of the Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center for their stellar performance this hurricane season. After discussion, the *Council* decided to accelerate consideration of this award while following the established procedures.

Proposed AMS Fellows (Decision)

The Council voted to approve all nominees for Fellow, as detailed in the *Fellows Committee* Report.

Honorary Members (Information)

The Honorary Members for 2006 are Peter Hobbs, Chester Newton, and Warren Washington.

Fellows Committee for 2006 (Decision)

The Council voted to appoint Chris Bretherton and Bob Brammer to the Fellows Committee for three year terms. They named Rich Passarelli as an alternate to Dr. Brammer, should he decline.

AMS Participation in the Research Channel (Discussion)

Dr. Lyons described the benefits to AMS of participating in the Research Channel, which include: we can disseminate messages to the public without them being filtered by the media, we can attract high-profile speakers to the annual meeting, we can promote the CCM Program, we can augment the K-13 Education program, and we can create a visual archive of AMS activities that is accessible via the Internet. The costs are roughly \$10,000 per year to contribute 6-10 videos, plus the cost of video production. During the discussion, the Councilors noted: the challenge will be producing the videos; using the research channel for outreach may help AMS members win NSF proposals; video publishing would be a natural extension of our current publishing work; AMS participation must be cost neutral and an external funding source such as corporate sponsorships would be required; and no new corporate funds would become available—corporate funding

obtained for Research Channel participation would reduce the availability of corporate funds for other programs. The *Council* reached consensus that participation in the Research Channel warrants further investigation. They asked Dr. Lyons to submit a “one-page” proposal for consideration at the January *Council* meeting.

New Language for Organizational Procedures (Decision)

Establishing two new *STAC* boards and the *Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise* has made it necessary to update the language in the *AMS Organizational Procedures*. The *Council* voted to approve the language change.

Selection of Fifth Councilor (Discussion)

The *Council* selects the fifth Councilor after the election results are known to help it achieve better gender, ethnicity, discipline, and/or sector balance. This year hydrology and policy were mentioned as disciplines likely to be underrepresented, and the *Council* discussed several possible nominees with expertise in these areas.

Licensing of Meteorologists in States (Information)

This issue comes up from time to time and the *EC* recommended creating an ad hoc committee to investigate and report back to the *Council*. The *Council* consensus agreed with the conclusion of a previous AMS study is that licensing is not good for the profession. The *Council* decided to bypass the ad hoc committee and instead appoint a statement drafting committee.

Government Relations (Discussion and Decision)

Dr. Seitter discussed the draft document *Government Relations Within the AMS*. It identifies a set of operating procedures for the Society to follow when responding to requests received from government agencies or Congress for comments on pending legislation or other government activities. The goal is to be as responsive as possible while preserving our ability to provide neutral venues for enterprise discussions and while avoiding conflicts that make it difficult for government employees to serve on the *Council*. Dr. Evans said that the procedures should include mechanisms for *STAC* and other committees to be asked to identify needed statements. Dr. Politovich noted that there can be legislation that the community ought to comment on, and the procedures should allow requests for comments to come from the community. With these additions, the *Council* voted to adopt the procedures in the draft document.

Conflict of Interest Policy for Federal Employees Serving on the Council (Discussion and Decision)

AMS Attorney Bob McLaughlin discussed the draft policy and noted the need for a few minor edits. The governing federal law, a criminal statute with criminal penalties, requires federal employees with ongoing conflicts to refuse to serve. The law applies only to members of the leadership of the Society (elected officers and commissioners). It does not apply to individual members who are not part of the leadership. Federal employees who have occasional conflicts may serve but must recuse themselves during conflict situations. The *Council* voted to approve the new policy.

Committees of the Executive Committee (Information)

Dr. Seitter summarized reports from the following committees: *History of the Atmospheric Sciences*, *IIPS*, *Investments*, *Local Chapters*, *Nominating*, *Annual Meeting Oversight*, *Education Advisory*, and *Development*. Dr. Hollingsworth observed that the *IIPS Committee* does not have international participation. Dr. Seitter reported that the *EC* voted to disband the Education Advisory Committee and to thank its members for their efforts. The overarching theme of the 2007 Annual meeting in San Antonio will be *Bridging the Studies of Weather and Climate*.

External Funding (Information)

Dr. Seitter provided updates on the 21st Century Campaign, Fellowship, Minority Scholarship, Industry Scholarship, and Sponsorship programs. He noted that to avoid conflicts with the federal Hollings Scholarship Program, which grants awards to juniors and seniors, the AMS Industry Scholarships program is being restructured for 2006 to grant awards to freshmen and sophomores.

Meetings (Information)

Dr. Seitter noted that the 2006 Annual Meeting will feature a town hall meeting on Hurricane Katrina. Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana has been invited to participate.

Status Reports (Information)

Mr. Heideman reported on the status of the publications program and discussed his goal for book sales to contribute revenue to the Society. Ms. Farley reported on membership statistics, which are lower than the budget targets, but which are consistent with growth experienced in recent years. Dr. Hooke reported on the programmatic successes and funding difficulties of the Policy Program, and on its strategic plan. Dr. Francis requested—and Dr. Seitter concurred—that Jack Williams attend January *Council* meeting to provide an update on the Public Outreach Program.

AMS Affiliations with Other Organizations (Information)

Dr. Seitter reported that all organizations with which AMS formally affiliates through organizational memberships are 501(c)(3) educational nonprofits, just like the AMS.