Recent Activities of the Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists (BCCM)

The BCCM held its regular annual business meeting at the January 2010 AMS Conference in Atlanta this year. John Henz assumed the board chair, succeeding the outgoing chair, Gerry Mulvey. The board welcomed three new additions to replace outgoing members. New board members are Mike Mogil, Tim Dye, and Paul Fransioli.

Prior to the meeting the board held oral examinations for six candidates who had previously passed all of the other requirements for certification.

Since the meeting in January the board has held several teleconferences to status the examinations of CCM applicants and the progress being made by subcommittees of the Board.

Several years ago the BCCM undertook to develop a “Tool Box” list of references that could be provided to candidates in response to a trend for candidates to cite weak reference sources, such as Internet sites with questionable credibility, and without solid controls applied. Previous board discussions were generally in favor of the idea. The preference is for references to be either printed or controlled electronic copies of reasonably available material. Board members Gerry Mulvey and Paul Fransioli are leading this effort.

Earlier this year a change was made in the published procedures for the CCM program. The BCCM voted to disallow the substitution of a PowerPoint slide presentation for the required technical paper or report. All candidates must now submit a technical paper that they have authored or co-authored as a principal contributor. Anyone who does not have a recent paper to submit may prepare a paper specifically in fulfillment of this requirement.

The chair outlined his plan to delegate more of the board’s responsibilities to subcommittees and he identified four that would be needed. These are:

(continued on page 2)

The Chair’s Column

Dear CCM Colleagues:

Over the past eight months the BCCM and your Chair have worked steadily to achieve several significant milestones on your behalf:

- Streamline the CCM application and examination process while maintaining the high selection standards, enhancing communication and upgrading the CCM exam questions.
- Provide a prompt but professional resolution to the backlog of 2007-2009 CCM candidates awaiting grading and oral examinations.
- Begin the process to establish an annual AMS CCM award.
- Continue to build on the evolving reputation of the CCM Forum at the annual AMS meeting.

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Recent Activities (continued from page 1)

CCM Professional Development Committee: to oversee the professional development portfolios and their content. This committee will additionally look into existing programs such as the UCAR COMET training modules for use in maintaining proficiency.

CCM Professional Status Committee: to oversee the growth and development of the CCM Forum at the annual meeting, to develop conference links with the NCIM and NWA and other AMS Committees with similar interests and to develop a relationship with the AMS Executive Board to participate in the review of crucial AMS statements before they are released.

CCM Candidate Grading Committee: to oversee the timely completion of the written test and report grading. It will also look into ways to enhance the testing process.

CCM Test Question/Answer Committee: to oversee the updating of the questions on the CCM written tests so they reflect the growth of the science, specialties, and business interactions in our community. As part of the updating process new CCMs who hold a PhD degree are being asked to submit three possible questions as part of their written examination.

Planning is ongoing for a meeting of the BCCM at the annual AMS Conference to be held in Seattle January 23-27, 2011. Prior to the regular business meeting, the board will meet to conduct oral examinations of CCM candidates who have successfully completed their written examinations.

Most oral exams are conducted at the annual AMS conference when the BCCM convenes. However, the board will make provisions for regional exams in certain cases. For a regional exam to take place at least one member of the BCCM must be available to chair the panel and two more local CCMs can be recruited to complete it. During 2010 there has been one regional oral exam conducted to date.

Any CCM who wishes to contact the board about its work or has questions about its activities can email the board chair, John Henz, at jfhenz@comcast.net.

New CCM Applications in Progress

As of August there have been eight new CCM applications received in 2010. These are currently being processed by reviewing their application material, assigning test questions for the written exam, and grading the completed exams that have been returned.

There are 16 additional candidates that are in the last stages of completing their requirements. Several of these are in the final steps of having their written exams graded by board members and will be ready for their oral exams soon.

New CCMs in 2010

The following persons have been added to the roll of CCMs in 2010:

658  William Davis, Stennis Space Center, MS
659  John Huhn, McLean, VA
660  Anthony Lupo, Columbia, MD
661  Thomas Piazza, Aurora, IL
662  Jason Shafer, Lyndonville, VT
663  E. DeWayne Mitchell, Norman, OK
664  Jason Reed, Enfield, CT

Status of All CCMs

As of August 2010 there are 304 active CCMs and 117 CCMs are deceased. In addition, there are 218 former CCMs who are retired or have chosen inactive status. Finally, there are 22 CCMs who are considered inactive because they have not submitted a professional development portfolio.
Is Your Professional Development Portfolio Up to Date?

A CCM must accumulate 28 Professional Development points over a continuous five-year period. A table of acceptable activities and points can be found on the AMS website at: http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/ccmpointstable.cfm. Individual CCMs are encouraged to propose additional activities that demonstrate professional growth by notifying the CCM Board chair.

Attendance at the annual AMS meeting is a good way to accumulate points. Also, consider distance-learning opportunities with on-line courses that are available via the UCAR COMET training modules. These can be accessed at: http://www.meted.ucar.edu/.

The Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists

The current members of the BCCM are:

Terms Expiring 2011:
- George D. Greenly, Jr., CCM 214
- Gerald J. Mulvey, CCM 571

Terms Expiring 2012:
- John F. Henz, CCM 270
- Bernard N. Meisner, CCM 440
- Kenneth H. Underwood, CCM 466

Terms Expiring 2013:
- Elizabeth J. Austin, CCM 572
- Stephen W. Harned, CCM 622
- Jerry D. Hill, CCM 151

Terms Expiring 2014:
- Timothy Scott Dye, CCM 619
- Paul M. Fransioli, CCM 291
- H. Michael Mogil, CCM 391, CBM 334

Ex Officio Members:
- Jay J. Trobec, AMS Commission on Professional Affairs.
- Kelly Savoie, AMS Manager, Marketing/Special Programs

CCM Forum At the Annual AMS Meeting in Seattle January 24 to 27, 2011

Make your reservations early for the 91st annual AMS conference at Seattle in January. Hotel information is now available at: http://ametsoc.org/meet/annual/hotel.html and program information will soon be posted. Make plans especially to be there on Wednesday, the 26th for the annual CCM breakfast at 7:00 AM, followed by the CCM forum.

The CCM forum will be conducted around the conference theme of Enhancing the Communication and Application of Weather and Climate Information. The forum will be a day-long event with the following sessions:

- Session 1 8:30 AM-10:00 AM The Emerging 21st Century CCM
- Session 2: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM Improving Client-CCM Communication Enhances Business.
- Panel Discussion 1:30 –2:20 PM The 21st Century Certified Consulting Meteorologist—All You Ever Wanted to Know about becoming One or Being One!
- Session 3: 4:00 PM-5:30 PM Climate Change: Emerging Practice and Communication Needs.

The preliminary program for the CCM forum is given on page 6. The AMS website will soon have the final full conference program posted listing all of the sessions and the papers to be given during each.

Check your CCM listing

The CCM listings on the AMS website do not reflect the information you have provided when renewing your annual membership. The online listing is a separate database. If you would like to make changes, please email Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) with the updated information. Take the time to check your listing at: http://www.ametsoc.org/memb/ccm/ccmhmfrm.html
The Chair’s Column (Continued from page 1)

- Work to enhance the relevance of the CCM program within AMS, our profession and the business community.

Streamlining the CCM application and examination process

A review of this process resulted in learning that most 2005-2009 applicants for the CCM program had endured a two-year process from time of applying to learning that they had either passed or failed the process. The shortest period of time was ~18 months while the longest has exceeded three years. This year the process has been streamlined by the pre-screening of applicants and their technical report by Kelly Savoie of AMS Headquarters and the Chair.

As soon as an acceptable report is received and the three letters of reference, a written exam is sent to the applicant with a 90-day response period. At the same time the report is sent to the BCCM graders assigned to the applicant to speed the review process. If a new report is requested, it can be promptly resolved. A grace extension of up to 60-days is granted upon request. Most applicants have completed the written exam in less than 90 days. The test is sent to the four BCCM graders upon receipt of the written exam for grading. Again a 90-day period is offered for grading. Most exams and reports have been graded this year in less than the 90-day period.

So far the eleven 2010 CCM candidates who applied are on track to take their oral exams, if they pass their tests, at either a regional oral board or the BCCM Oral Boards at the annual meeting.

Resolution of CCM Candidate Backlogs

In January 2010, the Chair inherited a backlog of 18 CCM candidates that stretched from 2007-2009. The Chair called each of these candidates personally to resolve issues and get the process moving. Of these candidates, six passed orals at the January annual meeting and one passed orals at an August regional. Three 2007 candidates are finishing their exams in time for the Annual Oral Boards and one is ready for a regional board. Two 2008 candidates have completed the examination process and are ready for regional oral boards and one is completing the exam in time for the annual meeting oral board. Four 2009 candidates are ready for regional oral boards, two are having their test/report being graded and one is completing the exam. Of the eleven 2010 candidates, seven are having their test/report graded, two are completing assigned tests and two are sending in new reports. We are back on track. By January 2011 thirty-one candidates will have been reviewed in the twelve month period (as of September 2010).

Begin the process to establish an annual AMS CCM award

Create an award for Outstanding Contributions by a Certified Consulting Meteorologist to the profession, clients and society. See the following page for a description of the proposal for the annual Henry T. Harrison Award to recognize the work of CCMs.

Continue to build on the evolving reputation of the CCM Forum at the Annual meeting

Details and an overview listing of the four forum sessions can be found on page 3.

Work to enhance the relevance of the CCM program within the AMS, our profession and the business community.

To be covered in detail in our next newsletter.

Hopefully you will enjoy the content of this newsletter and that it will serve to keep you aware of our evolving importance as CCM’s to our profession. Your contributions are requested.

Cheers,

John

John F. Henz, CCM #270
Chair, Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists
American Meteorological Society
The knowledge areas will not focus on any one event or accomplishment but rather a body of contributions over a period of time deemed appropriate. The body of work may have been accomplished in any of the Weather Enterprise sectors including educational, operational, research or business endeavors or a combination of these sectors.

In addition to this body of work, evidence should exist that the individual practiced his or her expertise area within a highly ethical mode of practice and service to the clients and the Society. Letters of substantiation may be requested from identified clients that justify the degree of service provided and the high ethics of the services provided. Additionally, voluntary service to the American Meteorological Society, its goals and programs will be highly weighed in determining the identification of the recipient.

It should be understood that the forms of service will be many and varied as will the areas of expertise and knowledge identified. Yet the framework of evaluation will remain the same. Thus the value of consistent contributions to the education of young meteorologists, to an evolving area of research, to the provision of exceptionally high value operational weather predictions and warnings and to the development of innovation and excellence provision of consulting and forensic services will all be judged equally and within a consistent, professionally appropriate framework.
Preliminary CCM Forum Program

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Session 1: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM: **THE EMERGING 21ST CENTURY CCM**

8:30 AM *Census of Private Sector Meteorology: An Update*, Gale F. Hoffnagle, TRC Environmental Corporation, Windsor, CT

8:45 AM *Solar Energy Forecasting*, Betsy Weatherhead, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO; and C. S. Long

9:00 AM *A Certified Consulting Meteorologist Working In The Government: Unlikely? Not really!*, Bernard N. Meisner, NWS Southern Region Headquarters, Fort Worth, TX

9:15 AM *The CCM As A Scientists Communicating With The Media - The Sky Is Falling And It Will Rain Oil All Over*, Jill F. Hasling, Weather Research Center, Houston, TX


9:45 AM *The CCM Practice Climate Is Changing: Will You Be Ready?*, John F. Henz, Certified Consulting Meteorologist, Aurora, Colorado

Coffee Break 10:00-10:30 AM

Session 2: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM - **IMPROVING CLIENT-CCM COMMUNICATION ENHANCES BUSINESS**

10:30 AM *A Course in Forensic Meteorology: Effective Communication of Analyses and Conclusions*, Elizabeth Austin, WeatherExtreme Ltd., Ojai, CA; and M. L. Kaplan


11:00 AM *Weatherwise, Otherwise, and CCMs*, J. Giraytys, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

11:15 AM *Embracing Social Media*, Michael Gerber, NOAA/NWS, Silver Spring, MD
CCM Forum Program (Continued)

Lunch Break 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Panel Discussion 1:30 PM-2:30 PM: THE 21ST CENTURY CERTIFIED CONSULTING METEOROLOGIST—ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BECOMING ONE OR BEING ONE!

Panelists:
Jill F. Hasling, Weather Research Center, Houston, TX
Michael Gerber, NOAA/NWS, Silver Spring, MD
Kathryn E. Anthony, The University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
Christopher D. Bedford, Sailing Weather Service, LLC, Watertown, MA
Gale F. Hoffmangle, TRC Environmental Corporation, Windsor, CT
Elizabeth Austin, WeatherExtreme Ltd., Ojai, CA
Bernard N. Meisner, NOAA/NWS Southern Region Headquarters, Fort Worth, TX
J. Giraytys, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
John F. Henz, Self-employed, Aurora, CO

Conference Break for Poster Session Viewing 2:30-4:00 PM

Session 3: 4:00 PM-5:30 PM - CLIMATE CHANGE: EMERGING PRACTICE AND COMMUNICATION NEEDS

4:00 PM  Land Use Versus Climate Change Impact On Regional Carbon Cycle And Carbon Isotope Signatures, Ming Chen, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN; and T. Griffis, M. Erickson, and J. M. Baker

4:15 PM  A Climatological Analysis Of Drought And Tornadic Activity In The Southeastern United States, Theresa Andersen, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

4:30 PM  Statistical Analysis of Sea Level Rise Acceleration in the 20th Century, Michael Beenstock, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel; and D. Felsenstein, Y. Reingewertz, and M. Lichter

4:45 PM  A New Index To Describe The Tropical Asian Summer Monsoon, Zhongfeng Xu Sr., Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China; and C. Fu and Y. Qian