

Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee Meeting Minutes

Atlanta, GA, Tuesday, February 4, 2014

1. Attendees:

- Ed Szoke, Andrew Molthan, Carolyn Reynolds, Brent Shaw, James Belanger, Sam Ng, Jon Porter, Charles Kuster, Kathryn Shontz, and me (Bruce Telfeyan).
- Dialed in: Kelly Mahoney, Jason Furtado, Gail Hartfield-Supina, Alex Tardy, and Michael Brennan.
- Guests: Ward Seguin, AMS STAC Commissioner; WAF Alumnus, Colonel Jen Alexander Fritz



2. Departing and new members:

- a. Ed Szoke spoke of his twelve years on the WAF Committee, of which six were during the 1980s and the current two terms ending now. John Cannon and Kevin Scharfenberg also completed six years on WAF, but were unable to attend this meeting. I expressed our thanks to Ed, John, and Kevin for all their efforts on behalf of the WAF Committee.
- b. We welcomed our five new WAF Committee members:
 - 1) **Alex Tardy** (dialed-in), San Diego, CA — NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist, recommended by former WAF member, Roger Pierce;
 - 2) **Cyrena-Marie Briedé**, Director of Summit Operations, Mount Washington Observatory—brings unique experience with observational meteorology and mesonet expertise; recommended by Sam Ng;

- 3) **Gail Hartfield-Supina** (dialed-in), Raleigh, NC — NWS Senior Forecaster, former BOGM Chair, experience operational forecaster;
- 4) **Walter Drag**, Mt Holly, NJ — NWS Senior Forecaster, experienced operational forecaster; recommended by John Cannon, and Neil Stuart;
- 5) **Jason Furtando**, PhD (dialed-in), Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Lexington, MA—private sector forecaster and researcher.

3. Andrew Molthan gave a progress report on the 26th Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting, 22nd Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction. Kelly Mahoney noted that the judging process was working smoothly and thanked all the judges of the student presentations.

4. I introduced our Commissioner, Ward Seguin, who reviewed many AMS matters of interest, including these items of note:

- a. The Community Directory is now available on the AMS website for all of us to use as a way to share our profiles, interests, and expertise within the AMS community. Go to this website: <https://ametsoc.org/boardpges/cwce/docs/profiles/update.html> for instructions on how to set up your own profile.
 - Also, you can view the Community Directory at this link: <https://ametsoc.org/boardpges/cwce/docs/profiles/index.html>
- b. He would like each of the STAC committees and boards to develop a five year plan for our future efforts. I will take the lead on this effort and ask for the input of all of WAF. **Action Item #1, OPR: Bruce.**
- c. He noted that the AMS has a program that will assist in funding our student committee members to attend the annual meeting. We will plan to use this avenue to obtain funding for our student members for the future annual meetings.
- d. He noted that some tweaks are being initiated to the award judging process (refer to paragraph 9, below, for details on how WAF is impacted).
- e. He mentioned that special conference collections can be created from conferences; certainly something our committee could take on. Clearly, we need to learn more about this activity. **Action Item #2, OPR: Bruce.**
- f. The AMS has eliminated surcharges for color diagrams in all AMS publications.

5. Update on WAF Committee website developments: As noted last April, the new website for all the STAC committees and boards is in place:

<http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/committees/committee-on-weather-analysis-and-forecasting/>

Again, thanks for Sam Ng for taking the lead on our site and giving us a high quality site.

- If you wish to have your photo appear (this is not mandatory!) in the Photographs tab, please send a photo of your choosing to Sam Ng (sng1@msudenver.edu). So far, Sam only has photos of himself and me.
 - I feel that this is perhaps a good way to obtain some visibility for our committee as folks may recognize us at conferences or meetings. It might

help spread the word of the services we provide and help us carry out our work and perhaps act as mentors.

- **Derek Mallia** stepped forward and volunteered as a co-webmaster to work with Sam in keeping our website updated.

6. Further discussion regarding the 27th Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting, 23rd Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction:

This joint event will occur in the late spring of 2015. In November, we voted and Denver (downtown) prevailed as the location for the conference.

- **Sam Ng** has accepted the position of our program chair for the conference and **Andrew Molthan** has agreed to be the co-chair. (On Feb 5, Sam and I met with Brenda Ward, our Meeting Coordinator to discuss the way-ahead. Brenda targeted the June – August 2015 time frame for the conference. This broader time frame was chosen to allow a greater opportunity for AMS to find better hotel prices for the conference.)

7. WAF Committee Presence on Facebook

Derek Mallia suggested that we create a WAF page on Facebook. Charles Kuster followed up and created the page. You can find it at

<https://www.facebook.com/WAFcommittee>

- a. I have given Manager privileges to WAF members who have Facebook accounts (Mike Brennan, Jason Furtado, Charles Kuster, Derek Mallia, Becky Adams-Selin, Katy Shontz, Cyrena-Marie Briedé, Gail Hartfield-Supina, Kelly Mahoney, Sam Ng, Brent Shaw, Jon Porter, and Alex Tardy).
 - I proposed that we rotate among the managers of our page the role of posting items to our page, as each of us deems appropriate. I will make a schedule that rotates the duty at monthly intervals, for those willing to take on this duty and share it with all for agreement, or to incorporate needed changes. (Of course, people can posit items even if it is not their “turn” in the rotation.) **Action Item #3, OPR: Bruce.**
- b. Gail suggested linking our page to the AMS Facebook page. I will work to get someone at AMS to “like” our page. Also, Sam will add a link on our AMS webpage that points to our Facebook page.

8. Partnering with other conferences: AMS encourages committees to pair up with others for joint conferences. It lowers the AMS cost for conferences, and we are always looking for partnership opportunities.

- a. Mountain Meteorology Conference, San Diego, CA, week of 18 – 22 Aug 2014 (<http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/201416mountmet.html>)
 - I reviewed previously shared information that Heather Reeves had contacted **Josh Hacker** and me to see if WAF would be willing to sponsor a joint session at their July meeting. Josh has agreed to represent WAF in this endeavor.
 - Heather envisions a session that focuses on NWP and data assimilation in mountainous terrain. She notes that they ordinarily

have sessions on this topic, but it is not usually heavily favored. As our representative, Josh would be responsible for helping to choose which abstracts to put in the oral session and which in the poster.

- Heather also requested that an official notice of the joint session will be advertised to the people on the WAF/NWP mailing list. We could arrange for this to occur.
- **Derek Mallia** will assist Josh in our efforts to set up and chair the joint session. As Derek and Josh were not in attendance here in Atlanta, there were no updates to this partnership.
- **Action Item #4, OPRs: Josh and Derek.**

- b. We discussed other future partnership opportunities, including the possibilities for a symposium or town hall meeting at the annual meeting in Phoenix, Jan 2015. Andrew is the co-program chair for that event and he will see what possibilities for WAF involvement might be appropriate.

9. Other events/responsibilities for 2014:

- a. We will need to supply judges for three awards:
 - **Francis W. Reichelderfer Award**, The STAC Commissioner, in consultation with the Professional Affairs Commissioner, is responsible for overseeing the award process and forming the selection committee. The selection committee is composed of a chair and two members from the Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee, two members of the Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, one member from the Hydrology Committee, and one member from the Coastal Environment Committee.
 - I will reach out to two WAF members to serve as judges.
 - **Exceptional Specific Prediction (ESP) Award** – I will seek out members of WAF to judge these award nominations (about half of our members).
 - **The Charles L. Mitchell Award** – In a similar to the ESP award, I will seek out members of WAF to judge these award nominations (again, about half of our members, but mostly different people from those judging ESP).
Action Item #5, OPR: Bruce.
- b. We will continue to review submissions for the AMS Glossary of Meteorology. **Brent Shaw** volunteered to serve as our point of contact for all submissions that Mary Cairns sends to WAF.

10. Update on the revision of the AMS WAF Statement: I noted that a meeting of the statement drafting committee was set for Feb 5th. Also, we are being assisted in our efforts by Jen Henderson (social scientist), Jeff Lazo, and Dave Novak.

- Frankly, we face quite a challenge in completing the updated statement and obtaining AMS Council approval by the April 24 (eight month) deadline. If necessary, we will go to the Council and request an extension.

11. Items of note from the STAC Meeting on Saturday, Feb 1st.

- a. Many committees write meeting summaries for BAMS. We need to investigate this and proceed to generate these statements. Our first opportunity will be for the just completed WAF/NWP conference. **Action Item #6, OPRs: Andrew and Kelly.**
- b. We can reach out to the faculty advisors of our student members and let them know about their students involvement in our committee
- c. I raised the possibility that as our conference is in reality two separate conferences (one being WAF, the other NWP), might we qualify for \$3,000 in student award money; instead of the \$1,500 we are allotted. We had over 90 student presentations this year, and \$1,500 doesn't go very far in acknowledging outstanding work for that large a number of presentations.
- d. We were lucky to have a speaker phone in the room at this meeting. (I do need to find out whom to thank in AMS for providing it.) I learned that many committees are using webinars for their meetings and teleconferences. This might be a challenge for us as those of us who work for the DoD are not allowed to use Skype. But, I can check out other possibilities. However, for our quarterly conference calls, I think our current meet-me dial-in number (402-232-2520) works quite well.
- e. Membership data on our committee website:
<http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/committees/committee-on-weather-analysis-and-forecasting/membership/>
 - 1) If your information is not correct on our website, spelling of name, title, or anything else, send an e-mail with the correct information to amsaddr@ametsoc.org. Be sure that you specify the WAF committee website.
 - 2) If any of you are not listed on our website, I can contactmweston@ametsoc.org to get you added.
- f. Here is our committee spreadsheet for 2014, with the new members added (please alert me if corrections are needed):



WAF Member List
2014.xlsx

12. Administrative matters:

- a. As all members agreed, I will plan to continue to have three conference calls per year, perhaps every fourth month. These are separate from the conference calls that may take place in planning for the WAF/NWP conference in Denver.
- b. I will continue to copy committee members on correspondence I have with STAC or AMS on various matters to keep all aware of various matters that arise. Unless you are in the "To" block, these notices are for situational awareness only.
- c. I restated the WAF Committee role in encouraging award submissions and AMS Fellow nominations: Our Committee Terms of Reference stipulate that

- we are "to recommend to the AMS Council, each year" nominees for the ESP, Mitchell Awards, other special awards, and Fellows. Also, regarding Fellows, this link is informative on the nomination process:
<https://www.ametsoc.org/awards/fellowsnominationprocedure.html>
- d. I thanked all WAF Committee members for their involvement and active participation. Our efforts are truly volunteer ones and without all of our efforts, the AMS would not accomplish but a fraction of what it actually does.
13. Other matters of interest of interest/concern:
- I requested a volunteer to jot down notes during our meetings/teleconferences to aid me in putting the minutes together. **Carolyn Reynolds** agreed to take on this role.
14. Action Item Summary:
- a. Action Item #1: Ward Seguin would like each of the STAC committees and boards to develop a five year plan for our future efforts. **OPR: Bruce.**
 - b. Action Item #2: Ward also mentioned that special conference collections can be created from conferences. We need to learn more about this process. **OPR: Bruce.**
 - c. Action Item #3: Create a schedule that rotates the Facebook WAF page posting duty at monthly intervals, for those willing to take on this effort. **OPR: Bruce.**
 - d. Action Item #4: Plan and chair our session for the Mountain Meteorology Conference, San Diego, CA, week of 18 – 22 Aug. **OPRs: Josh and Derek.**
 - e. Action Item #5: Designate and receive agreement for certain WAF Committee members to serve as judges for, respectively, the Francis W. Reichelderfer Award, the Exceptional Specific Prediction (ESP) Award, and the Charles L. Mitchell Award. **OPR: Bruce.**
 - f. Action Item #6: Many committees write meeting summaries for BAMS. We need to investigate the process of composing and publishing of a meeting summary for BAMS and proceed to generate such a statement. Our first opportunity will be for the just completed WAF/NWP conference. **OPRs: Andrew and Kelly.**

Submitted by R. Bruce Telfeyan
WAF Committee Chair
February 11, 2014