

## Second 2020 Mineralogical Society of America Council Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

12:00 – 5:00 PM EDT

### Present:

Carol D. Frost, President  
Mark Ghorso, Vice President  
Mickey Gunter, Past President  
Kim Tait, Secretary  
Thomas Duffy, Treasurer  
Donna Whitney, Councilor  
Jay Ague, Councilor  
Mark Caddick, Councilor  
Przemyslaw Dera, Councilor  
Francis McCubbin, Councilor  
Adam Simon, Councilor

### Visitors:

Ann Benbow  
Rachel Russell  
Gloria McFarland  
Don Baker  
Mark van Baalen  
David Sleeman

Note: Motions and Council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = Sense of Council

## ITEMS

### I. INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS

The meeting was called to order by Carol Frost at 12:04 PM. Attendees introduced themselves.

Carol Frost outlined the following agenda items:

B. Revisions to the Agenda, approval of the Agenda.

*Micky Gunter moved that the agenda be approved by Council, Mark Caddick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

C. Approve the minutes of the Third 2019 Council Meeting and First 2020 Council Meeting (Appendix A).

*Mark Ghorso moved that the minutes be approved by Council, Francis McCubbin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

D. Accept Reports to Council containing no questions, requests, or action items as a group. Reports will be acknowledged by Secretary.

(Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* & Monographs Series, FAAC Committee, MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, Editor *Handbook of Mineralogy*, MSA Meetings Coordinator, Workshop Committee, Bloss Optical Crystallographic Fund Committee, Roebling Medal Committee, MSA Award Committee, Dana Medal Award Committee, Nominating Committee for MSA Fellows, Kraus Grant Committee, MinPet Grant Committee, Representatives to ACA, FM, GIA, GSA, GSA-MGPV, IMA, and SSMP, Special Interest Group on Pegmatites, Special Interest Group on Planetary Materials.)

*Donna Whitney moved that the Reports to Council be approved by Council; Mark Caddick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

It is noted that there were no reports from: Short Course Committee, Distinguished Public Service Medal Committee, Outreach Committee; Representatives to CMS, EMU, and GS.

E. Review of Executive Committee actions.

The executive committee met six times between the first and second 2020 Council meetings and took the following actions:

1. Nov 15, 2019 (by e-mail): Agreed to discontinue MSA booth at GSA annual meeting.
2. Jan 16, 2020 (by Zoom): Approved slate of nominees for offices for 2020 ballot, have MSA join the Coalition for National Science Funding, and approved a contract for continued services by J. Alex Speer.

The 2020 election slate is now: President: Mark Ghorso, OFM Research; Vice President (one to be selected): Pamela Burnley, (University of Nevada Las Vegas) and Craig Manning (University of California Los Angeles). Treasurer (one to be selected): Paul Tomascak (SUNY Oswego) and Glenn Gaetani (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute); Councilor position 1 (one to be selected): Michael Williams (University of Massachusetts) and Robert Bodnar (Virginia Poly. Inst. & State University). Councilor position 2 (one to be selected): Jennifer Jackson (CalTech) and Darrell Henry (Louisiana State University).

Kimberly Tait (Royal Ontario Museum) continues in office as Secretary. Continuing Councilors for 2021 will be Mark J. Caddick (Virginia Poly. Inst. & State University); Adam C. Simon (University of Michigan), Przemek Dera (University of Hawaii at Manoa) and Francis McCubbin (NASA Johnson Space Center).

3. March 6, 2020 (by e-mail): Approved change in policy to allow transfer of proposals between Kraus and MinPet awards if the student agrees.
4. April 14, 2020 (by e-mail): Approved Ann Benbow to ascertain interest from other organizations in supporting Minerals Day, Oct. 12, 2020 (Monday of Earth Science Week).
5. April 18, 2020 (by e-mail): Approved the 2020 awardees for the Kraus and Min/Pet Research Grants.

6. April 28, 2020 (by Zoom): Decided on two proposals to present to Council: One on how to handle the 2020 and 2021 Awards given the novel coronavirus pandemic; the second on formalizing methods of giving to MSA and subsequent recognition of donors.

## II. DUES, SUBSCRIPTIONS, AND FINANCES

- A. Determine the member and institutional *American Mineralogist* and *Reviews* subscription rates as well as member dues for 2021.

The Treasurer recommends:

- a) for *American Mineralogist* & *Reviews* subscription rates:

Category	2020 Current	2021 Proposed	% increase from 2020
MSA Members			
US AmMin (paper + electronic)	\$ 150	\$ 165	10
Non-US AmMin (paper+ electronic)	\$ 165	\$ 185	12
AmMin (electronic-portion of member dues)	\$ 15	\$ 15	0
Institutions			
US (paper + electronic)	\$ 1200	\$ 1300	8
Non-US (paper + electronic)	\$ 1225	\$ 1325	10
Institution (electronic)	\$ 1125	\$ 1225	9
Multi-site Institution (negotiable)	\$ 1200+	\$ 1250	4
Institutions (GSW subscribers)			
Am Min (paper) (domestic)	\$ 260	\$ 270	4
RiMG (paper)	\$ 200	\$ 250	25

- b) It is recommended that the 2021 MSA dues be maintained at 2020 levels (\$85 for members, \$45 for early career members, and \$20 for students).

- B. The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director will provide brief updates on MSA finances and key indicators (Appendix B).

*Mark Ghiorso moved that the proposed 2021 subscription rates be accepted and that the 2021 MSA dues be maintained at 2020 levels, Mickey Gunter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

### III. COMMITTEES, OFFICERS, AND APPOINTED POSTS

#### A. Committee on Committees

1. Consider, amend where necessary, and vote on the proposed list of committee members and chairs (Appendix C).
2. Authorize the MSA Secretary to contact individuals in the order(s) listed (except when restricted by guidelines for the position).

Action item: Kim to contact members. If the first-person declines, Kim to contact Mark Ghiorso, Chair of Committee on Committees to discuss next person to contact. Noted that Sylvie Demouchy is misspelt in document. Also noted that Jeff Post ran against Nancy Ross for president (editorial changes). The Centennial Committee should be deleted.

*Jay Ague moved that the proposed list of committee members and chairs be accepted. Mark Caddick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### B. Officer Nominating Committee

1. Discuss potential candidates for Vice President and two Councilor positions (Appendix D).

#### C. Membership Committee

1. Carol Frost will provide an update on the newly reinstated Membership Committee Chaired by John Brady (Appendix E).

*SoC Not opposed to the survey. Council thinks the committee should think more broadly about nonmembers. Rachel suggested to add a step to when an author submits a manuscript to American Mineralogist to ask if the author is a member of MSA.*

#### D. American Mineralogist Crystal Structure Database Replacement

1. Bob Downs is asking to be replaced as the contact person for the database. Council is asked to suggest a person to replace him.

SoC is to ask Kirsten Lehnert, as Lamont Doherty is doing database operations already. Pilot funding is required for transition of this position. Canadian Mineralogist, European Journal of Mineralogy and Physics and Chemistry of Minerals submit to this database as well. COMPRES might be a source of funding. Tom Duffy is looking at other databases. Przemek Dera suggests that there is a subgroup struck to explore the future of this group. Mark Ghiorso and Przemek Dera are interested in serving on the subcommittee.

### I. OPERATIONS

#### A. Council Meetings:

1. Fall 2020 Meeting and GSA: Council needs to decide if the Fall 2020 MSA Council Meetings and Management Committee Meeting will be held at GSA in Montreal or will occur in some other fashion.

Meeting will be held October 24, 2020, in Chantilly, Virginia and virtual options will be available.

*Mark Ghiorso moved that the Fall 2020 Council meeting be in Chantilly, Virginia on October 24, 2020. Francis McCubbin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

2. Council also needs to decide on the date and venue for the 2021 Spring Second Council Meeting.

Spring 2021 Second Council meeting will be held May 1, 2021 in Chantilly, Virginia and virtual options will be available.

*Mark Ghiorso moved that the Spring 2021 Council meeting be in Chantilly, Virginia on May 1, 2021, Francis McCubbin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### B. MSA IT Situation:

Ann Benbow and Gloria McFarland will give a brief overview of the IT situation at MSA and proposed changes (Appendix F).

SoC- Council is supportive of this initiative.

#### C. Benefactors Committee:

1. The Benefactors Committee asks MSA Council members to relay any prospective donor corporations and contacts therein to Phil Neuhoff, Chair of this committee.
2. The Benefactors Committee consists of one person, Phil Neuhoff. Council is asked to suggest other individuals to join this committee and expand its reach.

#### D. Social Media:

Social Media Liaison Andrea Koziol is asking if Council wants to consider setting up a Twitter account. From her report:

“@MinSocAmerica and @minsocam are still unclaimed. The Geochemical Society (@geochemsoc, 2077 followers) posts weekly and keeps followers updated, most recently with news about the Goldschmidt meeting. The Geological Society of America (@geosociety, 40 K followers) posts more frequently. It might be time to discuss setting up a Twitter account. I would be happy to do this.” [SoC].

SoC- There is support for Andrea Koziol setting up a Twitter account. Council discussed considering other social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram, in addition to Twitter as relatable platforms for different age groups. Action Item: Carol to contact Andrea to relay SoC to her.

## II. PROGRAMS: PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, AND LECTURE PROGRAM

A. *Elements*: Barb Dutrow, the MSA Representative to *Elements* Magazine, has several requested items, but none requiring a vote of Council:

- a. Please send Jodi Rosso any information for People in the News.
- b. Please consider proposing an issue of *Elements*.

- c. Review *Elements* in the past year, and send comments, concerns, and thoughts about the publication to Barb Dutrow.
- B. *American Mineralogist*: The Editors are requesting that Council review their statement of scope and agree that the statement fits with MSA's understanding and goals for the Editors. [SoC] The Editors would also like to provide Council with an update on AGU's activities and policies on Pre-prints and Author charges for Open Access (Appendix G).

SoC- Supportive of the Editor's statement of scope and agree that the statement fits with MSA's understanding and goals for the Editors.

- C. *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*: Three new *Reviews* volumes are in various stages of production. One (*Triple Oxygen Isotopes*) is due to be printed in late 2020 for a Short Course at the AGU meeting in December in San Francisco, CA. The other two volumes (*Geologic Melts* and *Diamonds*) are scheduled for printing in 2021.
- D. Lecture Program Committee: This committee submits a list of nominees for the 2020-2021 Distinguished Lecturer Program for consideration, ranking and approval. Once the list is approved, the Lecture Program Administrator, Dave Jenkins, contacts people. He makes his way down the list until there are two people from the North American list and one from the European list who agree to serve (Appendix H).

*Mickey Gunter moved that the Lecture Program Committee list be approved; Mark Caddick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

### III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND PLANNING

#### A. 2020 and 2021 Awards

Due to the uncertain climate created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the possibility that the GSA 2020 Annual Conference in Montreal may not be an in-person event, the MSA Executive Committee would like to propose the following to Council: The 2020 MSA Award winners and citationists will be asked to submit their acceptance speeches and citations to the *American Mineralogist* in the traditional manner. The 2020 and 2021 awardees will be formally recognized at two smaller awards lunches at GSA 2021 in Portland on the Monday and Tuesday of the GSA meeting. Awards lectures would also be divided between the Monday and Tuesday at GSA. [vote]

Note Council thought we should discuss these plans with the 2020 awardees. Invite them to 2021 luncheon. Carol would ask if GSA is appropriate for them; if not, suggest other meetings.

*Francis McCubbin moved that the 2020 and 2021 awardees will be formally recognized at two smaller awards lunches at GSA 2021 in Portland, Jay Ague seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### B. Minerals Day

The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) proposes to work with the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) and other geoscience organizations to launch the first Minerals Day on October 12, which is the Monday of Earth Science Week (ESW) 2020. The primary goal of Minerals Day is to raise awareness of the importance of

minerals with K-12 students and teachers, as well as with children and adults in informal educational settings. A secondary goal is to raise the profile of MSA as a source of exciting teaching materials. Council is asked to review the full report in Appendix I, discuss, and decide on MSA's involvement in Minerals Day (Appendix I). [vote]

SoC was to move ahead with this idea.

#### A. Study on the Status of Mineralogy and Petrology in Higher Education

The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) proposes to conduct a three-part study to establish baseline data on the status of mineralogy and petrology in a). higher education; b). K-12 education; and c). the workforce. After the baseline data are collected and analyzed, MSA would update those data on an annual basis and report on patterns, trends, and anomalies. Council is only asked to consider approval of Part I of the study: The status of mineralogy and petrology in institutions of higher education (IHEs) (Appendix J) Council is asked to approve the implementation of Part I of the proposed study.

*Council discussed to start working on the Mineralogy and Petrology in Higher Education study with a survey and careful analysis as a first report. Mark Ghiorso moved to approve the implementation of Part I of the proposed study; Adam Simon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### B. Fundraising Initiatives

The FAAC has recommended that MSA expand its fundraising efforts through planned giving and other vehicles for contributions. Council is asked to consider formalizing annual giving and planned giving strategies. The MSA Executive Committee is presenting the attached proposal for Council consideration and decision (Appendix K).

*Przemek Dera moved to support the 3-legged plan to expand its fundraising efforts through planned giving and other vehicles for contributions; Donna Whitney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### C. Recognition of J. Alexander Speer

From the time he joined MSA as Executive Director in 1995, to his retirement at the end of 2019, J. Alexander Speer has provided strong leadership, creativity, and dedication to the organization. To honor his 25 years of service and inspiration, it is proposed to re-name the MSA Outreach Fund the J. Alexander Speer Outreach Fund. Alex cares greatly about MSA outreach efforts and naming the fund for him would truly recognize his tireless efforts on behalf of MSA. [vote]

*Tom Duffy moved to re-name the MSA Outreach Fund the J. Alexander Speer Outreach Fund, Mark Caddick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Mickey moves to adjourn the Council meeting at 4:41pm; Mark Ghiorso seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

