

Third 2021 Mineralogical Society of America Council Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Noon to 3:30 PM EDT

Officers:

Mark Ghiorso, President	Carol Frost, Past President
Pamela Burnley, Vice-President	Kimberly Tait, Secretary
Glenn Gaetani, Treasurer	

Councilors:

Robert Bodnar	Przemek Dera
Francis McCubbin	Jennifer Jackson

Guests:

Ann Benbow, Executive Director; Jeffrey Post, 2022 Vice President; Marian Holness, 2022 Councilor, Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*; Gloria McFarland, MSA IT Specialist, Tyler Spano, Chair, DEI Committee,

Absent:

Astrid Holzheid, 2022 Councilor, Mark Caddick, Adam Simon

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

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS

- A. Roll Call and Introduction by the President; introduction of attendees.
- B. Revisions to the Agenda, approval of the Agenda.

Mark Ghiorso proposed one change to the agenda, to move Section IIIA 2a, be moved to later in the agenda as Adam Simon is traveling. Pamela Burnley moved to approve the revised agenda; Francis McCubbin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Accept Reports to Council containing no questions, requests, or action items as a group. Reports will be acknowledged by Secretary. [2 min]

(MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, Membership Committee, Benefactors' Committee, MSA Publications Director, *Reviews* Editor, GeoScienceWorld, Editor *Handbook of Mineralogy*, MSA Meetings Coordinator, Short Course Committee, Social Media Liaison, Bloss Optical Crystallographic Fund Committee, Roebling Medal Committee, MSA Award Committee, Dana Medal Award Committee, Nominating

Committee for MSA Fellows, MinPet Grant Committee, Nominating Committee for Officers, Representatives to GIA, GSA, CMS, ACA, EMU, GSA-MGPV, IMA, and SSMP, Special Interest Group on Pegmatites, Special Interest Group on Planetary Materials.)

- a. No reports from: Outreach Committee, Distinguished Public Service Medal Committee (no activity in 2021); GSA Joint Technical Program Committee Representative; Representatives to FM and GS.

Carol Frost approves the reports of the Third 2021 Council Meeting and the First 2021 Council Meeting. Glenn Gaetani seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Review of Executive Committee and Council actions. [2 min]

The Executive Committee met three times between the Second and Third 2021 Council meetings and took the following actions:

- May 19, 2021 (by email): Agreed to accept the invitation by GSA and the University of Arkansas to participate in the NSF-funded Geosciences ASCEND project.
- July 15, 2021 (by email): Agreed to the request of the Chair of the Dana Medal Committee, Przemek Dera, for an extension of the deadline for nominations to the end of August 2021.
- July 29, 2021 (by email): Agreed to change the date of the Fall Council meeting to October 16, 2021, rather than the original date of October 9th.

II. FINANCES

- A. The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director will provide brief updates on MSA finances (Appendix A – Treasurer’s Report). [10 min]
- B. Mark Van Baalen, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee has updated the Investment Policy Document for Council approval. (Appendix B) [5 min]

Pamela Burnley moves to accept the Investment Policy Document, Francis McCubbin seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

III. AWARDS

A. Roebling Medal [2 min]

Approve committee choice for the **Roebling Medal**: John Valley (Appendix C)

Francis McCubbin moves to accept the choice for the Roebling Medal, Przemek Dera seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Dana Medal [2 min]

Approve committee choice for the **Dana Medal**: Cin-Ty Lee (Appendix D)

Pamela Burnley moves to accept the choice for the Dana Medal. Jennifer Jackson seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

C. MSA Award [2 min]

Approve committee choice for the **MSA Award**: Benjamin Tutolo (Appendix E)

Pamela Burnley moves to accept the committee choice for the MSA Award. Bob Bodnar seconds. The motion is passed unanimously. There was a comment about the difficulty of meeting online with the vast differences in time-zones on the committee.

People wanted to have more to go on instead of publication records, other metrics would be helpful in making a final selection.

D. Fellows [2 min]

Approve committee choice for the 2022 **MSA Fellows** (Appendix F):

Nathalie Bolfan-Casanova (France), **John Cottle** (US), **John Dilles** (US), **Anita Grunder** (US), **Toru Inoue** (Japan), **Jacob Lowenstern** (US), **Michihiko Nakamura** (Japan), **Urs Schaltegger** (Switzerland), **Richard Secco** (Canada), **Allan Treiman** (US)

Przemek Dera moves to accept the committee choices for the 2022 MSA Fellows. Bob Bodnar seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEES, OFFICERS, AND APPOINTED POSTS

A. Officer Nominating Committee

Approve candidates for Vice President and two Councilor positions (Appendix G). [5 min]

Pamela Burnley moves to approve the candidates for Vice President and two Councilor positions. Francis McCubbin seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

B. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

The DEI Committee is proposing that MSA adopt an Equity Lens Tool for use by its committees and members of governance. Tyler Spano, Chair of the DEI Committee, will present the Tool and request Council input on the Tool. The DEI Committee also requests Council approval to 1) interact with MSA Committees, and, 2) when the Tool is finalized, to include it in the appropriate Committees Handbooks (Appendix H) [15 minutes]

Jennifer Jackson moves to accept the MSA to adopt an Equity Lens Tool for use by its committees and members of governance. Pamela Burnley seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

BREAK

V. OPERATIONS

A. Council Meetings:

Council needs to decide on the date and, possibly, venue for the 2022 Spring Second Council Meeting. [vote] [2 min]

Pamela Burnley makes a motion to hold the 2022 Spring Second Council meeting at the MSA head office in Chantilly, Virginia, USA, May 14, 2022. Francis McCubbin seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

B. MSA IT Update:

Ann Benbow and Gloria McFarland will give a brief overview of the IT situation at MSA and

proposed changes. [5 min]

Moving to WordPress platform, with some plugins. Trying to move away from Network Solutions. This should be a high priority (Mark G.) and security is becoming more of an issue.

SoC that this is a high priority to get the website updated.

C. Benefactors Committee: [5 min]

The Benefactors Committee asks MSA Council members to relay any prospective donor corporations and contacts therein to Phil Neuhoff, Chair of this committee.

Action item: Please relay and possible donors or corporations that could be approached.

VI. PROGRAMS: PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, EVENTS, AND LECTURE PROGRAM

A. *Elements*: Barb Dutrow, the MSA Representative to *Elements* Magazine, has two requested items, the first of which requires Council consideration:

1. Please forward names to Barb for the next *Elements* Principal Editor for Mineralogy. This is to replace Richard Harrison.
2. Please consider proposing an issue of *Elements*.

B. *Online Textbook*: Publications Director, Pamela Burnley, is asking Council to consider John Brady's request that MSA host his online textbook when he has finished it. The textbook is currently on John's own system. [5 minutes]

Pamela Burnley moves to consider John Brady's request that MSA host his online textbook when he has finished it. Carol Frost seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

C. *Awards*: The virtual awards ceremonies for the 2020 and 2021 awardees will take place in mid-November 2021. All awardees are willing to do this – it is just a matter of fixing the dates.

D. *Awards*: The MSA Award Committee requests Council to consider expanding on the award criteria to help the Committee in differentiating between numerous excellent candidates. [5 minutes]

E. *Event*: George Harlow, MSA Liaison to the IMA, is requesting ideas for how MSA might participate in the 2022 Year of Mineralogy, a UNESCO initiative. [5 min]

VII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND PLANNING

A. Minerals Day [5 min]

Ann Benbow will give a brief report on Minerals Day 2021 and Earth Science Week events (October 11).

Ann Benbow reports that unfortunately Minerals Day 2021 was on a holiday but was very successful. MSA hosted a series of online presentations on interesting careers in the geosciences during Earth Science Week. These are now on MSA's YouTube Channel.

B. Study on the Status of Mineralogy and Petrology in Higher Education [5 min]

Ann Benbow gave a brief report on this study, which is now complete. Carol Frost presented the results of the study at the GSA Annual Meeting in Portland, OR.

C. Annual Fund

President Mark Ghiorso proposes that MSA consider instituting an Annual Fund. Contributions to this fund would be unrestricted and for current year spending. This would enable MSA to get new programs off the ground sooner, and could be used as matching funds when seeking grants. [5 minutes] [vote]

Pamela Burnley moves that the MSA consider instituting an Annual Fund. Francis McCubbin seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

D. Mentorship Program

President Mark Ghiorso would like Council to consider launching a mentorship program in possible partnership with the Young Mineral Collectors (YMC). In the recent survey of its academic members, 70 percent indicated that they would be interested in participating in such a program if MSA were to launch it. The YMC have already created an online interface for a mentorship program and are very eager to collaborate with MSA on such an initiative. [10 min]

Ann Benbow will explore the safety of the YMC and come back with a proposal. Bob Bodnar moves to consider launching a mentorship program. Pamela Burnley seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM EDT.