

MINUTES OF THE THIRD 2007 COUNCIL MEETING
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Attending:

Barb Dutrow, President
John W. Valley, Past President
Peter Heaney, Vice president
John M. Hughes, Treasurer
George E. Harlow, Secretary
Ross John Angel, Councilor
Robert Downs, Councilor
Simon Redfern, Councilor
Roberta Rudnick, Councilor
Klaus Mezger, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
Gordon Nord, MSA Webmaster
Bob Dymek, Editor, *American Mineralogist*
Nancy Ross, Vice-president-elect
Carol Frost, Councilor-elect
Peter Burns, Councilor-elect
Sean Brennan, afternoon, Pan American Fluid Inclusions rep

Absent:

Jean Morrison, Councilor

Note: Motions and council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = Sense of Council, S = Second.

The Third meeting of the 2007 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America was held in the Denver Hyatt Regency, Denver, CO on Saturday, October 27, 2007.

ITEMS

1. Call to Order

President B. Dutrow called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM, Saturday, October 27, 2007, welcomed everyone, and had everyone introduce themselves, stating their relationship to MSA and/or the Council. She stated that the months have been busy since the last Council meeting with the co-sponsored Frontiers meeting in Cambridge, England in June, the summer appeal letter to 25+ year members which brought in about \$8000, and Don Bloss forwarded appreciated stock which added over \$28K to the Donald Bloss Fund. She reviewed the actions of the Executive Committee. She noted the membership

statistics presented by Alex Speer, Executive Director, indicated that we need more regular members.

Added Agenda Items.

(1) Recommendation by the President to add Institutions as potential recipients of the Distinguished Public Service Medal and (2) guidelines for the Dana Medal.

2. Accept Reports to Council containing no questions or action items as a group. Reports will be acknowledged by the Secretary.

Financial Advisory and Audit Committee, Publications Director, Editorial and Editors of the *American Mineralogist*, Series Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* & Monographs Series, the MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, MSA Representative on the Executive Committee of *Elements*, Editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*, MSA Representative on the Executive Committee of *Elements*, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Board of Directors, MSA Webmaster, Outreach Committee (K-12), Outreach Committee (on Databases), Lecture Program Committee, Lecture Program Coordinator, Representatives to the American Crystallographic Association, American Geological Institute, Clay Minerals Society, European Mineralogical Union (EMU), Friends of Mineralogy, Geological Society of America, International Mineralogical Association, and the Interest Group for Pegmatites.

R. Angel moved to accept these Reports to Council. S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Revision and approval of Minutes of the Second 2007 Council Meeting.

No revisions were requested.

P. Heaney moved to approve the Minutes of the Second 2007 Council Meeting. S = R. Downs. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Acceptance of medal, award, grant and honor recommendations

Roebing Medal:	<i>Bernard W. Evans</i>
Distinguished Public Service Medal:	<i>next award is 2009</i>
Dana Medal:	<i>Ronald E. Cohen</i>
MSA Award:	<i>James Badro</i>

R. Rudnick moved to approve the recommendations for these awards. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

Ross asked that members of the relevant committees be informed. Dutrow stated strongly that no one should breathe a word of these results until the awardees were notified and that they are announced during the 2007 Business meeting. The President calls the awardees and the incoming President follows up with a written letter.

MSA Fellows:

Dr. Bryan C. Chakoumakos, Dr. Matthew J. Kohn, Dr. Mark David Welch, Dr. David W. Mogk, Dr. Ru Y. Zhang, Dr. Daniel E. Harlov, Dr. Giancarlo Della Ventura, Dr. Lawrence M. Anovitz

R. Downs moved to approve the recommendations for new fellows. S = J. Valley.
Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion followed on the importance of fellows to the Society, the 0.5% rule, and the ranking of three additional candidates for Fellows. All are well known to members of Council, have made important contributions to the Society and science (e.g., Helen Lang for work on zoning in metamorphic garnets and coordinating the Lecture Program, John Rakovan for work on apatite growth and vicinal face partitioning/kinetics as well as outreach, and Ray Joesten for diffusion, disequilibrium and growth kinetics in metamorphic rocks) and really were not much different in ranking than the 8 nominated for becoming fellows. Consequently,

B. Dutrow moved to approve Dr. Helen Lang, Dr. Raymond L. Joesten, and Dr. John F. Rakovan as new fellows. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

Finally, everyone agreed that both Council and the Nominating Committee for Fellows need to stimulate a greater number of nominations.

Crystallographic Research Grant: *Daniel R. Hummer*

R. Angel moved to approve the recommendation for the Crystallographic Research Grant. S = S. Redfern. Motion passed unanimously.

The report of the Committee for the Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grant has not been received; therefore,

S. Redfern moved to confer approval of recommendations of the Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grant Committee to the Executive Committee. S = R. Downs. Motion passed unanimously.

[Added upon Ex. Com. Action in December:

Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grants: *Jennifer Bernadette Wright*
Olaf Jakub Borkiewicz]

There followed a discussion of the relatively small number of applications this year for the research grants: only 4 for the Kraus award. Ross noted that perhaps the minimum age of 25 was a factor. Alex suggested that the committee chairs did not advertise to MSA members and relied entirely on what the MSA Business Office does, which at most can only achieve so much. John Valley suggested that the low success rate of these grant proposals is a factor. He would not recommend to his students to spend time on a grant with such a low success rate. Peter noted that our busy schedules would benefit by

setting up a calendar with reminder dates and perhaps an auto email via a Google Calendar. All agreed that every means of promotion and advertising should be encouraged.

Dutrow thanked the chairs of the committees for their efforts.

5. Action Items concerning MSA Awards.

(a) President Dutrow proposes changing the criteria for the Distinguished Public Service (DPS) Medal to allow clubs or organizations to be eligible for the award. This is not intended to include organizations that do “public service” as part of their paid regular mission.

Specifically, some organizations such as the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society have educated the public about minerals for the past 50+ years. These organizations have done a great service to the profession – perhaps their group would be deserving of such an award. It also seems preferable to give the award to the organization rather than a single person – on behalf of the organization. The suggested wording changes [and deletions] are to include organizations, as *italicized* below:

“The Distinguished Public Service (DPS) Medal is awarded by the MSA Council to individuals who *or organizations that* have made important contributions to furthering the vitality of the geological sciences, especially but not necessarily in the fields of mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, and crystallography. Mineralogy is broadly defined and the [candidate] *recipient* need not qualify as a mineralogist. Rather [his or her] *their* recorded contributions and should be related to the mineralogical and geological sciences and should make some outstanding contribution to them but exclusive of original scientific research; for such research the Mineralogical Society of America has established three other awards.”

In the discussion John Valley suggested that perhaps another award was needed. The issue of expense and timing was raised as an issue with another award. Bob Downs agreed with the intent of the change for the DPS but thought that the Executive Committee should handle a repackaging and advertising of both the nominating and award process.

P. Heaney moved to add Organizations as eligible and the revised changed wording for the Distinguished Public Service Medal as suggested by President Dutrow. S = R. Downs. Motion passed unanimously.

(b) Pres. Dutrow’s second action item concerning MSA Awards is the addition of a sentence to the Dana Medal award guidelines that states: “*Preference will be given to candidates who have not received the MSA Award.*”

She suggests this because one of the original rationales for this award was to recognize deserving scientists who do not receive the MSA award. We all know there are many deserving scientists. Whereas this reasoning does not dictate that an MSA awardee cannot receive the Dana Medal, rather that we look to the broader and richly deserving community. If the suggested sentence is added, then there is no confusion as to what our

preference is given.

There was a short discussion of this issue and a general agreement that a statement rather than a mandate would be the best approach.

Thus, it was *the SoC to have the Executive Director review and advise the Executive Committee on changes required to wording in the Handbooks for the DPSM Committee and the Dana Medal Committee to add encouragement for seeking candidates from the broad geoscience community.*

6. Recommendations about committees, committee members, chairs, and appointed posts for 2008:

(a) Discussion of MSA Committee memberships, chairs, and appointed posts for 2008: The actual vote on appointment of Committees and other posts occurs during the First 2008 Council Meeting.

(b) Discussion of the MSA representative to the Commission on New Minerals, Mineral Names, and Classification of the International Mineralogical Association. (This issue has been made irrelevant as the representative, Pete Dunn, recently announced his retirement and need to be replaced on the Commission).

(c) Benefactors Committee: Some clarification was needed on the results of the CoC on this group. Barb said she would help straighten out the roles and actors.

(d) Lecture Program Committee: Discussion of the need for a new chair, quickly, as committee's activities start virtually immediately. Suggestions were made, and the Secretary will contact them in the order suggested.

7. The MSA President has two action items relating to appointed posts:

(a) George Lager is retiring at the end of this four-year term as one of the Editors of the *American Mineralogist*. Discussions have begun with candidates after seeking input at the spring council meeting followed by input from the Managing Editor, Editors, and MSA Executive Committee. Although Barb had cautious optimism, she acknowledged that her prospect did not pan out. She continues to work on her list of candidates.

(b) Alex is stepping down from the GSW Board of Directors and cannot succeed himself. Because Doug Rumble has served as the MSA representative to GSW Advisory Council, is interested, is an MSA past president who will keep MSA's interests in mind, and has 'eagerly' agreed to serve, Barb asks for approval of Doug Rumble to succeed J. Alex Speer as the MSA representative to the GSW Board of Directors starting Fall of 2008.

R. Angel moved to appoint Doug Rumble as the next MSA representative to the GSW Board of Directors starting fall of 2008. S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.

(c) With Doug joining the Board, MSA needs a replacement to serve as MSA's representative to the advisory council of GSW. Barb discussed this service with Rod Ewing, who indicated he would be interested.

J. Valley moved to appoint Rod Ewing as the next MSA representative to the advisory council of GSW, succeeding Doug Rumble. S = S. Redfern. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Report of the Meetings Coordinator:

(a) Appointment of a member of Council as the new meetings coordinator. After a short discussion Simon Redfern volunteered to become the new Meetings Coordinator.

(b) Appointment of a new MSA Representative to Spring AGU: Joe Pyle has had to step down because of other heavy commitments. Roberta suggested Mike Brown of Maryland as a good possibility.

It was the SoC to have the Secretary approach Mike, returning to Roberta for further suggestions if he was unsuccessful.

9. Report from the Nominating Committee for Officers.

The committee recommends approval of the rank-ordered rosters for candidates for Vice-President, Treasurer, and for Councilor subject to certain revisions and considerations presented during the meeting (e.g., do not have two candidates for the same office from the same university). There was also concern about the lack of candidates, in some instances, identified by the Committee, so there was a discussion of the people on the list and other possible candidates to augment the list for the next Treasurer. The MSA Secretary for 2008 will contact those on the list in sequence decided by Council to invite them to run for office.

P. Heaney moved to accept the ranked lists of candidates for officers as amended by Council. S = J. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Report from the Management Committee on Staff Evaluations.

All visitors to Council were asked to leave the room at this time. Barb Dutrow stated that the management committee, consisting of J. Hughes, J. Valley, G. Harlow, P. Heaney and herself met the previous night to consider the yearly evaluations of our employee: J. Alex Speer, Executive Director; Michael Harris, Asst. I; Everett Johnson, Administrative Asst.; and Michelle Johnson, Administrative Asst. who oversees the Clay Mineral Society; and Rachel Russell, Managing Editor; and Christine Elrod, Assistant Editor for the American Mineralogist

Alex has asked us to consider promoting Michael Harris – to Asst. II, which was

approved. As this promotion includes a substantial boost in salary, no raise for Michael needs to be considered.

The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which by policy Council is required to add in evaluating salaries, is 2.77% this year. Based on evaluations and discussion, the Management Committee recommends that, in addition to the COLA, merit raises be given.

R. Angel moved to accept the recommendation of the Management Committee on raises for salaries of the MSA staff: COLA (2.77%) plus merit raises. S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a meeting break from 9:58 - 10:15

11. Report from the Executive Director relating to operations:

(a) Requests that Council accepts the 2007 election results and give permission to destroy the ballots and ballot files upon acceptance.

R. Rudnick moved to accept the results from the 2007 election and permit the Executive Director to destroy the ballots. S = S. Redfern. Motion passed unanimously.

(b) Council needs to confirm that the second or spring 2008 MSA Council Meeting will be held Chantilly, VA in the MSA Offices, and decide on a date.

There was a short discussion about calendars, meetings, and conflicts.

It was the SoC that the Spring 2008 Council Meeting be held at the Business Office in Chantilly, VA with the tentative date as May 21, which is a Wednesday.

(c) Council had asked the Executive Director to evaluate/provide mechanism(s) to fill vacancies on committees and council. The MSA Bylaws describe how vacancies are to be filled. Filling committee vacancies is straightforward; the MSA President can appoint a replacement with approval of the Council or Executive Committee. However, there is fair amount of discretion in filling vacancies in elected positions. The only requirement is that the replacement be approved by 2/3's of the Council or Executive Committee.

Options include: leave the Bylaws as is, change the Bylaws to give more detailed instructions per the draft included in the report (see below), or leave the Bylaws as is but adopt a Sense of Council resolution as guidance on how to fill Council and officer vacancies.

Section 4. Vacancies

(a) Vacancies in the position of Councilor shall be filled by any eligible member of the Society elected by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

(b) A vacancy in the position of President shall be filled by the Vice President.

(c) A vacancy in the position of Vice President shall be filled by the runner-up in the immediate past elections to that office. If that individual is unable to assume office,

the position shall be filled by any eligible member of the Society elected by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

(d) A vacancy in the position of either Secretary or Treasurer shall be filled by any eligible member of the Society elected by a two-thirds vote of Council.

(e) An individual elected by Council to fill a vacancy shall serve the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office and until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

(f) In the event that an individual, between the time they are elected and the time their term in office is to begin, is unable to occupy that position, the runner up in the election to that office shall assume office.

The vacancy is filled with approval of the Council, or if the Council is not meeting, the MSA Executive committee.

After a short discussion it was agreed that changing the Bylaws was the right approach, even though it will require a vote of the membership.

P. Heaney moved to place on the 2008 ballot a Bylaws change to Section 4– Vacancies, as suggested by the Executive Director. S. = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer has no specific action items relating to 2007 finances for the 2007 Council (the 2008 budget will need to be approved in the First 2008 Council Meeting). John Hughes noted from the Treasurer's Report to Council that the Audit of the 2006 budget had been found to be in conformity with accounting principles; the market value of the MSA's investments were \$2,560,333 as of 6/30/2007; fund transfers had been under 4% of market value and thus conservative; that the principle budgetary uncertainty involves the printing costs and sales receipts for the RiMG volumes. Sustaining memberships (Members and Fellows) is up to 25 from last years 14, so there is some progress with this fund raising mechanism.

President Dutrow thanked John for the immense service he provides the Society in his capacity as Treasurer. There were neither pointed questions nor substantive discussions relating to John's report.

13. Analysis of Life Memberships, as requested by Council from the Treasurer:

Treasurer Hughes offered the following analysis:

It would appear that MSA life memberships are no better than a break-even proposition for MSA and more realistically may be a money loser to some degree. It is probably realistic that most assume that a life membership will be a continuing investment that both covers the cost of the member's dues and subscription while they are living and provides MSA continuing income once they are deceased. This is likely not the case. Among many options, he offered three for Council discussion on how Life Memberships are regarded:

[a] Accept life memberships as a more or less break-even program and leave the life dues multiplier at twenty-five times the annual dues.

[b] Accept life memberships as a break-even program but increase the life dues multiplier to 35 times the annual due to ensure that the program does not operate at a loss in most cases.

[c] View life membership as a continuing investment that both covers the cost of the member's dues while they are living and provides MSA continuing income once they pass. This requires increasing the life dues multiplier to about 50 times the annual dues.

There was a short discussion and general agreement that Life Memberships should represent a continuing investment to the benefit of the Society (option c). Because the multiplying amount is specified in the MSA Bylaws, a change will require a vote by the membership.

R. Angel moved to place on the 2008 ballot a Bylaws change to increase the multiplier for life membership from 25 to 50 times. S = R. Downs. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Updates and items from the Treasurer and MSA Executive Director.

Executive Director Speer reported that as of 26 October, roughly one third of the membership had renewed online. Continuing a trend, the proportion of members electing electronic only subscription to Am. Min is increasing. Sales of other publications is up, with sales so far this year of roughly \$80-90,000, and financial donations at about \$17,000.

Older RiMG volumes are going out of print, including Spectroscopic Methods (18) after 20 years, although it has been supplanted by EMU Vol. 6 *Notes in Mineralogy* on the same subject published in 2004. The Big Blue Spear volume on Metamorphic Geology will run out in 4-5 months; Frank Spear is not sure whether he wants to publish an updated volume. Bob Downs asked whether loss of paper volumes moves up the priority for making them available electronically via GSW. Alex responded that it does, though MSA has no electronic versions of these early volumes. He thought it would make sense to do a regular, large-number paper reprint only in the case of "best sellers." He also noted that print on demand would only make sense for publications for which only a few copies are needed and with less than 200 pages total, thus not realistic for RiMG volumes. Nevertheless, Alex said he would look into what print on demand reissues would cost.

Discussion returned to finances, and John Hughes reiterated that total investments were currently valued at about \$2.4 million. Mickey was asked about the progress with the Bloss Fund. Royalties and profits on Don Bloss's books bring in about \$2000 every 6 months, so that the initial gift of \$29K has risen to about \$35K. All agreed that this is positive for the Society.

President Dutrow thanked both John and Alex for their hard work.

15. Report of the Financial Advisory Committee:

There are no action items but Pres. Dutrow wanted Council to underscore the recommendations in the FAAC report:

- (a) continue to use a conservative approach in the expenditure of endowment funds for the operation of The Society;
- (b) continue to solicit endowment funds from members and corporations, in an effort to maintain the financial health of MSA; (our targeted giving this year was very successful).

(c) continue to evaluate the intended balance of Fixed-Income and High-Yield Bonds (35%) to Equities and REITs (65% total - 61% equities and 4% REITs) in view of the current turbulence in the equities markets and the projected (if not actual) end of the bull market of the past two years.

This is a continuing reminder to Council of its fiduciary responsibilities.

16. Report from the Short Course Committee:

The Committee has two action items:

- (a) It recommends that Council approve the “Mineralogy applied to building materials” by Maarten Broekmans and others for a 2008.

Considerable comment and debate arose among members of Council over this proposal. In particular, they looked at the comments on the proposal provided by the Committee and felt that these were not satisfactorily addressed in the presented proposal. It was noted that there is a great deal of interest in using fly-ash in building products, which might well be covered. The issue of preservation of buildings and associated out-door art objects should be included as it is a major area of research in applied mineralogy. Much of the material proposed for the book seemed to be specific and descriptive in nature, which would not be appropriate for the first RiMG volume to cover this area of research. In that context, it ought to be oriented towards the mineralogy of building materials and the chemistry and physics of that mineralogy. Were the topics were at the forefront of the discipline?. Whereas, there was strong support for a short course covering the title topic, there was consensus that Council could not support the present proposal.

R. Angel moved to reject the proposal for the short course “Mineralogy applied to building materials.” S = K. Mezger. Motion passed unanimously.

- (b) The Committee expressed concern of a decrease in the number of proposals received over the last year that is smaller than a few years ago. It asks Council whether some selective advertising is needed or desired.

Barb suggested the obvious vehicle is *Elements*, but who should write the message?

Peter Heaney suggested he could make it a topic for one of his President’s letters. She also suggested having a brainstorming session about potential topics so as to approach potential organizers. Two possibilities are 1) high-resolutions provenance studies and 2) fluids by Bob Bodnar. Ross commented that it might be time to reconsider new volumes on mineral groups, as these are always desired volumes. Nancy asked Alex whether we know what the EMU’s plans are for future volumes, are we facing overlap or competition? Alex responded he was unaware of any immediate overlap.

17. Response from Geochemical Society about Dana Medal Award venue:

We received a positive response from the Geochemical Society for presenting Thomas Armbruster the 2008 Dana Medal at the 2008 Goldschmidt Conference in Vancouver,

BC. The venue has not yet been set, but the meeting is 13-18 July. When the issue of sessions relating to Thomas's work, and that someone should contact Martin Kunz, his nominator, or Lee Groat, someone responded that they were already aware of solicitations for such a session by Ed Grew.

18. Co-sponsorship of PACROFI IX:

MSA has been asked to co-sponsor the upcoming PACROFI IX (Pan-American Current Research on Fluid Inclusions). The conference is dedicated to the memory of Ed Roedder who had many ties to MSA [MSA president (1983), Roebling Medalist (1986), and author on the *Reviews in Mineralogy* volume on fluid inclusions (vol. 12)]. The conference will be held at the USGS Headquarters in Reston, VA, June 2-5, 2008. MSA's co-sponsorship would entail handling registrations comparable to an MSA short course. It would allow MSA to be highly visible in the fluid inclusion field. Sean Brennan, the chair of the organizing committee, was going to make a short presentation but asked to be heard immediately after lunch. The Executive Director recommends that MSA co-sponsor the meeting in order to maintain the Society's visibility in the field. G. Harlow asked whether there is some way to recoup some sort of overhead for the time expended on the registration activities. R. Rudnick asked whether there would be any publications forthcoming from the meeting. Alex responded there will be an abstract volume, but otherwise someone may arrange for some papers to appear in special issue of a journal. Barb concurred on needing some way of covering our costs. Gordon Nord and Alex Speer said they would make some calculations about what sort of a per-head fee would cover the Society's expenses related to the meeting. The decision was tabled until Dr. Brennan's presentation after lunch.

19. Sponsorship of 2018 IMA Meeting:

The MSA Secretary contacted the IMA Secretary, Maryse Ohnenstetter, to convey "an expression of interest and enthusiasm by MSA Council to the IMA Council that the USA be considered for hosting the IMA Meeting in 2018, proximal to MSA's Centenary." IMA will announce this interest on its website and in *Elements*. The Executive Director reminded Council, that while 11 years sounds like a long time, it is not too early to start planning ahead. As MSA Representative to IMA, George Harlow, said he would consult with Bob Downs, IMA treasurer, to set up an organizing committee to commence the planning process, in particular, identifying some likely host institutions or locations.

19B. Extra Item – Request from International School on High-Pressure – High-Temperature Mineral Physics:

Ross Angel noted that this group was looking for sponsorship and a contribution of funds to help underwrite costs, particularly for students, in the range of \$500 – 1000. J. Valley noted this was inconsistent with long held MSA policy not to invest in meetings. Ross commented that outreach components of MSA's activities include our lecture program and the website for which we pay. Several suggested they would like to see the sponsorship and contribution separated.

P. Heaney moved to disapprove the request for a financial contribution from this International School but to endorse the sponsorship and help with advertising via the MSA website. S = J. Hughes Motion passed: 7 yeas, 3 abstentions.

The Council meeting broke for lunch at 12:09 and reconvened at 12:58 PM.

18con. Return to the Co-sponsorship of PACROFI IX:

Sean Brennan was introduced and discussed the forthcoming PACROFI IX meeting to be hosted at the USGS in Reston. The meetings are held every other year and the proposed meeting will focus on fluid and melt inclusions. The meeting will last 4 days, and approximately 80 – 120 attendees are expected. With respect to Roberta's earlier question about a proceedings volume, Brennan stated that typically presenters are invited to submit papers based on their presentations for a special issue of a journal, with a potential target for this meeting being *Chemical Geology* or *American Mineralogist*. Ross Angel asked about the finances of the meeting and what would happen in the event of a loss relative to fees. Brennan stated that the USGS will be helping with the finances of the meeting. Dutrow thanked Brennan for this time and interest in MSA.

R. Rudnick moved to approve the MSA co-sponsorship of the PACROFI IX meeting and empower the Executive Director to set a fee to cover overhead in handling the registration and web activities. S = R. Downs Motion passed unanimously.

20. Report of the President on the draft Agreement with the Geochemical Society (GS) on the sponsorship of North American Goldschmidt Conferences.

Barb reviewed some the history to relations between MSA and GS in terms of the Goldschmidt conference, relevant correspondence was provided in the BlueBook. Although GS started modestly, the Goldschmidt conference has become incredibly successful, both at growing their society and at becoming the premier meeting for all forms of geochemistry. Contemporaneously, GS wanted to partner with MSA for short courses and RiM volumes. MSA thought it had bargained a co-copyright to RiM (such that it became RiMG) in belief that it was gaining co-sponsorship of Goldschmidt conferences, however, no written documents ever codified that part of this agreement. MSA was not included in Goldschmidt planning after the conference at Hot Springs, VA.

Over the summer GS began working on 'rules' for co-sponsorship of the GS meeting. Scott Wood contacted MSA stating that GS would be willing to 'grandfather' MSA in to the agreement – and reiterated the 'gentleman's' agreement. The MSA Executive Committee and Alex worked over the summer to prepare an MOA. By the end of the summer, things had changed. There were issues with EAG and GS – and MSA co-sponsorships of meetings became dubious. Barb was invited to speak with the GS council in Cologne at the Goldschmidt meeting, which she did. Some GS members are extremely supportive of MSA, others are not. During the week, John Valley and Barb spent much of the week talking with GS and EAG officers, councilors, etc. By week's end, Barb met with Sue Brantley and Marty Goldhaber, GS Pres. and VP, and came up

George E. Harlow 1/16/08 5:15 PM
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with the agreement on the agenda.

The agreement calls for 3\$ per member fee from MSA. GS wants all societies that ‘sponsor’ to contribute to the expense of the meeting. Barb reminded them that GS members have received 20% discounts on RiMG series, for which MSA received nothing in return. Therefore, GS will make a “contribution” equivalent to the 3\$ per member fee charged to MSA in support of the RiMG series – thus the transaction will be revenue neutral.

At this time, GS has no meetings committee and has no control over the organization of the Goldschmidt Conference; the local organizing committee has essentially total control. Thus, there is no committee to appoint an MSA representative onto. However, items 2c and 2d are there in case GS does implement an organizing committee – it allows us to have access to that committee.

The flexibility of this agreement allows MSA to be involved and highlighted, but it also allows MSA to be involved in other spring or summer meetings if we choose. For example, another Frontiers meeting might be in the works, as well as the IMA meetings every 4 yrs. We need this flexibility – to be visible but not be in the position of finding people to run meetings.

A similar discussion was begun with Pres. Alex Halliday of the European Association of Geochemists for MSA co-sponsorship of European Goldschmidt Conferences. However, it was decided to wait until MSA’s agreement with GS was more solidified before pursuing an agreement with EAG.

Mickey talked about Goldschmidt Forum membership which he recalled consisting of members from GS, EAG, the last organizing committee, the active organizing committee, and the next meetings committee. Will MSA have a seat in the Forum? Peter praised Barb and John Valley for their actions but expressed long-term concerns for our relationship with Goldschmidt based on the past difficulties and the reticence of EAG. He feels a MSA member should be present during these discussions within the other organizations, as it has been difficult to maintain clear communication. Barb acknowledged the difficulties but argued that we have made a significant advancement with the Agreement. Roberta raised the concern of the split between the GS and EAG means we only have access to North American meetings, only half of Goldschmidt. Klaus emphasized that we have made progress and must keep our proverbial foot in the door until we have resolution with both organizations. Bob Downs asked whether this agreement signifies replacement of Goldschmidt for AGU. There was no sense whether the agreement did or did not, and that perhaps we would just continue to play it by ear until there is a clearer indication of the best choice. Simon echoed a sense among Council that this agreement is an excellent accomplishment.

J. Valley moved to approve the agreement between MSA and GS with respect to Goldschmidt Conferences (as presented in Sec.1-Appendix B of the BlueBook). S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.

21. Report of the Meetings Coordinator.

The Meetings Coordinator recommends that each Goldschmidt Conference be treated separately by MSA and, for those at which MSA would like involvement or a strong

presence, the meetings coordinator contact the GS Board of Directors and the local organizers to identify and appoint an MSA representative.

Barb commented that we cannot demand that MSA be inserted into the organizing committee. We can only encourage them to include our members, which we should do.

22. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Policy for Considering and Adopting Position Statements:

This MSA *ad hoc* Committee was created during the Second 2007 Council meeting in response to a proposal by George Harlow, as MSA Representative from the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP), to consider a position statement on the preservation of natural history collections. Because no procedure to consider a position statement existed within MSA, this committee was charged to make a recommendation to Council as to procedures. The Committee recommends that Council adopt the procedures included in their report and authorize creation of the Web-tools to commence the process.

G. Harlow reviewed the recommendation for procedures which would vet all offered position statements through the Executive Director, the Executive Committee, the membership and public and finally be put up for approval by Council. Someone noted that the vote by council should be amended as “a 2/3 majority of the full council” (i.e., 8 of the 11 total) to avoid problems with a low Council meeting turnout.

S. Redfern moved to approve the Policy for Considering and Adopting Position Statements (as presented in Sec.22-Appendix B of the BlueBook) and with the amendment of a 2/3 majority of the full Council. S = R. Angel. Motion passed unanimously.

Barb suggested that it would be useful to make an announcement about this via the MSA list server, as well as on the Web site and in *Elements*.

23. The MSA President and Representative to the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) report on results of discussions.

GIA is a non-profit organization that has a large number of members. Many are scientists interested in more interactions with MSA. Our mutual interactions could be beneficial to both societies. MSA could tap into a large number of potential members and GIA wants more interaction with the scientific community. MSA Council agreed to sponsor a symposium for the 2009 Gemological Research Conference (GRC). Several topics have been discussed. These include:

Gemology of Rock-forming Minerals

Geology of Gem-forming Environments – George Harlow said he would work with

Brendan Laurs and Jim Shigley on this topic as it is one previously endorsed by the GRC.

Teaching Gemology in a University Environment

Analysis and Gem Mineral Identification – Bob Downs volunteered this title.

Moreover, as part of the goal to improve the MSA – GIA relationship, GIA has agreed to

let MSA offer to its members the GIA magazine *Gems & Gemology* at a discounted rate (10% discount). Do we want to accept this offer of a discount as it does for *Mineralogical Record* and *Rocks and Minerals*?

J. Valley moved to approve the agreement to offer *Gems & Gemology* at a discount to MSA members. S = J. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

24. MSA President's report on the 28 June 2007 *Elements* Executive Committee meeting at the Frontiers in Mineralogy meeting in Cambridge, England.

Two issues were important for MSA consideration:

1. The Editors noted that *Elements* needs information for the "people in the news" section. If you know of our members who, for example, testify before congress or the equivalent national organization, win international awards, etc. please don't be shy and send your news to Pierrette Tremblay.
2. The idea of an *Elements* lectureship came up. Lecturers would be chosen who could represent topics discussed in *Elements* magazine. As proposed, individual societies would be asked to financially support this endeavor. There was also a statement that, because the MSA lectureship was so undersubscribed, that it would be better for us. Barb tried to correct this misconception. However, this is likely to come up in the future. MSA should think about if it would like to support this and how financially they could. Not for action now, but MSA potentially needs to be prepared for this discussion.

P. Heaney asked Alex how much MSA is supporting the costs of *Elements*. Alex responded that MSA pays per member for subscription, acts as banker, handles mailing lists and helps write proposals for grant support. In addition, both MSA and MAC underwrite a fair amount of overhead in their general operations such that these societies are contributing over and above all other societies to *Elements*. John Hughes suggested we need a sense of council to recommend that *Elements* normalize its finances before expanding or starting new initiatives. Peter Burns pointed out that *Elements* is not a society, so why is it thinking of venturing into a lecture program that is already handled by at least one represented society.

The subject moved away from *Elements* proposal to the MSA Lecture Program. R. Rudnick pointed out that the Lecture Program has routinely targeted smaller colleges to enhance their programs and provide connection to geoscience in the larger academy. G. Harlow had noticed that the Denver Museum of Nature & Science will be a venue for one set of lectures; what does Council think of this new class of site for lectures? R. Angel was concerned with the large universities being venues in Europe as running counter to the outreach to smaller institutions. Ross said he would write a message to send to the mineralogical societies of Eastern Europe to encourage the requests from smaller less well-endowed schools. George said he would consult with SMMP members about the market for MSA-sponsored talks at Museums, talks geared to a general audience rather than students.

25. Further discussions on the Award Processes

At the spring council meeting, we first discussed a letter received about the award process for the Roebling Medal. Alex now seeks guidance from Council on the following issues:

(a) If there is anything from the letter that can be used to examine or improve the MSA award nomination process and, if so, how to go about evaluating and determining what and how to implement what has been learned, and

(b) What can be done to respond.

Barb noted that we need to be more proactive in communication and define solutions for the future which would help assuage concerns about process. All agreed that the critical issue is to evaluate nominations to identify and remove possible errors. No action was taken, but there was sense that instructions for award committees need reviewing.

26. Adjournment

Before asking for a motion of adjournment, President Dutrow thanked all councilors for their efforts, and especially the retiring Councilors Bob Downs and Ross Angel for their dedicated service over the past three years. Likewise, she thanked outgoing Secretary George Harlow and Past President John Valley for their years of service to the Society.

R. Angel moved that the 3rd 2007 Council meeting be adjourned. S = R. Downs. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Harlow, MSA Secretary