

**Second 2011 MSA Council Meeting**  
Saturday, 7 May 2011  
Mineralogical Society of America offices  
3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500 Chantilly, VA 20151-1110, USA

Attending:

David Bish, President  
Mike Hochella, Vice President  
John Brady, Past President  
Darrell Henry, Treasurer  
Mickey Gunter, Secretary  
Penny King, Councilor  
Wendy Bohrson, Councilor  
Sumit Chakraborty, Councilor  
Pamela Burnley, Councilor  
Guy Hovis, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Michael Harris, MSA Administrative Assistant  
Andrea Lisi, MSA student member, George Mason University

Absent:

Marc Hirshmann, Councilor

Note: Motions and Council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = sense of Council, S = second.

The second meeting of the 2011 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was held at the MSA headquarter in Chantilly, Virginia of May 7, 2011

[1] Roll Call and Introduction by the President, introduction of those attending.

Call to order by D. Bish at 8:12 am was followed by introductions of council members and visitors, noting that we have our first student visitor, Andrea Lisi from George Mason University.

[2] Additions to and deletions from the Agenda, approval of the Agenda.

The following three items were added to the agenda and discussed under “New Business” at the end of today’s meeting

Long-term strategic plan for MSA  
Discussion of workshop at GSA on MSA website  
MSA’s ongoing interactions with AGU

[3] Approve the minutes of the Third 2010 Council Meeting and First 2011 Council Meeting.

*P. King moved to approve the minutes. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously*

[4] Accept Reports to Council containing no questions or action items as a group. Reports will be acknowledged by Secretary.

Publications Director, Series Editor of the Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry and Monographs, MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, Editor *Handbook of Mineralogy*, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Board of Directors, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Advisory Council, Meetings Coordinator, MSA Webmaster, Outreach Committee (on Databases), Lecture Program Committee, Lecture Program Coordinator, Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund Committee, Roebling Medal Committee, MSA Award Committee, Distinguished Public Service Award Committee, Dana Medal Committee, Nominating Committee for Fellows, Kraus Crystallography Grant Committee, Mineralogy/Petrology Grant Committee, Representative to AGI, CMS, EMU, FM, GIA, GSA, SMMP, GSA-MGPV, AGU Mineral Physics Committee, Special Interest Group on Pegmatites, Planetary Materials

**Not heard from:** Nominating Committee for Officers, Representative ICDD; Special Interest Group on Mineral Surfaces and Interfaces, Mineral Structures

*G. Hovis moved to accept the above reports. S = S. Chakraborty. Motion passed unanimously*

[5] Review of Executive Committee actions. Any items for action or discussion from the President's Report are taken up under the appropriate sections later in the day.

D. Bish reminded the Council that the Executive Committee is composed of the president, past-president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, and this group can deal with time-sensitive MSA business that arises between council meetings

Since the last council meeting, this committee dealt with issues of student funding, approved the distinguished lecturers, opted not to provide funding for councilors to attend meetings, and finalized the list of nominees for officers. (Some of these are discussed in more detail below.)

[6] The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director provided brief updates on MSA membership numbers, subscriptions, and MSA finances; the following are some highlights:

assets as of 12/31/2010 are \$3.61M, up from \$3.39M over last year  
investments as of 12/31/2010 are \$2.51 M, the highest ever  
fund transfers were \$96,600 to cover expenses supported by the Funds  
we had \$120k of retained earnings  
we had a "clean" 2010 audit  
our budget is on track as approved last meeting

[7] Determine the member and institutional *American Mineralogist* subscription rates as well as member dues for 2012. Recommendations from D. Henry as follows:

(a) for *American Mineralogist* member subscription rates:

- continue to differentiate between domestic and foreign members subscription rates to reflect more closely actual costs of production and mailing of *American Mineralogist*.
  - continue to maintain the shift of content creation and printing preparation costs (7.5%) from institutional to individual subscribers.
  - increase U.S. member subscription price (paper and electronic) to \$95 (currently \$90) and similarly increase the non-U.S. member subscription rate to \$105 (currently \$100) due to increase in costs. These changes represent a 5-6% increase and are in line with those made the last several years.
  - continue to maintain the member electronic-only subscription at \$30.
- (b) for *American Mineralogist* institutional subscription rates:
- continue to differentiate between domestic and foreign institutional subscription rates to reflect more closely the actual costs of production and mailing of *American Mineralogist*.
  - continue to maintain the shift of content creation and printing preparation costs (7.5%) from institutional to individual subscribers.
  - increase the U.S. institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) to \$950 (currently \$900) and similarly increase the non-U.S. institutional subscription rate to \$975 (currently \$925) due to the increased costs. These changes represent a 5-6% increase and are in line with those made last year.
- (c) recommends that there be an electronic-only institutional subscription rate of \$875 as a new category of institutional subscriptions. This would take into account the relatively small savings associated with the printing and shipping of the hard copy (estimated as \$58.04 for the journal).
- (d) proposes that MSA increase the price for *American Mineralogist* for subscribers to GSW who also wish a paper copy to \$160 (currently \$120) due to continuing increase in costs, but maintain the GSW institutional subscription rate for RiMG at the current level of \$175.
- (e) for the 2012 dues.
- increase fellow and member dues by \$5 to \$70 to cover increased costs of MSA. Dues were increased \$65 for regular members in 2009 for the 2010 dues, but partially offset by the \$5 discount for renewals by 12/31 (now 10/31 if a member renews online).
  - keep student dues at \$10. Student dues were last increased for 2006 from \$5 to \$10.
  - keep senior fellow and member dues at \$0.

D. Henry noted the changes represent tracking our costs, but as can be seen we subsidize certain areas of operation.

Some discussion ensued with questions from J. Brady and P. King, mainly to pass on the full-cost of the printed copy of the *American Mineralogist* to those who wanted it. A. Speer noted revenues from GSW are helping to keep some of the above costs lower.

*D. Henry moved to approve the above recommendations S = G. Hovis.* Motion passed unanimously

[8] The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) has no specific action items for Council. However, the management letter accompanying the audit recommends that we improve the documentation of some of our procedures, and this merits consideration. In addition, FAAC recommends that MSA:

- (a) continue the conservative approach in the expenditure of endowment funds for the operation of the Society.
- (b) solicit endowment funds from members and outside donors, in an effort to maintain the ongoing financial health of MSA.

D. Bish asked that anyone with suggestions as to potential donors to send them to J. Hughes.

*W. Bohrson moved to accept the above report. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously*

[9] From the Committee on Committees, discuss and confirm the proposed list of committee members and chairs. Authorize the MSA Secretary to contact individuals in the order listed (except when restricted by guidelines for the position).

M. Hochella, chair of the Committee on Committees, presented the list his committee had prepared. D. Bish reviewed the selection process with council. Council then discussed the list and made few very minor changes

*S. Chakraborty moved to accept the above report as modified. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously*

[10] The MSA President attempted to find an appropriate member of the Geochemical Society (GS) to act as MSA representative to the GS. Discussions with the GS president bore no fruit. Although Becky Lange considered his request, ultimately she decided that she was too busy to take on the job. The job is currently vacant. Becky and the current GS president questioned whether such a liaison is necessary. As a long-term representative to the Clay Minerals Society, Dave Bish believes it is useful to have such liaisons.

M. Hochella volunteered to fill this role.

[11] The *American Mineralogist* Editors request a discussion and sense of Council regarding their actions and plans to increase submissions and diversity of submissions (and thus affect positively the “impact factor” and other metrics). This discussion was lead by R. Russell

- (a) have called for special Associate Editors (AE) to head up virtual special sections/collections (obtain more papers and be the AE for those papers). For example issues on nuclear waste, asbestos, etc.
- (b) are approaching targeted people for review paper requests
- (c) are calling on AEs and Council Members to promote the journal, for example at meetings take the time to suggest to an interesting speaker that he/she submit their paper to *American Mineralogist*, etc.

*It was SoC the above were all good ideas and should be followed up on by the various individuals in charge of these areas*

[12] The Executive Director (A. Speer) has six operational items:

- (a) Council needs to confirm that the Third 2011 and First 2012 MSA Council Meetings will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA on Saturday 8 October 2011. The MSA Management Committee meeting will be held Friday afternoon or evening 7 October 2011.

*J. Brady moved to accept this date. S = W. Bohrson. Motion passed unanimously*

- (b) Council needs to give a firm indication of its intention where its Spring 2012 Council meeting might be so arrangements can be made. There appear to be no more spring AGU meetings and the 2012 Goldschmidt Conference will be in Montreal, QC, Canada. There is always the fall-back of meeting at the MSA Offices in Chantilly, VA.

A. Speer pointed out that the date of a Council meeting at the 2012 Goldschmidt would be June 23, 2012.

*It was SoC to hold the spring council meeting in association with 2012 Goldschmidt*

- (c) Council needs to confirm when and where the 2012 Dana Medal will be presented to Roberta L. Rudnick.

*It was SoC that M. Hochella would make this presentation at the 2012 Goldschmidt*

- (d) To meet any open accessibility requirements of primary data by funding agencies, A. Speer recommended that MSA continue to handle storage and distribution of the primary data of the papers it publishes through its established system of "Deposit Items." It may be necessary to make this capability better known to MSA authors and to encourage them to submit their primary data to MSA in addition to any other repository they may want or be required to use. The advantage of having it hosted by MSA is that the data will be closely associated with the publication. By not requiring exclusivity, MSA will allow authors to freely accommodate whatever pressure they may experience from funding agencies or their home institutions to include the data at additional locations.

His concerns are:

- groups wanting to limit sites hosting primary data to a few favored ones by proposing hard-to-meet standards for archiving.
- the extra cost, but this is likely manageable because storage is becoming less expensive and because the expected traffic is probably small.
- uncertainty as to file format(s). Sending whatever they got will be the easiest path for most authors, so some (simple) requirements may need to be considered. Over time, file formats will probably be decided and become standard on a community-by-community basis.
- migrating data files to new file formats as technology evolves.
- people who talk about and expect archiving forever without qualifications. MSA will need to make it clear to those with such a mindset that if they tell us the future, we will come up with a plan for it, otherwise MSA will do the best it can.
- authors not making full use of "Deposit Items." The data archiving requirements

by NSF and other funding agencies will certainly overcome this in part, but there may need to be checking to make sure it has been done.

A. Speer discussed each of the above in detail. Several points of clarification occurred during the ensuing discussion. P. Burnley thought MSA might provide the above as resource and take the lead in developing data storage.

*It was SoC to continue the above operations*

- (e) Unless someone wants to make another attempt obtaining a signature on MSA's Noncommercial Digital Media License Agreement covering RUFF, A. Speer suggests that, in order to break the impasse of getting it signed, Council approve the substance of the Noncommercial Digital Media License Agreement as matter of policy. RUFF (Bob Downs) can then be apprised of the MSA policy. Offers to inform Bob Downs of the policy adoption or suggestions as to rewording the agreement and wording any cover message are welcome.

After some discussion council decided to send a document to Bob that would outline MSA's policy on Noncommercial Digital Media. The document would be reviewed by the Executive Committee before it was sent.

*J. Brady moved to accept the above recommendation. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously*

- (f) MSA be a reseller of Lithographie's 2012 calendar and take advantage of the substantial discount by ordering 400-500 copies before they go to press. The quantity is based on the individual sales of MSA's 1998 MSA calendar. The main motivation here is to have something that a buyer or member might see every day and think of MSA. This will also give us experience as to member demand, and based on the number sales, we can decide if it makes sense to collaborate further with Lithographie in future years. Perhaps, in the least, with the MSA logo appearing on copies that it sells.

*It was SOC to sell calendars and to include an MSA logo, if possible.*

[13] The Benefactors Committee - Corporate Giving & Capital Campaign asks MSA Council members to relay any prospective donor corporations and contacts to John M. Hughes, Chair of this committee.

D. Bish, and others, praised J. Hughes for his efforts in rebuilding our corporate donors. As noted above, we should provide information to J. Hughes for potential donors. As well as contact information, any other background information on the potential donors is very useful.

[14] The MSA Representative to *Elements* Magazine asks the Council to approve the 2012 *Elements* Budget.

A. Speer pointed out that it is not required that MSA approve the *Elements* budget, but it is nice to be fully informed. He also discussed that MSA acts as banker and does mailings for *Elements*, and we have done it for free. However, in the proposed budget, MSA will receive \$6,000 to cover the cost of these services.

*It was SoC to support the 2012 Elements budget.*

[15] Lecture Program Administrator has no action items for Council, but he includes as an Appendix reports by one of the Lecturers (Terry Plank) and two hosts (Callum J. Hetherington, Texas Tech University and Flurin Vils, University of Bristol). These are worthwhile reading. The Lecture program takes place out of view of most on Council and its success and impact are often overlooked.

D. Bish added that he hoped we had all read the reports as they help show the importance of the lecture program. G. Hovis and others commented how the lecture program is still very popular, which unfortunately makes it over subscribed.

[16] The Short Course committee has two action items:

- a) The Committee recommends approval of the proposal by the organizers of the *Applied Mineralogy of Cement and Concrete* Short Course to switch the date and venue so it would be held in conjunction with the 1st International Congress on Durability of Concrete in Trondheim, 17-21 June 2012.

*D. Henry moved to accept the above. S = S. Chakraborty. Motion passed unanimously*

- b) The Committee recommends approval of the pre-proposal by the organizers of the *Hydrothermal Fluid Thermodynamics* Short Course.

*G. Hovis moved to accept the above. S = J. Brady. Motion passed unanimously*

[17] George Harlow, MSA Representative to the International Mineralogical Association (IMA), submitted a report detailed the ongoing issues about MSA's organizing and hosting the IMA 2018 meeting in North America.

*M. Hochella moved to accept the above report. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously*

While this topic has been discussed at several past council meetings, there is no firm resolution. Part of the issue deals with the fact that MSA will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2019, and there remains some interest for MSA to organize a program, event, or meeting to celebrate this. Is there enough energy, volunteers, resources to do both? A second more important reason is uncertain finances. The current financial situation is likely to persist for some time and result in severe contraction of scientific meeting travel support. The 2018 Goldschmidt Conference is in North America and likely be held within a few weeks of any IMA meeting and would be strong competition for travel funds. A third issue is that there is as-yet no individual volunteering to organize the meeting. As usual, there was considerable discussion, with no firm resolution. However, as a society we continue to try to find a means to help with this meeting.

*It was SoC that we should try to work with IMA and GS on this meeting, and D. Bish and M. Hochella volunteered to coordinate these efforts.*

[18] The draft MSA policy statement on asbestos was posted online for comment on 28 February 2011. A message was sent to all members (MSA-Announce list) the same day. This was followed by a message sent to the MSA-Talk list on 3 March 2011. Comments are posted as they were received. While the comment closing date is not until 28 May 2011, the *ad hoc* Asbestos Policy Statement Committee and the MSA President asked that there be a brief discussion of our Asbestos policy statement in light of the comments received thus far and charge the *ad hoc* committee accordingly.

A brief discussion ensued with an introduction by D. Bish; his main concern was how to complete the statement. M. Gunter, and some others, discussed some of the comments posted to the web site, noting their differences in views. As a group, we felt the statement was close to complete, and we realize that there would be no way to satisfy all the members of the society on such a controversial issue.

*It was SoC to send the report back to the committee for suggested edits*

[19] The Membership Committee, newly reconstituted by the MSA President, has yet to begin its work but Penny King, its chair, includes in her report a number of topics that she will want her Committee to discuss. It would help both Council and the committee to review these and provide any input and additions for the committee as it starts its work.

D. Bish introduced the need for this new committee and thanked P. King for offering to chair it. Lead by P. King we started to discuss several ideas for member recruitment and retention, with the latter possibly being more important. Clearly, the Dyar & Gunter textbook has been the main increase in our student membership, as the full cost of the book is greater than the member price plus the student membership fee. However, the underlying theme of the discussion, whether for students or professional members, was what do they get for membership. It seems the charge of this committee will be: 1) to point out member benefits and 2) to propose more member benefits.

*W. Bohrson moved to establish the ad hoc membership committee. S = J. Brady. Motion passed unanimously*

*D. Henry moved to accept the above report. S = G. Hovis. Motion passed unanimously*

[20] While on the topic of membership, the Executive Director reminds Council that one membership retention tool is for members of Council to be made aware of who has not renewed recently and ask these individuals, if known to a Council member, to rejoin.

[21] The MSA President has several items for discussion and consideration:

(a) Consider the issue of monetary support for students at GSA meetings.

This issue arose when MSA was asked to support student attendees for the GSA monazite session. D. Bish pointed out that if we provide support for this, we must remove it from somewhere else. The discussion then moved to student awards vs. travel funds. All agreed, including our student visitor, that for the long term, awards were much more important.



There was also discussion of the efficiency of social functions at GSA for student / professor interactions. Such things as the MSA luncheon are expensive with little chance for interactions, while the student breakfast at GSA provides a better chance for student / professor interactions.

*It was SOC for W. Bohrson to pursue ideas at GSA through the newly formed GSA MGPV Division to increase student / professor interactions.*

*It was SoC to not fund travel but to find better ways to support students*

- (b) Current policy is that active Council members shall not be eligible for consideration for any MSA awards. The Executive Committee recommended that we consider amending our policy to allow for “stopping the clock” in those cases where a (previous) Council member is nominated for an age-limited MSA award.

*W. Bohrson moved to stop the clock for any council members who are eligible for time-limited award. S = P. King. Motion passed unanimously*

During this discussion, the issue arose about conflicts of interests on award committees and how to handle them.

*It was SOC for A. Speer to look in the past records to see if it is codified anywhere about conflicts of interest on committees.*

- (c) Do we want to limit *American Mineralogist* Undergraduate (AMU) awards to one award per department every six months?

M. Hochella asked if this really was a problem. A. Speer noted that it happens on occasion that one department might nominate several people at the same time.

*It was SoC the above is not a problem*

Also during this discussion, it was proposed to rename the AMU award to MSA Undergraduate Prize, as it seemed to make more sense to direct the award toward the society rather than the journal.

*J. Brady moved to accept the name change. S = P. King. Motion passed unanimously*

- (d) Discuss possible policy statement on teaching of mineralogy and optical petrography/mineralogy. If agreed, he proposes that the more ardent contributors to the discussions about teaching of mineralogy and optical petrography/mineralogy could form a core group to formulate this statement.

As expected, this subject generated a wide-ranging discussion from having a bulleted list of potential jobs for petrologists on our web site (G. Hovis), to a philosophical view of new knowledge creation (M. Hochella), to the teaching of optical mineralogy in the private sector to fill the gap left by academics (M. Gunter).

*It was SoC for D. Bish to contact D. Mogk and form an ad hoc committee to work on the above policy statement(s)*

- (e) Discuss the possibility of beginning a joint venture with National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) for the exchange of unwanted books, rocks, and minerals.

D. Bish raised this topic as he himself has found the need to discard books and mineral samples throughout his life. M. Gunter also mentioned that many universities tend to surplus items (e.g., fully functional polarizing light microscopes) that other less well-funded institutions might find useful.

*It was SoC for D. Bish to contact the president of NAGT to discuss the above*

## **New Business**

### [22] Long-term strategic planning committee

D. Bish proposed forming a long-term strategic planning committee. This committee would help formalize and carry out the discussion that occurs during the first council meeting of the year (i.e., discussing the future of MSA), and discuss where MSA is and where it should go.

### [23] Web workshop at GSA

Over the past few years there have been discussions on revising MSA's web site. To help in this effort, and gain student input, it was proposed to have a workshop at fall GSA. At that workshop students would be recruited to use the website and that we could hopefully improve it, based on their suggestions. Andrea (our student guest) agreed this was good idea.

### [24] Interactions with AGU

A. Speer discussed changes occurring at AGU and their development of a policy statement on interactions with other societies. J. Brady volunteered to talk with Tim Grove to see how we might better interface with AGU.

*G. Hovis moved to adjourn at 3:27 pm. S = W. Bohrson. Motion passed unanimously*

Respectfully submitted,  
Mickey Gunter  
MSA Secretary