

**Third 2011 MSA Council Meeting**  
Schedule and Agenda of Meeting, and Index of Reports to Council

Saturday, 8 October 2011  
Red Wing Room, Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN

Attending:

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

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
Michael Harris, MSA Administrative Assistant  
Gordon Nord, MSA Webmaster  
Jenny Thomson, Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
John Hughes, Vice President-elect  
Andrea Koziol, Secretary-elect  
Christine Clark, Councilor-elect  
Kim Tait, Councilor-elect

Absent:

Marc Hirshmann, Councilor  
Penny King, Councilor

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

The third meeting of the 2011 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was held at the Hilton Hotel Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Agenda**

[1] Roll Call and Introductory Remarks by the President.

D. Bish called the meeting to order at 8:09 am; welcoming all in attendance and asking for a brief round of introductions. He commented that we function as a board of directors to MSA and the importance of this role noting the difficulties of another society when their board was not activity involved. He also commented we might want

to consider shifting to electronically voting for certain issues and the need for efficient e-mail communications.

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

There were three additions to the agenda: 1) email updates on the asbestos policy statement, 2) a proposed workshop, and 3) the late addition of the *Elements* report

*J. Brady moved to approve the agenda with the above additions. S = D. Henry.*  
Motion passed unanimously

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

President, Financial Advisory and Audit Committee, Membership Committee, Publications Director, Editors *American Mineralogist*, Series Editor of the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry & Monographs Series, MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, Editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Board of Directors, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Advisory Council, Meetings Coordinator, Lecture Program Coordinator, MSA Webmaster, Outreach Committee (on Databases), Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund, Distinguished Public Service Award, American Geological Institute, AGU Mineral Physics Focus Group, Clay Minerals Society, Gemological Institute of America, Geological Society of America, Geological Society of America's Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology Division (GSA-MGPV) and the Interest group for Pegmatites and Planetary Materials.

*W. Bohrson moved to accept the reports. S = S. Chakraborty.* Motion passed unanimously

[4] Revisions, if any, and approval of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 Council Meeting. The minutes reflect all revisions previously sent to the MSA Secretary.

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

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

D. Bish reminded council that Executive Committee makes decisions as needed between regular council meetings. He also reviewed several of those decisions, some of which will be discussed in more detail later in this meeting: 1) approving funding for the Mineralgy4kids portion of our website, 2) ongoing discussions of MSA, GS, and IMA for a combined 2018 meeting, 3) changes made in asbestos policy, 4) formalizing interactions with AGU and COMPRES, and 5) working on an agreement with NAGT to serve as a repository for minerals, rocks, and books useful to MSA members.

[6] Accept medal, award, grant, and honor recommendations:

The following are the three MSA medalists:

Roebbling Medal (2012): *Harry W. Green, II*

Dana Medal (2013): *Max W. Schmidt*

MSA Award (2012): *Karim Benzerara*

The following list of individuals were nominated as new MSA Fellows:

*Udo Becker, Michael Robert Carroll, Giacomo Diego Gatta, Shun-ichiro Karato, Dominique Lattard, Kurt Leinenweber, Hanna Nekvasil, Tracy Rushmer, Jing-Sui Yang, Tzen-Fu Yui*

The Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grants were awarded to:

*Jessica A Matthews, Johnbull Otah Dickson*

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

[7] There are additional items about awards:

- (a) The Roebbling Committee reports their discussion was very productive, professional, and amicable in spite of strong differences of opinion in some cases. Discussion and short listing before going through the process of numerical ranking helped to focus the process and enabled the committee to avoid numerical deadlocks. We often tend to be more critical of scientists working in a field that is more closely related to our own. This is probably because in those cases we are more familiar with the primary literature and are influenced less by nomination letters which, by their very nature, highlight just the strengths of a candidate. It is the sense of the Chair that there is a certain reticence in some cases to discuss the weaknesses of a distinguished colleague in writing, as the email medium demands. The anonymity of comments collated by the Chair may have helped some in this regard. For an award as significant as this, however, the use of direct oral discussions (e.g., tele- or video conferencing) in future committees may be helpful.

*Sense of Council. There was discussion about the above, but really no firm recommendations, except that if there is a disagreement, some type of face-to-face interaction seems appropriate.*

- (b) The Nominating Committee for Fellows comments that its evaluation was unnecessarily complicated by the wide range of nomination lengths and style: from those with many letters of support to those with none (just the names of co-sponsors).

This variation results from the fact that co-sponsors are optional, and there is no specific instruction that states that co-sponsors can (or must) write letters of support. There is also no statement in the instructions as to whether additional people can provide support letters beyond the two co-sponsors.

The Committee recommends instructions to nominators should be clarified, removing “optional” parts of the process. Co-sponsors should either be required or not required. All nominations should have the same number of letters. For example, Council could decide that this number is one (the nomination letter only), two (nomination letter + one co-sponsor letter), or three (nomination letter + 2 co-sponsor letters). There should be an explicit statement in the instructions specifying the number of required letters. The Committee proposes that this number be the maximum allowed (i.e., no additional letters will be considered).

It was *SoC* to accept the above recommendations.

- (c) The Kraus Committee members had difficulty selecting a winner for this award; their main issue was a difference of opinion on what constituted a “crystallographic project.” The resolution of this issue was thus turned over to the full council.

In the ensuing discussion it was pointed out that this has happened before, and part of the problem seems to be with not following the guidelines for the award. The proposals were presented and discussed to the full council.

*J. Brady moved to make this award to Joshua Paul Townsend. S = G. Hovis.*  
Motion passed unanimously

- (d) The Executive Director recommends that up to three \$5,000 research grants be given from the Mineralogy/Petrology Fund starting in 2012 and thereafter as long as the grants do not comprise more than 5% of the Fund assets. The reasoning for increasing the number rather than amount of the awards, and the financial aspects, are discussed in his Report. The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) supports this proposal as the expendable balance in the Min/Pet Fund could sustain this.

*S. Chakraborty moved to accept the above recommendation. S = W. Bohrson.*  
Motion passed unanimously

[8] Review and fill any outstanding vacancies on MSA Committees and appointed posts for 2012 as recommended by the Committee on Committees. The actual vote on appointment of Committees and other posts will occur during the First 2012 Council Meeting this afternoon.

M. Hochella, as chair of the Committee on Committees, distributed the committee’s recommendations. There was some discussion and minor modifications.

[9] The Nominating Committee for Officers presented a list of possible candidates for Vice-President, Secretary, and Councilors. The list must be reviewed, ordered, and approved so

that the MSA Secretary can contact those on it in the sequence decided by Council to invite them to run for office.

M. Gunter distributed a list of nominees for the above positions that had been refined by MSA's Executive Committee. A brief discussion ensued resulting in more minor modifications.

*J. Brady moved to approve the modified list. S = S. Chakraborty.* Motion passed unanimously

[10] Consider recommendations of staff evaluations from the Management Committee of the preceding day.

Recommendations were reported orally. The management committee reported their recommendations, and raises, to the full council. After some discussion and slight modifications Council was in agreement with the committee's recommendations.

*This comes as a seconded motion to council.* Motion passed unanimously.

[11] The Executive Director requests that Council accept the 2011 election results and give permission to destroy the paper ballots and the electronic ballot files upon acceptance.

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

[12] Confirm that the Spring 2012 Council meeting will be at the 2012 Goldschmidt Conference, Montreal, QC, Canada (25 June - 1 July 2012). The Council meeting will likely be the day before the start of the meeting, either Saturday (June 23) or Sunday (June 24).

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

[13] The Treasurer has no specific action items relating to 2010 finances for the 2011 Council, but the 2012 budget will need to be approved during the First 2012 Council Meeting this afternoon. The Treasurer did describe highlights of both years and answer questions.

The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director took a few moments for brief updates on MSA membership numbers, subscriptions, and MSA finances.

D. Henry reported we had another clean audit, our total investments as of June 30 were \$2.59M (a record high), and our were gifts up. This all combined with underestimating our income and overestimated our expenses, has kept MSA's finances in good shape even with the variations in the market.

A. Speer pointed out our total number of members are down slightly and currently at 2,709. He also briefly discussed government regulations on the collection of sales tax, and how international payments are handled.

[14] Review MSA's 2010 IRS Form 990 and the Financial Statement drafts, and give the MSA Executive Director authority to sign and file the 2010 IRS Form 990.

MSA's IRS Form 990 was provided to council prior to the meeting. A. Speer pointed out that MSA's financial statement is duplicated in the 990 Appendix H. A. Speer lead a brief discussion, and answered a few questions, also showing how MSA qualifies as a non-profit.

*G. Hovis moved to approve the IRS Form 990 and give A. Speer the authority to sign it. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously*

[15] The Executive Director asks Council to adopt an explicit policy for reviewing, signing off, and filing the IRS Form 990 and the Financial Statement by the independent auditors. The Executive Director suggests that the Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) be charged with reviewing MSA's Form 990 (tax or informational return for non-profits) before it is filed with the IRS, as well as the results of any audit produced by an independent group. Once accepted, the FAAC can direct the MSA Executive Director to actually sign the return, file it, and include copies of the return and independent audit in reports to Council.

A. Speer stated the main reason he asked for the above change, is the rules are changing (and council no longer needs to see the 990) because FAAC is provided the form and can approve it by email.

*W. Bohrson moved to approve the above. S = P. Burnley. Motion passed unanimously*

[16] The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) has a number of cautions, but no specific action items. The FAAC asks Council to:

- a) Take notice of current policies on transfers between our general operating account and the several Funds. In general, we try to minimize unnecessary transfers.
- b) Continue the conservative approach in the expenditure of endowment funds for the operation of the Society.
- c) Solicit endowment funds from members and outside donors, in an effort to maintain the ongoing financial health of MSA.

D. Bish went over the above and recommended we follow this sage advice.

[17] The Benefactors Committee asks Council to briefly discuss potential corporate donors and forward all suggestions of potential donors to John M. Hughes.

J. Hughes noted that we now have the largest number of corporate donors. He attributed this to personal contacts provided to him by members of council. He requested council members to continue to provide with this information – mainly in the form of: 1) name, 2) email address, and 3) some personal insight into the

individual or corporation. He and A. Speer are also working to contact foundations and mineral dealers.

[18] The MSA Lecture Program Administrator has no action items,

D. Bish commented about the ongoing success of this program and all in attendance agreed.

[19] The Short Course Committee has one action item and several updates:

- a) Approve the program with venue and budget proposal by the organizers of the *Thermodynamics of Geothermal Fluids* short course. This course would be organized by Andri Stefansson (University of Iceland), Thomas Driesner (ETH Zurich, Switzerland), and Pascale Bénézech (CNRS Toulouse, France). This course was originally proposed to be held in June 2012 in conjunction with the Goldschmidt Conference in Montreal, Canada. The Committee recommended that the Course be held in 2013 instead of 2012 as there are already several Courses scheduled for June 2012. The organizers agreed and have decided to move the Course to the Goldschmidt Conference in Florence in 2013.

There was a little discussion on this proposal, and because the above came from a standing committee there were no motions required. *Motion passed unanimously.*

- b) The 2010 Council approved the preliminary proposal for a short course *Spectroscopic Methods in Mineralogy and Material Sciences* by Grant Henderson (U. Toronto), Daniel Neuville (CNRS-IPGP, France), and Bob Downs (U. Arizona), projected to precede the 2012 Goldschmidt conference in Montreal, Quebec. In his most recent communication, Henderson wrote that “I have essentially suspended any short course and budget until I have an idea of how the chapters are coming...I am a little concerned about one or two critical chapters so when I have preliminary drafts on hand I’ll develop budget and short course details... We had intended to have the Short Course at the Goldschmidt meeting but I don’t think that will happen at the moment. Mainly for the reason noted above, plus some others. Maybe the fall AGU.”

No action was taken on this short course, because as pointed out by G. Hendersen, he was unsure of the number of speakers.

- c) The *Metamorphic Process: Techniques, Models and Interpretations* short course by David Cole and Barbara Dutrow.

No action was taken on this short course either, because at this point it appears “dead.”

- d) There are two definite short courses for 2012: *Applied Mineralogy of Cement and Concrete*, Trondheim June 22-23, 2012, in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Durability of Concrete (CIDC 2012, [www.icdc2012.com](http://www.icdc2012.com)) and

*Environmental Arsenic Mineralogy, Geochemistry & Microbiology* to coincide with the International Geological Congress (IGC) session (August 5-10, 2012) in Brisbane, Australia.

- e) S. Chakraborty proposed a workshop for an upcoming German mineralogy short course on diffusion coupled into MSA workshop.

In discussion it was noted that MSA agreed to co-sponsor workshops with other societies

*S. Chakraborty moved to approve the workshop. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously.*

[20] Formalize the financial support for updating the *Mineralogy4Kids* portion of our web site.

D. Bish starts out the discussion noting this is the most popular site on our website. He also notes that Executive Committee has already approved the funds. There is some discussion how what content is shown might need to be decided by a larger group.

*D. Bish asks for vote on the funding from the entire council. And the funding was approved unanimously.*

[21] Briefly discuss a possible policy statement on teaching of mineralogy and optical petrography/mineralogy.

D. Bish reviewed the fact that much of the traffic on the MSA list serve deals with teaching mineralogy, and possibly MSA needed a policy statement about this subject. He suggested such a statement would be important as Geology Departments discuss curricular issues. It was suggested D. Mogk and D. Henry could start work at an upcoming NAGT workshop on teaching MPG. At this point they are working on a the general guidelines for a statement.

[22] Discuss increased interactions with AGU. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is the model of a way to go forward (and AGU has already done this with other societies). AGU is looking for ways to engage in intersociety cooperation that would be mutually beneficial (although they are not interested in ways to modify their fall meeting). To-date, it is suggested that MSA continue to assist with and contribute to sessions at the fall meeting, that MSA attempt to have a session related to our short course, and that MSA consider having an award ceremony and associated special session, perhaps related to the Dana Medal (see separate discussion on Dana Medal venue), at the fall AGU meeting. It would be a welcome development if we could come to arrangement that would let us formally sponsor sessions at AGU. According to AGU, they would like to be stronger in the area of monographs, and a potential area of mutual benefit is sharing publications. MSA should continue to participate in the fall meeting, co-organize sessions, organize sessions related to the short course, all of



which would provide some more-conventional mineralogy to the mineral physics community, many of whom probably were previously members of MSA. More formal participation in the fall meeting would enable us to sell many of MSA's publications, to attract new student members, and to expose MSA to a new community, including the planetary science community.

J. Brady was charged at the previous MSA meeting to meet with Tim Grove and discuss how MSA and AGU might formalize our interactions. They discussed ideas of MSA sessions and medal presentations at AGU meetings, and the fact MSA members need to be able to organize sessions as MSA, not AGU members. Hopefully these conversations will lead to a memo of understanding.

[23] Update on joint venture with National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) for the exchange of books, rocks, and minerals.

D. Bish commented on the enthusiasm of NAGT members to work on this project, and their willingness to form a clearing house for such things as books, rocks, and minerals. The first step in this process would be the creation of a web site; something already started by Dave Hirsch.

[24] Briefly discuss informal Consortium for Materials Properties Research in Earth Sciences (COMPRES)-MSA collaborations.

D. Bish started the discussion by expressing an interest on the part of MSA to work more closely with mineral physics group back into MSA. Next P. Burnley discussed COMPRES – which is a NSF-funded university consortium that funds high pressure research. She spoke with the COMPRES Executive Committee about strengthening ties with MSA, and they were in favor of this. There are some natural collaborations (i.e., Bob Down's stuff). Maybe combine COMPRES and MSA lecture programs? P. Burnley is developing modules on the web for teaching mineral physics – which is more or less a grad student course. This course will be taught as a distant Ed course. with Wiki articles along with their links.

[25] If the revised Asbestos Policy Statement is ready for review by Council, to decide on the next step.

In general, council believed this policy statement was ready to be accepted. There was some brief discussion on who the policy was written for and the possibility of having it redrafted. However, it was pointed out that as a society dealing with minerals, it was necessary to finalize this policy.

*M. Gunter moved to approve the policy. S = W. Bohrson.* Motion passed unanimously

[26] Both the President and Meeting Coordinator comment that MSA should give more thought to tailoring the venue of the Dana Medal presentation (i.e., we should not decide on

ONE venue for this medal). The fall AGU meeting may be preferable and this would give MSA a good way to increase our participation in the meeting.

It was pointed out that certain venues tend to work better than others for giving this medal – often as a function of the local organizers. After a brief discussion a recommendation emerged to involve the medalist allowing them to aid in the decision of the venue.

[27] “Semi-finalize” discussions on MSA organization of the 2018 IMA conference and report on the President’s meeting with both IMA and GS representatives about the possible 2018 IMA meetings at the 2018 Goldschmidt Conference.

For the past several council meetings this has been an ongoing discussion. Recently D. Bish and M. Hochella met with IMA representatives to discuss a joint MSA / IMA meeting in the US in 2018. They also meet with GS representatives who were equally positive. A question remains -- who will organize this on the MSA’s side? We would need a formal proposal to IMA by next summer for such a joint meeting. None of this would preclude MSA from hosting a special meeting in 2019 to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Our concluding thought is we need to find someone to organize this meeting and find an appropriate venue.

[28] The Membership committee has not been able to do much since the Spring, but the President reports that of 1,939 students who joined MSA since 2006, 241 (12.4%) converted to full membership. Of those 241 members, 173 (72%) are still paid up members. Most of the presently (and past) active MSA members joined as students.

A. Speer reports on the slight drop in the number of regular members and fellows (35) from 2010 to 2011 and an attrition rate of about 6-8% per year, corresponding to between 109 and 195 individuals, in the years 2006-2010 for members and fellows. He also reports that 25 years ago in Council it was asked why MSA membership is stagnant. The office answered that MSA gains each year new members less than or equal to those lost and that to increase the membership, MSA must concentrate on the retention of members. Regular (non-life) members and fellows are important components of the society because they comprise its significant financial and operational base. This is information for long-range and membership planning. Just over 25% of MSA members are students. MSA appears to attract many students who have not yet focused on a particular area of the geosciences, and MSA probably retains those whose interests we continue to serve in their careers. MSA often considers the importance of student member benefits and the possibility of additional benefits, but it is not certain whether we need additional incentives to attract more student members because we may have reached a point of diminishing returns. Instead, MSA might want to focus these efforts on retaining the full members, and giving more student members a reason to transition to full membership status.

D. Bish started the discussion about membership by wondering what happens to our student members, and asking the somewhat rhetorical question is the \$10 for student membership beneficial to the society overall? C. Clark was curious if we had information about student retention after graduation, or the transition from undergraduate to graduate students. As in past discussions on student membership, or MSA membership in general, we discussed what are the member benefits, which mainly boils down to reduced costs for books, RiMGs, etc. However, J. Hughes pointed out that other things, like the current list serve or one directed more towards students would be useful. J. Brady wondered what we might do to retain students who purchase the Dyar & Gunter textbook. In the end, at least to me, it seems we are providing many benefits, but we constantly need to be considering what other benefit(s) we could provide.

[29] *Ad hoc* Long-range Planning Committee was charged with the task of engaging in a conversation about long-range planning for MSA. They were asked for this progress report for the 2011 Fall Council Committee meeting with a final report to be completed for next spring's meeting. With two rounds of e-mail communication with the purpose of highlighting topics that should be priorities for continued discussion the concerns that have been voiced repeatedly thus far include:

- (a) Improving the look and feel of the MSA website, and the unfulfilled role of social media in promoting MSA interests and activities
- (b) Increasing the MSA presence at the Fall AGU, Goldschmidt, and GSA meetings. We sense a growing concern about MSA's lack of visibility at the major meetings for those working on minerals. Committee members also expressed some anxiety about the impact of the new GSA Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (MGPV) Division.
- (c) Improving the perception of mineralogy by other geoscientists and by the broader science community.
- (d) Strengthening MSA's financial base.
- (e) Assessing the impact and scientific breadth of *American Mineralogist* relative to other journals in mineralogy/petrology/geochemistry.
- (f) Determining the role of MSA in organizing the IMA 2018 meeting.
- (g) Assessing whether MSA is capable of meeting new challenges in a rapidly changing scientific landscape with its present administrative structure.

D. Bish introduced the report and asked for comments on it. It was pointed out that many of the above "issues" have been discussed many times in the past. It was also pointed out that we have – and continue – to take action on many of these concerns as individuals and members of council. It does seem appropriate – and symmetric – to

reflect to D. Bish's introductory statement at the beginning of this meeting. Paraphrasing him, we need to take active roles in MSA to ensure its vitality as we look forward to celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2019. As parting words as MSA secretary, I believe we are doing just this!

*M. Gunter moved to adjourn at 3:04 pm. S = J. Brady. Motion passed unanimously*

Respectfully submitted,  
Mickey Gunter  
MSA Secretary