

Minutes of the Second 2012 Council Meeting
Mineralogical Society of America
Sunday, 24 June 2012
Palais des congrès de Montréal - Room 514C
1001 Place Jean-Paul-Riopelle, Montréal (Québec) H2Z 1H2, Canada

Attending:

Mike Hochella, President
John Hughes, Vice-President
David Bish, Past President
Darrell Henry, Treasurer
Andrea Koziol, Secretary
Kim Tait, Councilor
Christine Clark, Councilor
Pamela Burnley, Councilor
Guy Hovis, Councilor

Visitors:

Robert Hazen, MSA Past-President
Ian Swainson, Editor, American Mineralogist
David M. Hirsch, MSA Member, Western Washington University
Keith D. Putirka, newest Editor for American Mineralogist
J. Alex Speer MSA Executive Director

Not Present:

Sumit Chakraborty, Councilor
Wendy Bohrson, Councilor

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

ITEMS

[1] Call to order and Roll Call

Mike Hochella called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

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

G. Hovis moved that the Agenda be approved, D. Henry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

[3] Approve the minutes of the Third 2011 Council Meeting, First 2012 Council Meeting, and the 03/26/2012 Council Conference Call

D. Henry moved that the minutes be accepted, P. Burnley seconded. Motion passed with correction that Mark Van Baalen was present during the Third 2011 MSA Meeting.

[4] Accept Reports to Council containing no questions or action items as a group.

Nominating Committee for Officers, *American Mineralogist* Editorial Office & Editors, 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, Lecture Program Committee, Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund Committee, Roebling Medal Committee, Distinguished Public Service Award Committee, MSA Award Committee, Dana Medal Committee, Nominating Committee for Fellows, Kraus Crystallography Grant Committee, Mineralogy/Petrology Grant Committee, Representative to ACA, AGI, AGU-MRP, CMS, EMU, GIA, GS, GSA, GSA-MGPV, Special Interest Group on Pegmatites, Planetary Materials

Not heard from: Benefactor Committee-Membership Giving, and Representatives to FM, IMA, ICDD, SMMP, FM

D. Bish moved to accept all reports as submitted, D. Henry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- a) **Replacement of an *Elements* editor (mid-November, 2011):** the name forwarded to *Elements* from the MSA Executive Committee was Prof. Patricia Dove of Virginia Tech. Patricia Dove accepted the invitation, and will become *Elements*' newest technical editor.
- b) **Acceptance of an MSA policy statement on asbestos (mid-November, 2011):** The final statement was approved by the committee and posted on the MSA website at that time.
- c) **Review of AGU-MSA MOU development, and outcome (starting early January, to May 2012):** this will be covered later today (Item # 21).
- d) **Mobile-optimized journals program through GSW (early January, 2012):** This was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee on January 9, 2012 and GSW was apprised of the decision for mobile-optimization of three publications: *American Mineralogist*, *Reviews*, and *Elements* on January 9, 2012.
- e) **Development of a comprehensive mineral data infrastructure (early March, 2012):** Background information for the discussion by Bob Hazen at 9 am today (Item # 10) is in Section 10(a).
- f) **Salary increase for Jodi Rosso, RiMG Editor (late March, 2012):** sense of the Executive Committee is that Jodi's request for a raise be honored in the amount requested, and that it take effect after the 2012 Goldschmidt meeting, pending Council approval (Item # 8).
- g) **AGI's geoscience department's classification scheme (late March, 2012):** Dave Mogk's participation on this committee was unanimously approved by the MSA Executive Committee in late March, and he and AGI were informed on April 12, 2012.

No comments or concerns were raised about these items.

C. Clark moved that this review be accepted, G. Hovis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

[6] Determine the member and institutional *American Mineralogist* subscription rates as well as member dues for 2013. Recommendations from D. Henry as follows:

- (a) for *American Mineralogist* member subscription rates:
 - 1) Continue to differentiate between domestic and foreign members subscription rates to reflect more closely actual costs of mailing of *American Mineralogist*.
 - 2) Continue to maintain the shift of content creation and printing preparation costs (7.5%) from institutional to individual subscribers.

- 3) Due to continuing increase in costs, increase U.S. member subscription price (paper and electronic) to \$100 (currently \$95) and similarly increase the non-U.S. member subscription rate to \$110 (currently \$105). These changes represent a ~5% increase.
 - 4) Continue to maintain the member electronic-only subscription at \$30.
- (b) for *American Mineralogist* institutional subscription rates:
- 1) Continue to differentiate between domestic and foreign institutional subscription rates to reflect more closely the actual costs of mailing of *American Mineralogist*.
 - 2) Continue to maintain the shift of content creation and printing preparation costs (7.5%) from institutional to individual subscribers.
 - 3) Increase the U.S. institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) to \$975 (currently \$950) and similarly increase the non-U.S. institutional subscription rate to \$1000 (currently \$975). This rate increase of \$25 is the same as last year.
 - 4) Due to stabilized costs, maintain the GSW domestic institutional subscription price for *American Mineralogist* at \$150 and decrease the GSW institutional subscription rate for RIMG to \$125 (currently \$175, there are fewer volumes now).
 - 5) Consider a new electronic-only institutional subscription rate at \$900. This would take into account the relatively small savings associated with the printing and shipping of the hard copy (estimated as \$58 for the journal).
- (c) For the 2012 dues.
- a. Dues for regular members remain unchanged for 2013. Dues are now \$70 for regular members but this is partially offset by the \$5 discount for members who renew online before October 30.
 - b. Keep student dues at \$10. Student dues were last increased for 2006 from \$5 to \$10.
 - c. Keep senior fellow and member dues at \$0.

Some discussion followed on how the actual cost of production of *American Mineralogist* is reflected in these rates. D. Bish noted we are subsidizing non-USA institutional subscriptions. A. Speer explained that the Society is still catching up with adjusting subscription rates to correspond with actual cost of production of the journal after many years of too small of increases. He also reminded Council of how GeoScienceWorld works. All agreed that the future direction of publishing is less print and more on-line access.

G. Hovis moved to accept the above subscription and dues recommendations, K. Tait seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

[7] The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director will provide brief updates on MSA membership numbers, subscriptions, and MSA finances.

Darryl Henry reported that MSA's assets are around \$3.54 million as of 2011 year end, a 6% increase. The market value of investments show a 5% increase. Total transfer of fund allocations are about \$110,000 (considered conservative).

A. Speer noted that investment income does not completely cover the programs costs that the Funds are to support, so some costs are now covered by operational income. In the

future we need to ensure that any new programs or money requests have sources of income. Each event or program expenditure must have a revenue stream and be self-supporting. He suggests that Council not think of the MSA investments as we do our retirement accounts. MSA funds are investments that need to produce income in perpetuity. We do not want to redeem principal.

A. Speer reports that the MSA has 2,574 members, and 489 direct institutional subscribers to *American Mineralogist*. Another 408 institutions have access to the journal through GeoScienceWorld.

Another current issue - banks can no longer rely on investment income for profits these days, so they are increasing the number and amount of various fees. The office is looking into ways of lessening these fees – see the Executive Director’s report. The cash on hand appears high, but it is insured in its entirety under new FDIC rules. While there is no interest paid, the balance amount does reduce fees MSA is charged. We have opted for safety rather than attempting risky, short term investment of the monies.

[8] Approve the salary increase for Jodi Rosso, RiMG Editor.

Council concurred with the Executive Committee action that the request for a raise be honored in the amount requested, and that it take effect after the 2012 Goldschmidt meeting.

[9] The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee requests that Council make the Thompson Fund totally restricted at this time.

The Thompson Fund has approximately \$6000 at this time. Council agrees to restrict the fund, and asks the Financial Advisory and Audit Committee along with the organizers (Mark van Baalen and John Brady) to make a proposal on the future course of this fund. One possibility is that if the donations do not exceed \$50,000, that the funds collected be added into the Mineralogy-Petrology Research Grant Fund.

D. Bish moved to accept this recommendation, D. Henry seconded, motion passed unanimously.

[10] Discussion of Mineral Data infrastructure, with Bob Hazen, past MSA president.

Bob Hazen started the discussion with some background, and then described what datasets exist now. As of 2012 there is no official or even un-official comprehensive database of earth materials data. If such a dataset existed it could be an incredible research tool. There are some datasets on-line such as the Global Volcanism Project, EarthChem, MELTS, and Mindat.org, to name a few. However, the information is highly variable, with both good and bad data included. In some cases, there is no ‘vetting’ of the data.

A spirited discussion followed. Council members were concerned about vetting the data, and who was going to do this. P. Burnley suggested a data journal with reviewers but with concentration on data quality. She also suggested that each small community of researchers decides on its own “best practices” and a peer review system. Bob pointed out that the eventual product will be open access, and scientists will get credit for their data. It will be part of a larger project called Earth Cubed (E3).

There are no action items for council and no financial request at this time. Bob Hazen wants council to be aware of this project. He will be attending the Third Council Meeting in the Fall.

[11] From the Committee on Committees (Section 7), discuss and confirm the proposed list of committee members and chairs. Authorize the MSA Secretary to contact individuals in the order(s) listed (except when restricted by guidelines for the position).

J. Hughes, chair of the Committee on Committees, presented the list his committee had prepared. Council then discussed the list and made few very minor changes and additions. J. Hughes proposed a liaison position between MSA and AGU and suggested M. Hochella for this position.

D. Bish moved to accept the recommendations of the Committee on Committees in toto, with the addition of M. Hochella as AGU liaison. D. Henry seconded. All approved, with M. Hochella abstaining.

[12] People items from other reports:

- a) Confirm Keith Putirka as the newest Editor for *American Mineralogist* (Section 1, Appendix B).

M. Hochella discussed this appointment and praised the choice of Keith Putirka.

D. Bish moved to confirm K. Putirka as Editor of American Mineralogist. J. Hughes seconded, motion passed unanimously.

- b) Steve Dunn needs to be replaced as Lecture Program Administrator (Section 21(b)).

John Hughes will contact the Committee on Committees for a new person for this position.

- c) Confirm Bob Hazen as the MSA leader/organizer of the mineral data infrastructure (Section 1).

Council is in agreement about this.

- d) Bob Downs, who has been the chair of the Outreach Committee (on Databases), asks that he be replaced (Section 20(c)).

The MSA secretary will write to Bob Downs thanking him for his service.

- e) Sustainable and robust liaison mechanism between the MSA and AGU-VGP.

This will be provided by M. Hochella, as decided in section [11] above. Further discussion was delayed.

- f) Possibly adding a member of AGU VGP's new Meetings Committee as a member of MSA's Short Course Committee.

Discussion on this was delayed.

[13] The Executive Director has four operational items.

- a) Reaffirm its 2007 decision and pick up where MSA left off that year to domesticate MSA as a Virginia corporation.

SoC is to move forward on this decision.

- b) Confirm that the Third 2012 and First 2013 MSA Council Meetings will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA on Saturday 3 November 2012. The MSA Management Committee meeting will be held Friday afternoon or evening of 2 November 2012.

SoC is to accept this date.

- c) Give an indication about the Spring 2013 Council meeting so arrangements can be started.

Meeting at GAC-MAC in Winnipeg, Canada at the end of May 2013 was suggested as an option. Meeting at the MSA offices in Chantilly VA was also suggested as an option. No decision was made at this time.

- d) MSA has been contacted by AGI to nominate individuals for an award. Does Council wish to (a) restart a formal, MSA process to submit nominations for external awards, (b) let the current situation stand of letting individuals originate nominations on their own, or (c) come up with some alternative?

A short discussion followed.

SoC was to publicize these opportunities on the MSA website, and on the listserv, MSA-Talk.

[14] The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) “continues to be slightly uneasy with our continuing relationship with our audit firm” (Section 6). This because of using the same audit firm and the same individual from that firm leading the audit for several years now. FAAC asks Council to balance the factors involved in a change (Section 3) and provide guidance for the future (Section 6).

A short discussion followed. Mark Van Baalen’s opinion was noted that it is good business practice to rotate staff and lead auditors. Alex Speer said that between 4 - 6 different people work on each year's MSA audit: the lead auditor, several assistants, tax specialist, and 1-2 partners who review and test the final reports. The lead auditors have changed over time and there have been 8 lead auditors since 1995. Those assisting the lead auditors have changed over time as well.

SoC was to continue with current audit firm. Council understands that the audit team does rotate, and different staff members from the firm interact with MSA office staff.

[15] The Benefactors Committee - Corporate Giving & Capital Campaign asks Council:

- a) To relay any prospective donor corporations and contacts to John M. Hughes, Chair of the committee.
- b) To consider purchase of a database from FoundationSearch America that will aid in identifying corporations and foundations to approach for support of Society activities. The cost for two licensees for a three-year period is \$5,495.

John Hughes presented the rationale for the purchase of such a database. MSA would be able to seek out foundations and corporations that could be sources of donations to MSA. A short discussion followed.

J. Hughes moved that the database be purchased, seconded by G. Hovis. Motion passed unanimously.

[16] The Outreach Committee (K-12) reports on the completely revised Mineralogy4Kids website. Vicki Harder requests for Council action lists several enhancements of the Mineralogy4Kids website. In addition, Vicki Harder was contacted by Google requesting we consider placing advertising on the Mineralogy4Kids site.

A. Speer reported that the enhancements to the website have already been made, so there are no action items at this time. As to the Google request, A. Speer explained that nothing prevents MSA from earning ad income from its web pages, but it is considered unrelated business income (UBI), and is taxable. J. Hughes said that he and Vicki are opposed to having Google Ads on this site. During discussion it became clear that

Council agreed. Future sponsorship for the Mineralogy4Kids site is appropriate but there are no action items at this time.

[17] The Publications Director recommends adoption of a policy for providing approval on unsolicited material submitted to the Society for publication.

After a short discussion and one small change (the phrase “at the next Council meeting” in the first paragraph, 7th line was removed) the policy was proposed as

Unsolicited book manuscripts or other material that are submitted to the Mineralogical Society of America for publication as monographs will first be assessed by the Chair of the Publications Committee. If the Publications Committee deems the material as potentially of interest to the Society membership and in accord with the Society’s aim of the advancement of mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, petrology, and promotion of their uses in other sciences, industry, and the arts, the Publications Committee will bring a proposal for the publication to the MSA Council, including details of the publication and the particulars of the finances of the publication. The Council will vote whether to authorize the preparation of the publication, and the outcome of that vote will be reported to the submitter by the Publications Committee Chair. If material is approved for potential publication, the actual publication of the completed manuscript will only take place after a final review and approval by the Publications Committee Chair or her/his designee.

The Society will not routinely publish biographical or autobiographical material, but such material may be appropriate for those who have recorded signal accomplishments in the fields of mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, or petrology.

D. Bish moved that the policy be accepted, with the one change, D. Henry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

[18] The Short Course committee.

Discussion followed about the need to get the committee to be more active, and more aware of competitors in the actual holding of short courses, and in the publication of volumes similar to the RiMG series. Dan Harlov is the current chair and the chairship will pass to Joanne Stubbs after the Fall 2012 Council meeting. M. Hochella agreed to talk to Joanne Stubbs about Council’s concerns.

[19] MSA Representative to *Elements* Magazine

Discussion was delayed until this afternoon.

[20] Invitation to co-sponsor a joint meeting with the Geological Society of China (GSC) in 2013 from the Geological Society of America (GSA). The meeting is *Roof of the World - First Joint Scientific Meeting of GSC and GSA* June 17-19, 2013, Chengdu, China.

M. Hochella presented the history of this request and shared an e-mail from J. Liou. A discussion of pros and cons followed. It is not likely that new members will join MSA because of our sponsorship. What is the return to us for our monetary sponsorship?

M. Hochella agreed to talk to Liou and to Nancy Ross, who was involved in planning this meeting.

SoC: Council is cautiously interested in this opportunity.

[21] MSA-AGU relationship.

M. Hochella opened the discussion and outlined the history of this relationship. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a short but powerful document. He also points out that there will be 22 sessions at the Fall AGU meeting co-sponsored by MSA. In addition, the Dana Medal will be awarded at the Fall 2012 AGU meeting. In the discussion that followed all agreed that this new relationship is a good thing.

The report from the ad hoc committee MSA Long-Range Planning Committee was then discussed, because the report contained some thoughts on meetings. In M. Hochella's opinion, increasing MSA's involvement in future Goldschmidt meetings will be constrained by the meetings needing to be revenue streams for GS and EAG.

There was some discussion of the Short Courses and the RiMG volumes at this time, as these were mentioned in the Long-Range Planning Committee report. The RiMG volumes need to continue to be a premier publication of the MSA. The Short Course committee should deal with the future of short courses and this series.

[22] ***Elements* subscriptions outside of the present model.** The MSA President requested that Barb Dutrow, MSA rep to the *Elements* Executive Committee (and its chair), open discussions with the *Elements* Executive Committee concerning subscriptions to this magazine outside of the existing *Elements* family of societies. The idea is to include much larger organizations like AGU, GSA (USA), and GSA (Australia), allowing their members who are not a member of a society already subscribing to *Elements* as a whole to gain direct access to this magazine through a subscription. This is relevant to item [21] above. It is a complex issue, with potentially far-reaching implications – both in terms of policy (*Elements* was started with the idea that small societies could offer their members an important and attractive publication as a benefit) and practice (to keep costs low, subscriptions are sold in bulk to participating societies who maintain and supply the mailing databases rather than sold on an individual basis). Although MSA is just one of 17 societies that participates in *Elements*, it is still important for MSA Council to discuss this issue.

Unfortunately Barb Dutrow could not be at this Council meeting. M. Hochella opened the discussion with a review of the history of this publication. There are currently 17 participating societies, and approximately 16,000 copies are printed for each issue. The question is, should the executive committee of *Elements* give AGU the opportunity to

participate? The model would be that AGU would order a number of issues, and be responsible for charging their members, and for the mailing and handling of the magazine. M. Hochella points out this would put this impactful magazine in the hands of more scientists. He asked Council for input before going to the next *Elements* Executive Committee meeting.

Both pros and cons of this move were discussed. Would scientists drop their MSA membership, for example, and keep their AGU membership because they could still receive *Elements*, as well as *EOS* and other AGU benefits? Young scientists in particular may make this decision. However, getting *Elements* out to more readers could be a great thing. New eyes could lead to new contributions, and possibly new ad revenue.

J. Hughes moved that M. Hochella continue these conversations on AGU participation with the Elements Board, with MSA Council Support. K. Tait seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

[23] *American Mineralogist* is approaching its 100th anniversary (2016). It has always been thought of as the “flagship” of the MSA publishing enterprise, which is substantial and impressive for a society of this size. Nevertheless, one can argue that particularly in the last 10 to 20 years, the impact of the *American Mineralogist* in the Earth sciences as a whole, and Earth materials research in particular, is waning. The MSA President wants to discuss the reasons for this, as well as ways that this trend can be reversed.

The *ad hoc* Long-Range Planning Committee strongly concurs that *American Mineralogist* is MSA’s flagship, highly respected, and a critical journal for mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry. The Council might consider options, e.g. solicit review papers or other options mentioned in their report, for improving the impact factor of the journal relative to other publications in the field. They caution that the journal is mostly a success story and should be meddled with only thoughtfully and carefully.

M. Hochella first introduced Keith Putirka, the new *American Mineralogist* editor. He then discussed some of the information above, in the Long-range Planning Committee report. He presented an alternative model of editorship, listing *Environmental Science and Technology*, with an impact factor of 6.1, as an example. In this model, the editors promote the journal, and the Associate Editors accept or reject papers.

A discussion of impact factor and factors affecting it, followed. K. Putirka presented results of his extensive research of citations of *American Mineralogist* articles versus articles published in other journals, such as *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology*. A. Speer pointed out that some researchers are finding *American Mineralogist* articles via on-line searching, and through GeoScienceWorld. *American Mineralogist* has significantly less institutional subscriptions than the estimated 7000+ of *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology*, which is a significant factor. A. Speer also reports that talks with Springer are progressing, on including *American Mineralogist* in the “bundles” of journals that they sell to subscribers.

Discussion followed on future ideas for the journal, specifically on generating more impactful articles. Suggestions included: more aggressive recruitment of authors; invited reviews; more active editors; theme issues; and fast-tracking papers (longer papers, not letters which are already on a fast track.) Changing the name of the journal was also suggested. M. Hochella pointed out that all Council members could publish more in *American Mineralogist*.

[25] **Website and Outreach.** Considering the central role of the website to most society activities now, the *ad hoc* MSA Long-Range Planning Committee recommends that the Council find appropriate options, for example establishing a web committee, for refreshing and upgrading the MSA website. Additionally, the committee should recommend a plan to better transition MSA into the world of social media; clearly, the committee might benefit from including some of our younger MSA members.

In the discussion that followed the Council generally agreed that the MSA webpage needed updating. Council was asked to send examples of what they like to Alex Speer, who will pass them on to the Gordon Nord, our web master. Several suggestions were given, such as the AGU website and the COMPRES website.

In terms of social media, the society has an official Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mineralogical-Society-of-America/146637322076348?ref=hl>) and over 300 'likes'. There is also a Group page that the Society has much less control over. The Secretary has been occasionally posting items to the official page. More visibility of both pages, and more posting by MSA on these pages, is desirable. Discussion of having a Twitter feed was raised, and it was suggested the Secretary should investigate this and report back to Council.

[26] **Finances and Administration.** Most *ad hoc* MSA Long-Range Planning Committee (Section 10(a)) members expressed support for the 2-year presidency, but also concerns – primarily that it is a long time if the president is not engaged and that it might be more difficult to persuade busy people to stand for election. One big hurdle to making this change is that apparently it requires amending the MSA constitution, but perhaps it is time for council to revisit this topic. Not all committee members agree on this topic.

There was no time to address this item, so it was tabled until the next Council Meeting.

[27] The Membership Committee report includes number of topics as a starting point for discussion about increasing membership (Section 10(b)).

There was no time to address this item, so it was tabled until the next Council Meeting.

Guy Hovis moved to adjourn, Kim Tait seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 3:03 PM.