

**Minutes of the Third 2013 Council Meeting**  
Mineralogical Society of America  
Saturday, 26 October 2013  
Granite A, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 650 15th Street, Denver, CO

Attending:

John Hughes, President  
Mike Hochella, Past-President  
David Vaughan, Vice-President  
Howard Day, Treasurer  
Andrea Koziol, Secretary  
Pamela Burnley, Councilor  
Guy Hovis, Councilor  
Kirsten Nicolaysen, Councilor  
Christine Clark, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Ian Swainson, Letters Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Keith Putirka, Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Edward Grew, in-coming councilor for 2014  
Martin Kunz, out-going editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Steve Shirey, in-coming Vice-President  
Wendy Panero, in-coming councilor for 2014

Not Present:

Isabelle Daniel, Councilor  
Kim Tait, Councilor

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

ITEMS

[1] Call to order and Roll Call

John Hughes called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. All present introduced themselves.

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

*G. Hovis moved that the Agenda be approved, K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[3] 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 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, MSA Lecture Program Administrator, Distinguished Public Service Award Committee,

Interest group for Pegmatites, Liaisons to the American Geological Institute (AGI), American Geophysical Union (AGU), Clay Minerals Society (CMS), European Mineralogical Union (EMU), Friends of Mineralogy (FM), Gemological Institute of America (GIA), Geological Society of America (GSA), Geological Society of America Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Volcanology, Petrology (MGPV) Division

Not heard from: Liaisons to American Crystallographic Association (ACA), International Mineralogical Association (IMA), the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD), Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP).

*H. Day moved to accept all reports as submitted, K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[4] Revisions, if any, and approval of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 Council Meeting. The minutes reflect all revisions previously sent to the MSA Secretary (Section 2).

*G. Hovis moved to accept the secretary's report, P. Burnley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

- (a) Barb Dutrow, Chair of the *Element's* Executive Committee (EC) and MSA's representative to that Committee, asked the Society to donate \$100 for a gift in recognition of Pierrette Tremblay's forthcoming retirement as Managing Editor of *Elements* (this impending retirement is confidential, and the impending gift is a secret). I received unanimous consent from the EC, and several members offered to provide personal funds if that was needed.

J. Hughes explained this item. No comments or concerns were raised.

[6] Accept medal, award, grant, and honor recommendations by the committees involved:

The following are the four nominated MSA medalists and awardees:

Roebing Medal (2014): *Bernard Wood*

Dana Medal (2015): *Marc M. Hirschmann*

MSA Award (2014): *Fang-Zhen Teng*

Distinguished Public Service Award: not until 2014

The following individuals were nominated as new MSA Fellows:

*Sumit Chakraborty, Paul Sylvester, Aren Oganov, Yanbin Wang, Przemyslaw Dera, Andrew Campbell, Axel Schmitt, Toshihiro Kogure, Jennifer Jackson, Satoshi Utsunomiya, Michael Cosca, Tatsuki Tsujimori, Christian Schmid.*

*Motion to accept medalists and MSA Fellows made by D. Vaughan, seconded by C. Clark.*

At this point discussion of [7] was initiated:

[7] There are additional items about awards:

- (a) Mineralogical Society of America Award Committee had two items (Section 24):

[1] It is recommended that both Fang-Zhen Teng and Guilherm A. T. Gualda be awarded the MSA award. If only one award can be given, then the award should go to Teng.

[2] The chair of the committee asks that the Council discuss how conflicts of interest are handled. In light of the increasing tendency of geoscientists to work in collaborative groups, the committee chair advocates that a system of stand-by or alternate committee members be implemented.

P. Burnley outlined the conflict of interest issue that arose with one committee member, and raised the possibility of having alternative committee members.

*SoC: Council strongly urges that only one MSA Award should be given this year. In addition, Council strongly suggests that only one candidate be awarded the MSA, Roebling and Dana award in the future.*

(b) The Nominating Committee for Fellows had an additional item (Section 27):

The committee had a short discussion over weighting of pedagogical contributions of candidates vs. research contributions in nominations and selection. The committee felt that the nominating guidelines do not sufficiently emphasize pedagogical and service contributions of members.

Although the criteria for Fellow selection include (no.4) “*achievements in other areas such as excellence in earth science education, or outstanding service to their profession*”, the subsequent guidelines for writing nominations omit all mention of pedagogy and service. The current guidelines are:

- (a) an indication of the length and nature of your acquaintance with the candidate,
- (b) the nominee's contributions to the field to date,
- (c) your evaluation of his/her scientific ability, and
- (d) your name, affiliation, address, and contact information.

The committee recommends the following changes to the guidelines (highlighted by asterisks):

- (a) an indication of the length and nature of your acquaintance with the candidate,
- (b) the nominee's \*research\* contributions to the field to date,
- (c) \*(c) the nominee's meritorious educational contributions to the field\*
- (d) your evaluation of his/her scientific ability \*or impact on the field over the course of his/her career\*, and
- (e) your name, affiliation, address, and contact information.

The committee also suggests including a guideline statement on the web page (perhaps to replace the four listed criteria) such as:

*“Nominators should document the candidate's contributions to advancing the field of mineralogy, and these may include research, publications, teaching, mentoring and advising, professional service through editorships, reviews, or committee work, development of textbooks and other educational materials, etc”.*

Quantifiable pedagogical and service contributions include the number of students who have gone on to do mineralogy, university recognition of excellence in teaching mineralogy and related fields, promotion of educational activities such as intercollegiate undergraduate research consortia, etc.

This statement would place pedagogical and service contributions on a more equivalent level with research.

K. Nicolaysen led the discussion of this topic, noting that the suggested changes were in the agenda.

At this point, a vote was taken on the motion to accept medalists and MSA Fellows previously made by D. Vaughan, seconded by C. Clark.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

At this point the Student Research Awards were introduced, and discussion of [7] (c) commenced.

The Crystallographic Research Grant was recommended for: *Benjamin N. Schumer*  
The Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grants were recommended for: *Enrica Balboni, Stacy Elizabeth Phillips, Michael Zanetti, and Anthony Giuffre.*

(c) Mineralogy-Petrology Research Grant Committee had two items that were follow-ups to previous Council discussions (Section 28):

[1] There was some disagreement among the committee whether a proposal's scientific merit was the only or primary consideration or whether students should be disqualified if they had any other means of research support. Several proposals did not explicitly convey whether or there was other support for their research. Most others indicated some sort of stipend or fellowship support but no research funding or a range of funding mechanisms.

[2] Past committees were curious as to how many of the student proposals might be "lifted" from other, especially their supervisor's, grant applications, and if this ought to disqualify those proposals. With so many proposals this year, the committee did not assess this. There are many proposals that are outstanding, but this did not mean they were lifted from proposals written by their supervisors.

Discussion followed on these two points. K. Nicolaysen reported on her committee's deliberations. Alex Speer pointed out that these awards have been from the beginning awarded for excellence. In addition to the points [1] and [2] above, concern was raised about the large number of proposals received by the Mineralogy-Petrology committee. After some more discussion J. Hughes asked that the Mineralogy-Petrology Research Grant Committee think about these issues and decide on suggestions. H. Day asked for a formal Sense of Council.

*SoC: The Kraus Crystallography Award and the Mineralogy-Petrology Awards are based on scientific merit and overall excellence. The Mineralogy-Petrology Research Grant Committee is asked to review the application forms.*

*A motion to approve the Crystallography and Mineralogy-Petrology Research awards was made by C Clark. H. Day seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

There was an additional sense of Council:

*SoC: In the future, instruct committee chairs to ask committee members to identify conflict of interest (using National Science Foundation criteria) and recuse themselves. In addition, the president can be requested to find past-presidents and council members to serve in such a recused member's place.*

[8] MSA Committee membership and appointed posts for 2014 as recommended by the Committee on Committees (Section 7). Review and fill any outstanding vacancies. The actual vote on appointment of Committees and other posts will occur during the First 2014 Council Meeting this afternoon (Section 31).

D. Vaughan introduced this item. A short discussion followed on lapsed members who are on MSA committees. It was suggested that the president can contact such members.

[9] Other MSA Committee action items relating to committees and appointments:

- 1) the Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Earth Materials Data (EMDI) asks that a representative for the MSA and the *American Mineralogist* participate in the Editors' Roundtable at the AGU Fall Meeting 2013 (Section 10(a)). The EMDI Ad Hoc Committee recommends Keith Putirka, who is editor of the *American Mineralogist*.

It was decided that Keith Putirka will be our representative from MSA and *American Mineralogist* to the Editor's Roundtable.

- 2) the MSA Representative to *Elements* Magazine Executive Committee asks MSA (Section 16) to
  - a. forward nominations for the "petrology" Principal Editor to MSA's *Elements*' representative (her) by 25 November
  - b. identify potential Executive Editors for *Elements* and forward names and nominations to MSA's *Elements*' representative.

The ad for the Executive Editor of *Elements* will appear soon and will be widely disseminated. There was no further discussion.

- 3) the chair of the MSA Lecture Program Committee writes that Peter Weidler did not respond to any of the emails, and thus did not participate in the committee (Section 21(a)). A replacement committee member is needed.

It was decided that J. Hughes and D. Vaughan will consult on a replacement member for the MSA Lecture Committee.

- 4) the Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund Committee (Section 22) recommends an expanded committee comprising: Mickey E. Gunter (chair), John M. Hughes, and Thomas Armbruster.

The expanded committee for the Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund Committee was discussed.

*K. Nicolaysen moved that the expanded committee of Mickey E. Gunter (chair), John M. Hughes, and Thomas Armbruster be approved, and to approve criteria and procedures for making grants from the fund as described in section 22. P. Burnley seconded. Motion passed unanimously, with J. Hughes abstaining.*

- 5) The MSA President asks for approval of Barb Dutrow as Co-Chair of the Second Century Campaign (Section 1).

*H. Day moved that Barb Dutrow be approved as Co-Chair of the Second Century Campaign. K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously, with J. Hughes abstaining.*

- 6) Chair of the Planetary Materials MSA Special Interest Group (PIMG) relates that one PMIG members, J. J. Papike, raised the issue of conscripting additional members of the Planetary Materials research community to assist with associate editor duties for planetary materials-related papers for the *American Mineralogist* (Section 30(b)). PMIG stands ready to provide suggestions of potential associated editors.

Keith Putirka, Editor of *American Mineralogist*, reported that this issue had already been resolved.

[10] The Nominating Committee for Officers (Section 8) presented a list of possible candidates for Vice-President and for Councilors. The list must be reviewed, ordered, and approved so that the MSA Secretary can contact those on the list in the sequence decided by Council to invite them to run for office.

J. Hughes and A. Koziol presented the list of candidates for Vice President, as prepared by the Executive Committee. A short discussion followed.

*C. Clark moved to accept the unordered list of Vice-Presidential candidates. K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Further discussion by Council placed the candidates in an order to be contacted.

*SoC: The Secretary may proceed with contacting the nominees, in order.*

Next, J. Hughes and A. Koziol presented the candidates for the Councilors for the next election.

*SoC: The Secretary may proceed with contacting the nominees, in order.*

[11] 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 all council members present.

*Motion to approve the Management Committee's recommendations was made by C. Clark. K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[12] The Executive Director requests that Council accept the 2013 election results and give permission to destroy the paper ballots and the electronic ballot files upon acceptance.

*K. Nicolaysen moved to accept the results. G. Hovis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[13] Council needs to confirm date and location of its Spring 2014 Council meeting so arrangements can be started.

Discussion centered on having the meeting prior to, or just after, the Goldschmidt meeting scheduled to be held in Sacramento CA June 8 – 13 2014. The meeting starts on a Sunday and ends on a Friday. Some Council members may be involved in a pre-meeting field trip.

*K. Nicolaysen moved that the Spring 2014 Council meeting be held in conjunction with the 2014 Goldschmidt meeting, but that the timing, for now, remain open as to holding the Council meeting before or after the main Goldschmidt meeting. C. Clark seconded.*

*Voting in favor: C. Clark, K. Nicolaysen, P. Burnley, A. Koziol, M Hochella. Abstaining: G. Hovis, H. Day, D. Vaughan, J. Hughes. The Motion passes.*

[14] The Treasurer (Section 4) has no specific action items relating to 2012 finances for the 2013 Council, but the 2014 budget will need to be approved during the First 2014 Council Meeting this afternoon (Section 31). The Treasurer will describe highlights of both years and answer questions.

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

H. Day reported that 2012 ended with an operating surplus. The 2013 fiscal year is still in progress. GeoScienceWorld income is down from last year, reversing a trend of rising income. Alex Speer explained that the number of subscribers to GeoScienceWorld has remained flat, and that more journals and publishers were added recently.

H. Day continued the discussion. The proposed 2014 budget has an operating loss of \$52,000, to be covered by the Endowment Fund. There are projected increased expenses for 2014, and increased investment in *American Mineralogist*. As for the Endowment Fund, the annualized yield is 6.5% over the last 10 years. On paper we draw out 4% and leave 2.5% in the fund to grow the portfolio. In 2012 and 2013 1.8% of the portfolio was donations from members and benefactors. In conclusion, we are walking a fine line in balancing the Society's budget. Increased donations may be key.

Day continued by drawing attention to the FAAC report and comments therein. In other news, the audit this year is clean, and as noted previously, the Bloss fund is now its own separate fund. Alex Speer and Mark van Baalen have worked with MSA's financial advisor and auditors to clean up some credits and debits due to fund accounts. A. Speer explained it is difficult to gain a sense of how MSA's investments are performing relative to other non-profit Societies, as there are few societies similar to MSA, and they are often reluctant to share financial information. A. Speer added some other information about the history of investments and endowments of MSA.

[15] The Secretary requests a few minutes of Council time to report the results of her investigation into possibly starting a MSA Twitter account.

A. Koziol reported that few MSA members, especially younger members and students, use Twitter. Therefore she does not recommend starting an account at this time.

[16] The *American Mineralogist* Editorial Office asks approval of the purchase of the "*Journal Production Tracking System*" add-on to AllenTrack – part of operationalizing the anticipated growth of the journal (Section 12, section 1a(i) page 1-2). There is a one-time set-up fee of \$5,000 (and technically includes another journal free) and then it is \$25 per paper that enters the system.

R. Russell led the discussion on this topic. She noted that the program is flexible and would meet the needs of *American Mineralogist* in the future. This program would especially help the office staff's workload. It is possible use of this program could shorten the time from submission of a manuscript to publication, but this is unknown.

*C. Clark moved that Council approve purchase of the Journal Production Tracking System. Howard Day seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[17] The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) has informational items for Council attention (Section 6):

- a) FAAC presents to Council the preliminary results of the audit and wishes that such presentation be recorded in the Council minutes.
- b) FAAC would like Council to note that the Bloss Fund, which heretofore has been included within the Outreach Fund, was spun off on July 1, 2013, and is an independent fund within our endowment pool. The income from this fund will accumulate until Council approves a plan for its use (see item # 21 below).
- c) FAAC would like Council to note that accumulated debits and credits between the investment portfolio and the General Operating Fund have been cleared by reducing the amount of *retained earnings* on our books.
- d) Strong investment performance and contributions have increased the balance in the Mineralogy and Petrology Fund to the point where additional annual Min/Pet awards are now feasible. This topic will be included in the Executive Director's report (Section 3)



Most of these points were discussed previously, in section [14] above.

[18] The Benefactors Committee (Section 9(a)) asks Council members to relay any prospective donor corporations **and** contacts therein to John M. Hughes, Chair of this committee.

J. Hughes reminded Council of this request.

[19] The MSA Webmaster reports that with the loss of the PowerPC G4 we lost Ask-A-Mineralogist. This bulletin board that was run by Dr. B's Messaging System was set up 10 years ago. Dr. B is no longer in business. So far no one has complained about its absence. (Section 20(a)). Should the Webmaster resurrect Ask-A-Mineralogist with a new software solution?

A. Speer reported that the function received about 10 to 20 requests a year, so it was not highly used, compared to other parts of the website.

*SoC: Do not continue Ask-a-Mineralogist.*

[20] The Executive Director recommends that MSA pursue an agreement with de Gruyter for marketing and distributing MSA publications in geographic and discipline areas where MSA has little presence (Section 3).

A. Speer led the discussion on this item. The ultimate goal is to sell and distribute MSA publications. There are several different approaches when pairing with third-party organizations. In all, the third party sells access to the journal and MSA publications but MSA realizes only pennies on the dollar.

Recently MSA has been approached by de Gruyter. It appears that de Gruyter can reach European institutions, especially in physics, chemistry, biology, and materials. A. Speer asked for approval to continue moving towards an agreement with de Gruyter. There are no upfront costs to MSA at this time. (More information is in section 3.) A. Speer noted that *Elements* is not included as a MSA publication but could and perhaps should in the future.

*H. Day moved that MSA continue to pursue an agreement with de Gruyter. G. Hovis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[21] The Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund Committee (section 22) proposes that proceeds from the F. Donald Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund are to be used

“to promote optical and optical crystallographic studies and the use of applied crystal optics in the solution of problems through the support of research, lectures, short courses, or development of educational materials”.

and that the procedures be

“Requests for use of Bloss Funds will be adjudicated by the Committee with Council or Executive Committee approval, and the Committee will also proactively seek appropriate expenditures from the fund.

The F. Donald Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund shall maintain a restricted portion of the fund to be operated in the same manner as other MSA funds.”

Discussion of this item was covered in section [9] above.

[22] The Short Course Committee asks Council review and approve the short course and Reviews volume on “*Highly siderophile and strongly chalcophile elements in high temperature geochemistry and cosmochemistry*” by Jason Harvey, University of Leeds, and James Day, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, to be held in during December 2015, in San Francisco, USA, immediately prior to the AGU Fall meeting (Section 19).

The committee is enthusiastic about the topic and generally supportive of the proposal. The greatest outstanding concern is that the organizers wish to tie the short course to the Fall 2015 AGU meeting in San Francisco, CA but have proposed holding the short course in San Diego, CA. The committee is concerned that the additional travel may limit attendance by potential participants, and have asked that the organizers consider holding course closer to San Francisco. The organizers are currently working on alternate venues and a revised budget, but comments from Council are welcome.

A short discussion followed. Council agreed to leave the choice of venue up to the organizers.

*A motion to approve the Short Course and Reviews volume on “Highly siderophile and strongly chalcophile elements in high temperature geochemistry and cosmochemistry” was made by C. Clark. Pam Burnley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[23] The Outreach Committee (K-12) reports that the Mineralogy 4 Kids (M4K) website is now mobile, which means that it has been optimized for touch devices (tablets and phones) and is still viewable on desktop screens (Section 20(b)). The site has been professionally edited, the color scheme updated, the ability to sort through the mineral photos and rooms of the house have added a sense of animation to the site, the change from slideshows of the minerals to a touch or click view of the minerals, the Mineral ID section has been reorganized so you can now follow the steps you’ve taken, and the Minerals in your House section has also been optimized for touch in addition to being able to sort through the “rooms” all while on the same page.

The GSA abstract: *Mineralogy 4 Kids Goes Mobile* has been accepted for presentation. It will be in a poster format and is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

J. Hughes asked that Council members try to visit this poster.

[24] Kerstin Lehnert, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Earth Materials Data (Section 10(a)), requests that MSA:

- a) consider the IGSN as a recommended solution for unique sample identification and citation for Earth materials, and participation in the IGSN eV as Affiliate Member. IGSN is the International Geo Sample Number, a unique identifier for physical samples in the Earth Sciences that is governed and promoted by the international non-profit organization, IGSN eV (<http://www.igs.org>).

- b) endorse a proposal of the EMDI *Ad Hoc* Committee to the *Elements* magazine to edit and publish a volume that would be focused on aspects of advanced data and cyberinfrastructure for Earth materials science.

J. Hughes introduced this item, part a) first, and A. Speer discussed some of the background. A. Speer noted that it would be hard to compel authors to use this sample identification system. However, in his opinion MSA should suggest that authors use this sample identification and citation method but not enforce its use. S. Shirey explained to Council more about this system. J. Hughes asked R. Russell as managing editor to investigate this further, as we should know more. Perhaps MSA would add information on this to the Instructions to Authors.

*SoC: Council recommends the use of IGSN for sample identification and citation as required by an author's funding agency.*

Discussion continued on part b).

*SoC: Council encourages K. Lehnert to submit such a proposal to the Elements editorial board.*

[25] Relationships with other societies.

This section was tabled until later in the day.

[26] Forthcoming anniversary celebrations of the Society.

- a) MSA President Hughes would like to initiate a discussion of a unique opportunity in fundraising revolving around two forthcoming anniversary celebrations of the Society, the centennial anniversary of the inauguration of *American Mineralogist* (2016) and the centennial anniversary of the formation of the Mineralogical Society of America (2019) (Section 1). During the meeting, he will outline the general philosophy of this *Second Century Campaign*, and invite discussion around the effort.
- b) Incoming President Vaughan also listed for discussion fund raising as part of the MSA Centennial, for a new program of grants available for student members. These might best be travel grants to facilitate fieldwork or attendance at a conference, short course or workshop (particularly one organized by MSA (Section 31).

The “*Second Century Campaign*” would be different from a typical campaign undertaken by an academic institution. There would be no development staff, and virtually all contacts would be made by telephone, email, or mail. The effort would probably be headed by a leadership committee with a small number of members that oversee the efforts, and that Committee would be chaired by the Chair of the Benefactors Committee (Capital Campaign) that oversees the four-year effort. The campaign would

also include information on Planned Giving for MSA members who are considering the disposition of their estate.

J. Hughes presented this topic, in particular section a). He wished to emphasize gentle fundraising, and promoting the excellent outreach programs the society already runs. The aim is to ask for gifts to current accounts and funds, not start a new fund. Any new program created would have to have funding created for it also.

Part b) was tabled until later in the day.

#### [27] MSA data journal

- a) Kerstin Lehnert, chair of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Earth Materials Data, asks Council to consider the option of collaborating with existing data journals to establish a virtual periodical for Earth materials data resources (Section 10a).
- b) The MSA Business and Editorial Offices had been discussing for the past 1-2 years what would be needed for MSA to start a data journal. This is imagined as an electronic-only, gold open access journal self- or society-published by MSA alone or in partnership with one or more other societies.

Because of the overlap, the office corresponded with Kerstin Lehnert after receiving her report to learn more. A synopsis:

There are several international initiatives and committees that address data publication (Force 11, ICSU/World Data System Data Publishing Working Group, Research Data Alliance working group). The overall consensus is that data in general should be published by depositing it in open, public repositories that comply with criteria for 'trustworthiness' according to international standards of data curation practices (metadata standards, metadata exchange protocols, long-term archiving & access, risk management, etc.) and that support client-based access to metadata. Data repositories need some sort of 'accreditation', e.g. membership in the World Data System, or the 'Data Seal of Approval'. Data formats and documentation should follow community standards to allow integration, comparison, and statistical mining of data across datasets (data repositories such as EarthChem or Pangaea are already providing this) and interoperability to enable cross-disciplinary science. Data curators perform the quality control procedures (the editorial review of the data).

EarthChem 'publishes' datasets. It is a Publication Agent in the DataCite system, registers submitted datasets with DOI, but encourages authors to use data journals to publish the description of the data, rather than including some sort of 'Read Me' file with the dataset when they submit to the EarthChem Library. If the authors choose to publish their data in one of the data journals, they submit the actual data to EarthChem, which are then linked to the data journal via citation using the DOI of the dataset (which resolves directly to the dataset).

We also learned that she has been working closely with Fiona Murphy (from Wiley). They will be running a Town Hall on Data Publication at the upcoming AGU Fall Meeting. Kerstin suggested we should consider a workshop or Town Hall on data publication at next year's Goldschmidt Conference with a focus on geochemistry, mineralogy, petrology, etc.

*[Executive Director's note: One concern the MSA offices had about a data journal was the formatting, hosting, and archiving of the data files. It appears the community consensus is that a data journal would publish the description of the data, and thus have traditional citation, whereas the actual data could be posted to and accessible from any data repositories such as EarthChem or Pangaea. This makes the notion of starting an MSA data journal much easier and less risky.]*

At this stage the decision for Council is whether or not a data journal is something they want investigated further. If so, we then charge the Publication Director to assemble a committee of suitable individuals. Among the questions to consider:

- What types of data should be published?
- Should it be a co-operative effort with other societies?
- Should it be a joint venture with a commercial publisher?
- Is an electronic-only, gold open access data journal the best publishing model?
- What would the work flow look like?
- Should this be considered a break-even service to the community, or a profit center?
- What resources would be required if self-published?
- Who might be Editors and Editorial Board?

### **Discussion: Data Journal**

J. Hughes introduced this topic to Council. R. Russell explained that for the Editorial Office, this journal is at the “visioning” stage. She envisions two cases when a paper might be published in such a data journal; a) a paper not accepted by another journal because of space issues, or b) a data-rich paper with an extended abstract. A data journal published by MSA would have a different name (not *American Mineralogist*).

Questions followed on what would be involved in the actual publication, such as a detailed Methods section, rather than just an extended abstract. If we want significant papers with big implications for *American Mineralogist*, does such a data journal undermine this goal? M. Kunz pointed out an article may not have great implications now, but may in the future. New mineral descriptions could also be published in a data journal. He emphasized that there must be a mechanism to review quality of the data. G. Hovis suggested we need criteria for acceptance of a paper in such a journal, and a review system. Crystal structures can be checked, but petrological data could be fudged, or be of lesser quality. P. Burnley noted a data journal would be a way to get what is called “dark” data out into the light. It was noted that some analytical machines generate lots of data – are all publishable? Are all experimental data publishable?

A. Speer noted there would be two different types of publications: (a) wherein the referenced dataset forms the basis for other publications and (b) an otherwise good dataset gives a seemingly null result and there are no other publications. It is not clear what EarthChem and other organizations require to be put into the database.

In summarizing the sense of the discussion, H. Day stated that we should explore such a journal, and we might need a committee. Also this would be the charge of the new Publications Committee chair, Steve Shirey.

*C. Clark moved that Council explore an electronic data journal, and ask the Publications Director to form a committee. Pam Burnley seconded. Motion passed with one nay vote, no abstentions.*

## **Discussion: American Mineralogist**

J. Hughes then asked the Editors of *American Mineralogist* to discuss their vision of the journal. M. Kunz noted at the start that we will talk about impact factor, but that he wished Council would not be blinded by a quest for a high impact factor.

K. Putirka continued the discussion with his challenge: having *American Mineralogist* become the first choice for publication of choice manuscripts. He gave the example of seeing short course papers submitted to other journals even though MSA was the sponsor of a particular Short Course. He noted that journal submission is driven by the need to connect with peers, and is psychological in a way.

R. Russell reported that submissions to *American Mineralogist* are up. I. Swainson noted that the range of the subject matter of the journal is broad. Some people whose research falls within the scope of the journal are not reading *American Mineralogist*, or not submitting. Special theme issues could change the impression of the journal.

S. Shirey asked if there was a page limit to regular articles. Could the journal publish a good discussion or review paper? R. Russell responded that informally the limit was 4 to 30 published pages. K. Putirka emphasized that broadening of the journal's scope is good. He would love to have a shift in perception so that many researchers' best work would be in *American Mineralogist*. M. Hochella noted that he studied the MSA medalists and found they were not publishing in *American Mineralogist*. The most often stated reason was the relatively low impact factor. However he noted some recent changes and some recent submissions by medalists to the journal.

Discussion shifted to subject areas of interest and special virtual issues. G. Hovis said that there are special sessions at GSA and AGU meetings. Could we or the organizers encourage everyone to come with a manuscript in hand? Not every author is ready, of course, so Virtual Issues exist. Not every manuscript has to be ready at the deadline for a paper issue. K. Putirka said he would like to produce a journal with 1 to 3 really strong papers in each issue, making this a journal you would really want to read. J. Hughes closed the discussion by saying he like the idea of tying a special session at a meeting to encouraging publication in *American Mineralogist*. We, including council, should publicize the special virtual collections more.

## **Discussion: Comments by the Executive Director**

Although the following item was not on the agenda, J. Hughes as MSA President asked Executive Director A. Speer to speak to council about his concerns, either long-term or short-term, regarding MSA.

1. Publications. *American Mineralogist* is two-thirds of the economic activity of the society. Of concern is Green Open Access. For this level of access, the accepted manuscript can be posted anywhere a year later. With this being instituted, will libraries

cut subscriptions and just wait out the 12-month embargo period? Our other publications are doing well, including Mineralogy 4 Kids, which is a kind of publication.

2. Memberships. Our numbers have recovered a bit but plateaued in terms of regular members. Should the membership committee be reorganized? In Alex's experience, the most effective way to increase membership is to ask a colleague or student to become a member. People like MSA for its content. The Earth Sciences are splintered into big and small societies, competing for the same resources. MSA must negotiate among these groups, and some are easy to work with, and some are not.

3. Computer and internet. There is a myth that doing things on-line is simple, safe, easy, and inexpensive. The Business Office knows this is not so. Monies once spent on printing, handling, filing, and postage now goes to IT, but money is not really saved. In many cases it is actually more expensive because it requires someone with much higher skill levels. Paying vendors on-line is not always easy or fast. There is the expectation that some things should be free. MSA does have MSA-talk, its own social network. Overall the internet is a benefit. Members feel closer to the society and can access society information.

4. Governance. There is increasing complexity in running the society, as it is an employer and small business in a world with increasing regulations. An example is IRS Form 990 which now asks for much more information than before. There is less time and travel support or professional reward for scientists to volunteer for societies. There is less effort made to teach students about how the societies are run. In the future MSA may have to consider a different governance structure, such as a smaller board of directors chosen for skill in governance issues, with the Council becoming an advisory body.

5. Meetings. MSA does not have its own meeting. It sponsors sessions at GSA, Goldschmidt, and AGU. What is the future of big meetings? Considering that (a) travel support to scientists is declining and (b) some meeting organizers see meetings as a profit center, the future of the "big" meeting is not a certain thing. Smaller meetings with a narrower focus seem to be more satisfactory to many scientists. Should MSA consider this option? A short course could evolve into a several day meeting. A few MSA/GS short courses run in Europe are models for this.

6. Finances. MSA is in good fiscal shape but is on the edge. Expenses need to be watched. New ventures should be based on a business model: how do you expect to pay for this? Some people view MSA differently, as a funding agency and even as a cash cow.

7. Staff. MSA was once an all-volunteer organization. Now there are five full-time employees, 2 part-time employees, and 2 important independent contractors. There is increased complexity in MSA's transactions. Council should think about succession planning. Gordon Nord, our webmaster, is probably the first to retire, then Alex Speer, then Rachel Russell. Gordon Nord is presently a consultant, but his replacement could be

a full-time person. We do need buy-in from the other non-profit societies that use our software for support. A question was raised about the finances and billing for Gordon Nord's services. A. Speer replied that expenses are shared via fees. MSA is not turning a profit but is recompensed for work done.

Next: A. Speer noted he is getting older and thinking about future retirement plans. He would prefer some overlap with his successor to assure smooth running of the society. He expects to continue with the Society until the end of the Centennial period.

*G. Hovis moved to adjourn, P. Burnley seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea M. Koziol, secretary