

Minutes of the First 2014 Council Meeting
Mineralogical Society of America
Saturday, 26 October 2013
Granite A, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 650 15th Street, Denver, CO

Attending:

David Vaughan, President
John Hughes, Past-President
Howard Day, Treasurer
Andrea Koziol, Secretary
Steve Shirey, Vice-President
Edward Grew, Councilor
Wendy Panero, 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*
Martin Kunz, out-going editor, *American Mineralogist*
Mike Hochella, former MSA President
Pamela Burnley, former councilor

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

David Vaughan called the meeting to order at 3:16 PM. All present introduced themselves.

[2] Approval of 2014 business matters 1 through 6, listed below.

1. 2014 Budget

Approve 2014 Proposed Budget included in the Treasurer's Report, with any modifications as a result of more recent Council-approved actions (Section 4 Appendix B, in the Treasurer's Report for the Third 2013 Council Meeting).

*S. Shirey moved that the 2014 Proposed Budget be approved. C. Clark seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.*

2. Authorization for the Treasurer and Executive Director to Conduct Financial Affairs of the Society

The MSA Treasurer is authorized to conduct the financial affairs of the Society. J. Alexander Speer, Executive Director of the Society, is authorized to write checks and make other forms of payment and transfers on the Society's accounts as directed by the Treasurer and Council actions.

C. Clark so moved. S. Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Committee Appointments for 2014 Council Year

Approve suggested Committee member and chair assignments and other appointed posts (Section 7, Report of the Committee on Committees to the Third 2013 Council).

There was no discussion of this item. *C. Clark so moved, S. Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Appointment of Editors for 2014

Ian Swainson and Keith D. Putirka are appointed Editors of the *American Mineralogist*. Jodi Rosso is appointed Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* and *Monograph* series. Andrea Koziol is appointed the MSA Event Editor for *Elements*. Kenneth W. Bladh is appointed Editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*

C. Clark so moved, K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Authorization of Mail and Telephone Ballots

Mail, telephone, e-mail, and Internet ballots may be used whenever necessary and allowed to conduct the affairs of the Society.

C. Clark so moved, K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Conflict of Interest Policy

One requirement of the new IRS Form 990 is that MSA have a procedure to review MSA's Conflict of Interest Policy with Council, have every Council members sign a Conflict of Interest Information Form annually (copies will be brought to the meeting) and that there is a record that this has been done.

All Councilors were informed of this and signed the required forms.

[3] Any Items Tabled from the Third 2013 Council Meeting

There were no items to discuss.

[4] Future of MSA

The Fall, 1996 Council asked that an agenda item on the future of MSA be included at each First Council meeting.

D. Vaughan introduced this discussion, with emphasis on three topics. He also introduced the MSA website as a topic and discussion of this followed.

A. Formal Relationships with other Scientific Societies

The goal, D. Vaughan pointed out, is to raise awareness of mineralogy in general and MSA in particular. He would like to pursue formal relationships with other scientific societies, *via* a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He has already had several productive conversations with the Geological Society of London and the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Any MOU would be similar to the current MOU we have with the American Geophysical Union (AGU). It would be for a limited time, perhaps 3 years, and would not have any financial obligations or fees.

Discussion followed. Would MSA have a relationship with the Geological Society of London similar to what MSA has now with the Geological Society of America? What are the long-term implications of these MOU's, and others MSA may wish to pursue? Will these two suggested MOU's affect our relationships with other societies? A. Speer noted that we do have informal agreements with other societies beyond AGU. These are mostly regarding sale and distribution of publications. D. Vaughan said that MSA would start slow in pursuing these MOU's and in furthering interactions. Answers to some of these concerns are unknown at this time. The Geological Society of London is keen to work with MSA and we potentially could have a relationship with them similar to that with GSA.

H. Day questioned whether this was an action item. D. Vaughan answered that he was asking for a Sense of Council to approve the pursuing of such agreements by the Executive Council.

Discussion continued. It was suggested that MSA could pursue a MOU with the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC), and the Geological Association of Canada (GAC). A. Speer commented that MAC currently has business affiliations with MSA so that a MOU is probably forthcoming with them. Council generally agreed that exploring MOU's was a great idea. It was suggested that we could also consider mineralogical societies in Japan and China, though cultural and governmental differences could make this very difficult.

D. Vaughan asked S. Shirey to discuss current relationships with the Geochemical Society (GS). S. Shirey and M. Hochella discussed the GS and their current situation in regards to the journal *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* and its publisher.

Discussion wrapped up with a reminder of the request for a Sense of Council.

SoC: Continue to pursue MOU's with Geological Society of London, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Mineralogical Association of Canada. These can be approved by the Executive Council.

B. Possible Mineral Science Workshops

D. Vaughan introduced the idea of a one day workshop, at an existing meeting such as GSA. Such a workshop would be on a hot topic, or perhaps instruction in a new

technique. These workshops would not be the same as our current short courses, as there would be fewer instructors and speakers.

Discussion followed. Several councilors noted these workshops could be attractive to scientists, and make MSA relevant and important. Depending on how they are organized, these workshops could quickly address a topic of current interest. It is theoretically possible that MSA could pair up with existing organizations. I. Swainson described a model based on his experience with a diffraction workshop. C. Clark wondered if we should rethink such models, and consider flying a workshop teacher or teachers to a certain university, to reach more students. Whatever is proposed, costs must be covered. A. Speer noted that MSA Short Courses are self-supporting, with course fees.

SoC: An exploratory Committee should be formed to address the possibility of Mineral Science Workshops.

C. Grants for Student Members

D. Vaughan introduced this topic. As part of the Centennial program, this would be an initiative to award small research or travel grants to students. Such a program might be attractive to MSA members who are willing to contribute to the Centennial activities.

Discussion followed. The first ever MSA Student Career Luncheon will take place in a few days, and K. Nicolaysen suggested we should wait and see as to its success. Maybe this event would be worth repeating. H. Day replied that the Student Luncheon could be supported by \$60 to \$100 K of endowment, and maybe this could be the focus of fundraising for student activities. J. Hughes said perhaps we could consider all outreach activities as a focus for fund-raising activities, as some even now are not fully supported by endowment. A. Speer provided information about the financial support of current outreach efforts and programs. Except for the cases of the Kraus and Min/Pet research grants, the anticipated fund raising that was to be done to support the programs was insufficient or was never done. He gave the example of the MSA Lectureship program, support for which actually now comes entirely from the General Operating Fund (= current income).

H. Day suggested that Student Grants were a good idea but he was hesitant about new commitments from MSA funds. K. Nicolaysen suggested that Council table this new program until the Spring 2014 meeting, when we will have more information on the success of the Student Career Luncheon and the Centennial Fund.

D. The MSA website

The President and Councilors noted that the website design, although once current, was now out of date. It is a site map more than a cover page. One councilor noted it was functional and urged that functionality be preserved. Several web pages were suggested as models, including those of the National Science Foundation and AGU. Modern web design software, with drop down menus, was suggested. P. Burnley shared her

experience with the COMPRES website and wondered if there could be a common area of collaboration. A. Speer reminded Council that any future site would need to handle a large number of commercial transactions, and could not be hosted at a University. He will consult with Gordon Nord, current MSA webmaster and will definitely have additional information, and most likely a new webpage, ready for the 2014 MSA Spring Meeting.

SoC: Council desires the redesign the MSA website, especially the front page or portal to the site.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Adjournment

Motion to approve by C. Clark, seconded by S. Shirey. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea M. Koziol, Secretary