

**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the 28 and 30 September 2020**  
**Videoconference Meeting of the Council**

**Participants---** President Mary Glackin, President-Elect Mike Farrar, Past-Presidents Jenni Evans and Roger Wakimoto, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen, and Executive Director Keith Seitter. **Councilors:** Derek Arndt, Melissa Burt, Kristie Ebi, Erica Grow, Jen Henderson, Bob Henson, Wayne Higgins, Kim Klockow-McClain, Gary Lackmann, Ruby Leung, Vernon Morris, Shirley Murillo, Julie Pullen, and Jim Steenburgh. **Commissioners:** Tony Broccoli (Publications), Genene Fisher (STAC), Kevin Goebbert (EHR), Doug Hilderbrand (Enterprise), Maureen McCann (Professional Affairs), and Yvette Richardson (Planning). Secretary-Treasurer-elect: Bruce Telfeyan. **Staff:** Wendy Abshire, Stephanie Armstrong, Joe Boyd, Beth Farley, Claudia Gorski, Paul Higgins, Bill Hooke, Brian Mardirosian, Brian Papa, Kelly Savoie, and Gwendolyn Whittaker. (Not all participants attended the entire meeting.)

*[The numbering of the following sections corresponds to the Council agenda. The sections are listed in the order they were addressed at the meeting.]*

A quorum of voting members being present, President Glackin called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. EDT on 28 September 2020. *[President-Elect Farrar joined at 12:30 p.m.]*

#### **0.0 Welcome, Roll Call, and Agenda Review**

President Glackin reviewed the agenda for the meeting, noting that a revised version of the transition document would be sent to all for discussion on 30 September.

#### **1.5 Consent Items on Council Mail Ballots**

Council voted to reaffirm all of the mail ballots since its 20-22 July 2020 meeting that did not receive unanimous approval, including edits to the minutes of the July meeting and changes to the draft Hurricane Forecasting Statement before it is posted for the 30-day member comment period.

#### **2.1 Finance Committee Report**

President Glackin reviewed the brief report from the Finance Committee, noting that Chair Schmoll has stepped down and the Executive Committee (EC) has invited an existing committee member to become chair.

#### **2.2 Status of 2020 and Conceptual Framework for Proposed 2021 Budget**

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the status of the 2020 budget based on year-to-date actuals and key performance indicators. Most programs are tracking their budgets despite the pandemic, except for the meetings program. Across all programs, the operating budget is currently about \$200K below the March 2020 revised budget that anticipated a \$500K surplus by the end of 2020. Seitter outlined a strategy for treating the Payroll Protection Plan funding received from the federal government as relief for

COVID-19-related impacts across the 2020 and 2021 budget years. Council supported this approach.

### **2.3 2021 Proposed Budget**

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the proposed 2021 budget, noting that it is based on Council guidance from its July meeting to expect significant COVID-related impacts. Based on the budget scenarios discussed in July, the total income projected for 2021 is about \$3 million lower than the 2020 budget, and even with significant expense reductions, the proposed 2021 budget projects a nearly \$800K shortfall in the operating budget. Discussion covered such topics as the criteria for the use of the reserves, the role of the Headquarters properties as assets, the financial impact of the DC office space, and potential new revenue sources. Council approved the proposed budget, accepting the Executive Committee recommendation that \$400K of the expected excess revenue of 2020 be added to the AMS reserve fund, \$800K be budgeted to cover expenses in 2021, and an additional \$200K be held for cash flow issues. Council asked that staff prepare by the end of October a set of prioritized actions that could be taken to improve the budget situation should they be required, including an assessment of their impacts. Council also asked that Seitter be prepared to present a revised budget in January when end-of-year results will be better known.

*[Council briefly recessed from 1:52–2:05 p.m.]*

### **3.1 STAC — Next future Commissioner**

Council appointed Kristie Franz as the future STAC Commissioner for a term beginning January 2021.

### **3.2 Education & Human Resources**

Commissioner Goebbert requested that Council approve revised terms of reference for the Board on Community Service, which it agreed to do subject to minor edits to be incorporated by Secretary-Treasurer Rosen. Council also approved changing the name of the Board on Women and Minorities to the Board on Representation, Accessibility, Inclusion, and Diversity (BRAID), effective immediately, with an expectation of revised terms of reference for the BRAID to be ready for approval at the January Council meeting. Council expressed enthusiasm for the proposed restructuring of the EHR Commission, discussing a few specific items and looking forward to a formal proposal for approval at the January Council meeting.

### **3.3 Professional Affairs**

Commissioner McCann requested Council to take action on several items. Council approved proposed changes in the CCM written exam grading and in the terms of reference for the Station Scientist Committee. Council also approved a change to limit the length of recorded broadcasts submitted for the CBM exam to five minutes, but it did not approve proposed changes in the terms of reference for Broadcast Board membership related to years of experience, requesting that the board consider changes based on the Council discussion.

### **3.4 Publications**

Commissioner Broccoli provided a brief update on the commission, noting that submissions have remained strong through the COVID era. Council approved reappointing the following (Co-)Chief Editors to two-year extensions ending January 2023: Luca Baldini (JTECH), Henry Huntington (WCAS), David Kristovich (JAMC), Rezaul Mahmood (EI), David Schultz (MWR), Ward Seguin (Glossary), and Jerry Smith (JPO). Council approved the appointment of Javier Fochesatto to a three-year term ending January 2024 as Co-Chief Editor of JTECH. Council also approved revisions to the terms of reference for *Meteorological Monographs*. Council provided guidance that in most cases, chief editors should serve no more than about 10 years, and it asked Broccoli to report further on this matter at its January meeting. It also expressed the desire to obtain better demographic information on authors and reviewers.

### **3.5 Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise**

Commissioner Hilderbrand briefed Council on a proposed restructuring of the WWCE Commission, noting that this action is not scheduled for Council approval until January. There was discussion on specific aspects of the proposal, including where global issues will sit under the restructuring, but Council was generally supportive of the approach.

### **5.0 Executive Director Search**

President Glackin reviewed recent discussions on possible individuals to chair the executive director search committee. After discussion, Council approved Kevin Petty to serve as chair, who will next propose membership of the full committee to Council.

### **4.3 Task Force on Governance**

Council discussed the resignation of Councilor Mohleji in the context of the concerns she expressed about governance issues. President-Elect Farrar discussed options for changes in governance that could be considered, such as having Council members serve on commissions or committees that report to the EC or Council and finding ways to enable more productive discussion of decision items.

### **4.2 Ethics Committee**

President Glackin briefed Council on the status of the Ethics Committee. Council agreed that every effort should be made to have a basic set of procedures for responding to alleged violations of the Code of Conduct ready for Council approval at its January meeting.

### **4.1 International Affairs Committee**

Council approved reappointing to the IAC for three-year terms ending January 2024: Ghassem Asrar (chair), Renee LeDuc, and Wassila Thiaw. Council also appointed Tanja Cegnar and Agnes Kijazi as new members for three-year terms ending January 2024.

### **8.0 Selection of Fifth Councilor**

President Glackin asked all Councilors to think about the Fifth Councilor selection before the meeting on 30 September, noting that the EC suggested individuals working in policy, hydrology, oceanography, biogeochemistry, and/or corporate management (especially NGO management).

*[Council recessed for the day at 4:05 p.m. and reconvened on 30 September 2020 at 12:01 p.m. EDT by videoconference with all Council members present, except for Councilors Morris and Pullen. Future STAC Commissioner Ankur Desai also was present for this session,]*

### **3.6 Planning Commission**

On the recommendation of Commissioner Richardson, Council agreed to transition the Planning Commission to a three-commissioner structure similar to several other AMS commissions. Changes to the terms of reference will be provided to Council for approval in January. Council discussed new members, and it approved reappointing Susan Jasko for a three-year term ending January 2024. Richardson will provide Council with a recommendation for the remaining open position.

Commissioner Richardson briefed Council on the status of various task forces, noting that the task force dealing with financial issues will be absorbed into the Finance Committee. The final report of the task force on certifications was provided to Council, which expressed its appreciation for the work of the task force. Council agreed that the process detailed in the report could be simplified and should involve Council earlier. Commissioners Richardson and McCann, along with Director of Career Development Savoie, will prepare a revised process for Council consideration in January. Council expressed its strong desire to have a report from the task force on DEI Database Information and asked Richardson to work with the Culture and Inclusion Cabinet to move this effort forward.

### **6.1 Status of Statements in Process**

Executive Director Seitter briefly reviewed the status of Statements in process and received a few updates from Councilors.

### **6.2 “Transition Document” Statement**

Councilor Henson reviewed recent changes to the draft statement, as well as a proposed companion statement on impacts from COVID-19. Council approved the Statement on *Priorities for a New Decade: Weather, Water, and Climate*, which is intended to serve as guidance from AMS for the next administration. Council agreed that any statement on COVID-19 impacts should be separate from the transition document statement. Director of the Policy Program Higgins will work with Councilor Henson to reach out to other scientific societies for potential collaborative efforts on a pandemic impacts statement.

### **6.3 Revised Copyright Policy**

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the proposed change to the AMS Copyright Policy to remove its “blanket permission” language, and the change was approved by Council.

## **6.4 Statements Requiring Action**

Council reviewed statements that have expired recently or will do so soon. It supported having the prior “transition document” archived once the newly approved one is posted online. Councilor Higgins agreed to serve as Council liaison for a revision of the Climate Services Statement, and Councilor Steenburgh agreed to do so for the Weather Analysis and Forecasting Statement. Councilor Henderson reported that the committee working on the Strengthening Social Sciences in the Weather–Climate Enterprise Statement feels the existing statement could be renewed by Council as is, and this recommendation will be brought to Council at a later time.

## **6.5 Best Practice for Large Retail Outlets**

Council approved the statement on Best Practices for Large Retail Outlets in Preparation for Severe Wind and Tornado Emergencies and offered its thanks to the drafting team.

## **7.1 Award Naming**

Council approved renaming the Award for Broadcast Meteorology to the June Bacon-Bercey Award for Broadcast Meteorology starting with award nominations considered in 2021, and it approved revised terms of reference for the award. President Glackin reported that research is still underway on whether there are reasons to consider renaming the Cleveland Abbe Award.

## **7.2 ARA, ORA, HRA, Suomi, and Washington Committees for 2021**

The membership of the 2020 award committees was provided Council, and it was informed that new committee members have been selected by the EC.

## **7.3 Awards Nominations Committee Report**

President Glackin briefly reviewed the ANC report.

## **7.4 Awards Oversight Committee Report**

Past-President Evans reviewed the brief AOC report and provided an update on the challenges facing a decision on whether to make a Manabe Award this year.

## **7.5 Fellows and Awards Nominations Committees for 2021**

Council approved three individuals (with two alternates) for service on the Fellows Committee, and four individuals for the Awards Nominations Committee, all for three-year terms ending January 2024.

## **8.0 Selection of Fifth Councilor**

After a lengthy discussion, Council agreed to four potential candidates for the Fifth Councilor position. Executive Director Seitter will reach out to them in order to learn if they are willing to serve if elected and to secure a candidate’s statement from those who are. Council also decided to vote on the resulting slate immediately after the regular election results are known, still with the intent of announcing all those elected at the same time.

## **9.0 Selection of Councilor to Serve on the Executive Committee**

Council endorsed a plan to select the next Council member serving on the EC through an e-mail ballot after its September meeting, selecting from those current Council members completing their first year who have indicated a willingness to serve on the EC if chosen. The vote will use a ranked choice method if more than two individuals are on the ballot.

*[Council members who are federal employees left the meeting at 1:53 p.m. to recuse themselves from the next agenda item, returning after the brief recess at 2:27 p.m.]*

## **6.6 Possible Statement on Scientific Integrity of Federal Agencies**

Council members still on the call discussed concerns over recent NOAA appointees and potential threats to the scientific integrity of the organization. Council agreed that AMS should work toward a statement on the importance of preserving the scientific integrity of government agencies, how science from those agencies can inform effective policy decisions, and the importance of avoiding any possible political influence on the science conducted in those agencies.

*[Council briefly recessed from 2:15–2:27 p.m.]*

## **10.1 Modification to CIC Terms of Reference**

Secretary-Treasurer Rosen outlined a possible change in the terms of reference for the Culture and Inclusion Cabinet about the size of its membership. Council approved the change recommended by Rosen. Councilor and CIC Chair Burt reported on initial efforts being discussed by the CIC.

## **10.2 Plan for Implicit Bias Training**

Associate Executive Director Armstrong briefed Council on plans to provide implicit bias training for staff and volunteers in leadership roles in the Society. The potential impacts of the recent Presidential Executive Order on the training were discussed.

## **11.0 Committees of the Executive Committee**

President Glackin noted that the reports from the various committee of the EC were included in the packet as informational items. She briefly reviewed the report of the Annual Meeting Oversight Committee, noting in particular the recommendations dealing with increasing the diversity of meetings, whose goals received strong support from Council. President Glackin also highlighted a few items from the report of the Committee on Environmental Stewardship. After opening the discussion to questions on any of the other reports, President Glackin noted that several of the committees would be moved under the proposed restructuring of the Education and Human Resources Commission discussed earlier.

## **12.0 Discussion of Policy Engagement Options for AMS**

Director of the Policy Program Higgins reviewed the briefing paper that had been prepared for Council discussion. Council encouraged Higgins to continue exploring ways the AMS might increase its advocacy activities, including the possibility of creating an independent 501(c)(4) organization to do so.

#### **14.1 Departmental and Staff Structure**

Executive Director Seitter drew attention to the inclusion in the agenda packet of a complete listing of all AMS staff members with brief job descriptions.

#### **14.2 AMS Weather Band**

Executive Director Seitter and Associate Executive Director Papa briefed Council on the AMS Weather Band initiative, which is scheduled for formal launch in the second half of October. Council expressed its enthusiasm for the new offering.

#### **14.5 Status of Lawsuit on Alley Behind the Carriage House**

Executive Director Seitter reported that all issues surrounding this lawsuit appear to have been finally agreed to by all parties, and the formal settlement would be signed soon. Repairs to the Carriage House that will be covered by the settlement are scheduled to begin in October.

#### **13.1 2020 Specialty Meetings**

The status of 2020 specialty meetings was provided to Council as an informational item.

#### **13.2 2021 Annual Meeting**

President Glackin reviewed the plans for the 101st Annual Meeting program. Director of Meetings Gorski provided a status update on the financial implications of the pandemic and reviewed the technical approaches that would be used for the meeting.

#### **13.3 2021 Specialty Meetings**

Director of Meetings Gorski reviewed the scheduled 2021 specialty meetings and possible changes in plans for those meetings depending on COVID-19 impacts over the course of 2021.

#### **13.4 2022 Annual Meeting**

President-Elect Farrar discussed planning for the 102nd Annual Meeting and efforts to incorporate the most useful lessons from the current spate of virtual meetings into the execution of this annual meeting.

Council discussed when the January 2021 Council meeting might be scheduled and the impact of that scheduling on the transition of membership. There was some support for scheduling the Council meeting after the week of the annual meeting, even though Councilors completing their terms would no longer be eligible to vote, with a suggestion that they still attend as observers and contribute to the discussion.

President Glackin thanked all who attended the meeting.

*Council adjourned at 3:48 p.m. EDT.*