



Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive

Wednesday, 27 August 2020

Approved Minutes

Venue: Zoom videoconference hosted by CMOS (Gordon Griffith)

Call to Order: 10:00 am

Chair: Barry Goodison

Members of the Ottawa Centre Executive: see Annex 1

Present: Bruce Angle, Len Barrie, Yvon Bernier, Denis Bourque, Sheila Bourque, Dawn Conway, Ray Desjardins, Barry Goodison, Bob Jones, Helen Joseph, Leslie Malone, Ann McMillan, Michael Steeves, John Stone and student representatives Ada Loewen (Carleton U.) and François Lapointe (U. Ottawa). Gordon Griffith (Executive Director, CMOS) organized and participated in the call.

Not present: Paul Pestieau.

1. The Chair welcomed the Executive to the meeting. On behalf of the Centre, Barry thanked Gordon Griffith for hosting the Zoom session and invited him to participate in any of the discussions. The agenda was adopted (Moved: Ann; Seconded: Denis).

2. The minutes of the 29 July Zoom conference were approved as written in V3 (Moved: Ray; seconded: Yvon).

3. **Update on actions assigned at the previous meeting**

The meeting noted the status of actions from the 29 July meeting as follows:

- Approved minutes, 8 April 2020, were posted on Ottawa Centre web site.
- Draft Minutes (V2), meeting of 29 July, distributed on 31 July. Comments received; Draft V3 distributed for approval by Executive as of 18 August 2020
- Input to Len Barrie on draft proposal for an autumn Forum was due by 8 August (see item 5 below)
- Chris Derksen (CMOS Tour Speaker 2019-20) has agreed to present in September (see item 6 below)
- Contacts have been initiated with faculty at U. Ottawa, Carleton U. and Queens U on participation in the activities of the Ottawa Centre (see item 6 below).
- As of 6 August, the date for the August meeting of the Executive was finalized.

4. **Financial Report**

At its meeting in July, the Executive had discussed the Centre's financial status in detail. The Treasurer, Yvon Bernier, informed this meeting that there had been no change since July.

The transfer of signing authority has not yet taken place. It is expected that the signing authority will be amended to reflect the Executive's current Treasurer, Chair and Vice-chair within the next several months.

5. **Congress 2020, future Congress events and related matters**

Bruce Angle said Congress 2020 had been a learning experience, noting that when plans had to change because of the pandemic restrictions, the CMOS National Executive provided a lot of assistance. One 'lesson learned' was that in future there really needs to be a lot more active support from the Government Departments – having said that, Bruce noted that the support provided by Catherine Champagne on IT matters was very much appreciated. Many on the LAC for the 2020 Congress had been retirees, however. In past events, when the LAC chair and many of the LAC members had been employees (e.g. Ottawa 2003, or Halifax/Bedford 2018), their support for the Congress was written into their work plans. This and other in-kind support (e.g. availability of meeting spaces and facilities (for making copies, conducting video-conferences, etc.)) is invaluable to LAC efficiency. It is not clear why the positive *verbal* support for the 2020 Congress had not translated into concrete, active support. In future, support from employees could be written up as part of the staff learning plans.

With respect to hosting in future, Bruce felt that 2023 was too soon for Ottawa. In the interim, CMOS national, Ottawa and the other centres will be learning from how other big conferences (including Victoria 2021) are managed during the pandemic and its follow-on period.

Gordon Griffith added that the LAC led by David Fissel is making progress planning the 2021 Victoria Congress. It will be fully virtual and will likely be a nine-day event to accommodate all speakers and regions. It is planned to have a registration fee, but not the same amount as has been charged in the past for face-to-face events. The Saskatoon LAC has not yet decided on the format for Congress 2022. The new CMOS vice-president, Jim Abraham, is planning to contact both ECCC and DFO to discuss blanket registration for government employees at a pro-rated cost, for future Congress events.

Gordon asked Bruce for a summary LAC report (Bruce agreed). That report will be useful for the host centre (the Ottawa Executive) as well, for future planning. **ACTION:** Bruce will copy the Ottawa Executive on the final LAC report.

Bob Jones has been working on the final summary of Programme and abstracts from the 2020 event and has posted the draft under Archives, publications.

Regarding the CMOS web page, the new site is still in development, but coming along well. The materials for the Victoria Congress will be loaded into the current site initially. Transition to the new site is not expected to be a problem.

CMOS Forum October 2020:

Len Barrie noted that he and Gordon McBean have been continuing to develop the programme for a two-hour, virtual CMOS Forum to be held in autumn 2020 (see the proposal in Annex 5 of the minutes from the July meeting). The four speakers have all agreed to present, and a date has been agreed (7 October 2020, noon to 2 pm). The presentations will cover the first hour, and the second hour will be for a discussion period. The event will be facilitated by a moderator (Jim Abraham, vice president, CMOS and currently a broadcast meteorologist). It is hoped that the whole session will be recorded, and that an edited version of the event will be posted online.

The Forum presentations will be as per **Table 1** below.

CACOR has been proposed as a sponsor. **ACTION:** Ann McMillan will contact CACOR to discuss the event and to request their sponsorship of it.

The Executive suggested the addition of information on the format for the session, and something on expected outcomes to the draft announcement. **ACTION:** Dawn Conway, Sheila Bourque and John Stone will draft a paragraph on this (short and to-the-point). It was noted that Jim Abraham might have a look at the result, given his expertise in public-oriented messaging.

With respect to media coverage for the Forum, Jim Abraham is planning to contact the Weather Network and it was noted that Iain Russell (Pelmorex Weather Networks) is on the

CMOS Council. However, to be practical, getting anything ‘on-air’ generally requires a long lead-time.

As well, CMOS National will promote this through regular communications channels.

Table 1: Presentations for the Public Online CMOS National Forum: Coping With Extreme Weather Events Under A Changing Climate (provisional information, not final)

Gordon McBean	A Global Perspective on Evolving Societal Risks from Severe Weather Events	Founder, international program: Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Head of Meteorological Service of Canada (1994-2000)
Peter Kimbell	Preparedness and Response to Eastern Ontario Tornadoes: Lessons Learned from Ottawa/ Gatineau Sept 2018	Warning Preparedness Meteorologist, Environment and Climate Change Canada
David Sills	An Emerging Awareness of Tornado Risk in Canada: Past Present and Future	Executive Director, Northern Tornadoes Project, Western University
Jennifer Spinney	Understanding and Improving Societal Resilience and Response to Severe Weather Events such as Tornadoes, Floods And Ice Storms	Environmental Anthropologist, Assistant Professor, Disaster & Emergency Management, York University

6. Schedule of Speakers 2020-2021 season

6.1 Expanding the Ottawa network and audience

- Partnering with CACOR, Arctic Circle and other groups
 - Ann McMillan continues to liaise with CACOR; this is a viable, ongoing partnership
 - Dawn Conway continues to liaise with Arctic Circle; our hope is to establish a reciprocal relationship and partnership similar to that with CACOR. They meet in September 2020 and will consider our suggestion.
 - The National Permafrost Association has been suggested as another potential partner – there is a hub of permafrost experts in Ottawa that may value partnership with the CMOS Ottawa Centre.
 - CNC SCOR was also proposed as an avenue to explore for new contacts and potential partnerships.
- Increasing participation (faculty, students) from Ottawa area universities in speaking events organized by the Centre.
 - Barry Goodison has reached out to colleagues and contacts at U. Ottawa, Carleton U. and Queens U, to inform them of the Ottawa Centre’s goals to maintain and strengthen outreach to and engagement with universities in the Ottawa region. As well, this contact served to promote the September virtual talk, to be given by Dr Chris Derksen, on ‘Key Findings from Canada’s Changing Climate Report’. Input and feedback were welcomed.

- The list of contacts included all those that have previously engaged with the Ottawa Centre by giving a luncheon talk. These persons were asked to forward the information on the upcoming talk within their departments.
- Feedback has been positive. The Centre has a well-established relationship with U. Ottawa and Carleton U., including regular representation in the Centre's activities of students at these institutions. Until now, contact with Queens U and RMC Kingston has been irregular at best. Following this outreach, Laura Thompson, now at Queens U., is happy to advocate for CMOS at Queens and with the Arctic group at RMC Kingston. The Centre can build on this and will seek to regularize contact and engagement with both institutions. Virtual talks will facilitate this engagement.
- François Lapointe took part in the CMOS national student meeting several weeks ago. He is using the CMOS presentation and is working to increase CMOS visibility at U. Ottawa.
- Ada Loewen asked advice on how to respond to students on the benefits of joining CMOS. It was recalled that: membership for students is free; CMOS offers undergraduate scholarships; student members are eligible for supplements to NSERC graduate scholarships; and that student CMOS members pay a reduced registration fee at CMOS Congresses, and are eligible for travel bursaries to attend Congress events. The Executive further noted that there is the possibility for mentorship and for students to present their work to the Centre members. The Ottawa Centre has a long history of engaging scientists beyond the meteorology and ocean science fields for these talks and has a goal to support students and education. It would be entirely feasible to invite student talks on what they are working on, their experience and goals, not just on results of, e.g. field work.
- Both student representatives were invited to gather feedback on the potential for students to participate in the virtual talks, and on the possibility of delivering talks on their work.
- Inviting participation of members from other CMOS centres
 - The possibility to invite the other CMOS centres to participate in the talks organized by the Ottawa Centre was discussed. Most felt it would be good to do but thought we should gain some experience first in hosting this way. A good example of talks with national scope would be the CMOS Tour speakers for 2020-21. Any talks likely to have a national scope and interest could be advertised on the CMOS National web pages as upcoming events, perhaps as a scrolling banner to invite attention.
 - Advertising talks to the broader national audience could require on occasion upping the Zoom license to the 500-person version, but also is an argument in favour of continuing to use the Zoom licensed by CMOS National, as opposed to getting one for the Ottawa Centre.

6.2 Virtual event, 24 September 2020

- A Zoom test was made to try out such techniques as transferring control over slide transitions to Bob – that worked well.
- The Derksen talk will start at noon, but the participants will be able to enter the conference at 11:30 am.

6.3 Options for future talks

- Typical talks from the face-to-face luncheon meetings (Type 1) have traditionally been in the order of 30-45 minutes, followed by a Q&A session, total generally less than one hour. The topics have included meteorology and oceanography, but have also included topics related to the environment, hydrology, broader Arctic issues, and so on. These have until now been focused on the Ottawa centre members.
- It is proposed to also offer to host talks in the category of 'getting to know the early career scientists' – the grad students, new profs, etc. These could be shorter or could include a group of presentations from a project or department and can cover a wide range of CMOS-relevant topics (call this Type 2).
- A third category (Type 3) is proposed as well – CMOS relevant talks of national scope that would be open to and advertised to the CMOS Centres and a broad range of current and potential partners.
- The topic and level of technical content will in part determine the audience, and region for advertising the event. It is generally felt that 90 minutes is the outside limit for each event, but that one hour or less would be a better target duration.
- The Centre agreed that switching to virtual talks has a learning curve, and that for the moment, the Centre would continue to focus on the Ottawa region including U. Ottawa, Carleton U., Queens U. and RMC Kingston and see how well the new format is received.

6.4 Update on future speakers being considered

- Ann McMillan has asked Arna Einarsdóttir (originally scheduled April 15 2020 as the CACOR/CMOS speaker) if she would be willing to consider speaking in the October/November time frame. **ACTION:** Ann will follow up with Ms Einarsdóttir.
- A talk by Dave Phillips (originally scheduled 26 May) is still possible.
- Other suggestions included to do an open call to Members (Ottawa area) to see who might be willing to present. For now, it was agreed to work with the suggestions of the Ottawa Executive. **ACTION:** all Executive members are asked to provide suggestions on future speakers through the Secretary, as soon as possible.
- The Executive was very interested in the current news about the Milne Glacier, and would be interested in hearing a talk on what is happening there. The lead scientist is Ada's supervisor at Carleton U. **ACTION:** Ada will invite her supervisor, Dr Derek Mueller, to give a talk on the Milne Glacier in the autumn roster.
- While every effort will be made to be flexible as to the timing of talks, the majority felt there was a benefit in adhering to a schedule. On this basis, the schedule (see Table 2 below) will focus on Tuesdays or Thursdays, the third week of the month. It was agreed that, as the Forum will be in early October, the Centre should plan for an event in late October.

7. Zoom license for Ottawa Centre

The license fee for Zoom (for groups of up to 100 participants) is about \$20 per month (plus tax). To upgrade to the license that accommodates 500 people can be done for a single month (on an as-needed basis) for \$67 plus tax. The Ottawa Executive can continue to use the CMOS National Zoom license but will consider its options for whether to get a Zoom license for the Centre or use a different platform (e.g. Microsoft Teams). CMOS national uses WebEx for its Executive meetings.

8. Other business

The Centre suggested to Gordon Griffith that the CMOS presentation should be made available for download on the CMOS web page, in both English and French versions. It was further noted that Universities are interested in using the CMOS web site to advertise their PhD positions. This would be of benefit to university students and faculty and could help increase engagement.

Sheila is willing to take the next steps with the proposed project with the S&T Museum but needs an introduction to John Gilbert. **ACTION:** Barry will contact Mr Gilbert and introduce him to Sheila.

9. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place, by Zoom, on 1 October 2020, from 10 am to noon.

10. The meeting closed at 12:04 pm. The Chair thanked all participants for an excellent discussion, and thanked Gordon Griffith for having hosted the session.

Table 2: Talks and speakers, Sept 2020 – May 2021

Date	Day	Speaker & title of talk	Proposed by
24.09.2020	Thurs.	Dr Chris Derksen, CMOS national Tour speaker 2020: Key Findings from Canada's Changing Climate Report. See https://cmos.ca/site/ottawa	All
8.10.2020 Noon to 2 pm	Wed.	Public Online CMOS National Forum 'Coping with Extreme Weather Events Under a Changing Climate': moderated by Jim Abraham with four speakers: Gordon McBean, Peter Kimbel, David Sills and Jennifer Spinney.	CMOS national, organized by Len Barrie and Gordon McBean.
22.10.2020	Thurs.	TBD	
19.11.2020	Thurs.	TBD	
17.12.2020	Thurs.	TBD	
21.01.2021	Thurs.	TBD	
18.02.2021	Thurs.	TBD	
18.03.2021	Thurs.	TBD	
22.04.2021	Thurs.	TBD	
20.05.2021	Thurs.	TBD	

Annex 1: Ottawa Centre Executive (see also <http://cmosarchives.ca/Ottawa/ottawaexecs.html>)

Position	Name	e-mail
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