

**Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive**  
Wednesday, April 8, 2020  
Approved Minutes

**Venue:** teleconference

**Call to Order:** 11:00 AM

**Chair:** Dawn Conway

**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, John Stone and student representative François Lapointe. Gordon Griffith (Executive Director, CMOS) organized and participated in the call.

**Not present:** Martin Gauthier, Ann McMillan, Paul Pestieau, Michael Steeves, and student representatives Maryam Yousefi and Ada Loewen.

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1. The agenda was adopted as written.
2. The minutes of the February 19 meeting were approved as written.

Dawn noted that she had contacted the Secretary of the Arctic Circle group and was assured that the matter will be discussed and would likely be approved for implementation (sharing schedules and speakers) beginning this autumn.

### 3. **Congress 2020: Status and Future Actions**

#### 3.1 **Local Arrangements**

The meeting was briefed on the decision to cancel the 2020 CMOS Congress and subsequent actions. Bruce thanked Kim Strong and Gordon Griffith for their help in making arrangements with the Delta and with Freeman. For the most part the termination leaves CMOS free and clear, but there will be some costs already undertaken that cannot be recovered (e.g. for translation of materials). As well there will be transaction costs associated with returning what individuals had paid (e.g. the fees that were paid with the submission of abstracts). All notifications have been made to the relevant groups including the exhibitors. The Executive noted that the LAC had been an excellent team and appreciated their efforts.

#### 3.2 **Science program**

Organization of the Science Programme had been well underway, with 350 abstracts submitted, mostly presentations, some posters. The SPC is working with session convenors to find ways to hold some of the sessions, notably the one on Tornados and some of the Arctic-focused ones. The SPC wants to organize such sessions in a timely manner, to avoid interfering with the programme and prospects for the Victoria Congress. Use of various technologies is being considered, although it was noted that Government does not allow the use of Zoom in its facilities. Experience of using Zoom during the recent Arctic Observing Summit was very positive – convenors and speakers had prepared pre-recorded inputs. With strong organization; good

management of the participants entering and leaving the session or providing input to Q&A sessions; and a lot of behind-the-scenes preparation, it can be very effective.

Regarding the tornado session, government needs to be engaged and if Zoom is an issue for employees, an alternative will need to be found. The Executive recalled that shortly after the Ottawa Tornado, Peter Kimbell spoke at the November 2018 luncheon and his talk was very well received. There should be a lot of interest in that topic, amongst both CMOS members and the public. The SPC could consider setting up a panel discussion, with someone like Ian Black as moderator, and open this to the public, with advertising. It would be interesting to host this on the anniversary date (21 September). The media would likely have an interest in the physical and social impacts. One other session could be of considerable interest to CMOS members and the public here in Ottawa. Jennifer Spinney, U. Colorado, was convening a session about the nexus between physical science and public experience.

There is a Sustainability conference planned for fall 2020 – perhaps CMOS could organize a special session at that event.

Arctic SIG is seeking to develop joint ventures with ArcticNet. Perhaps some of the Arctic focused CMOS presentations could be given at the ArcticNet event later in 2020 (still planned to be a face-to-face event). Arctic SIG will be holding a teleconference soon and will try to connect with Gordon McBean and Len Barrie to discuss this further.

To conduct special sessions from here in Ottawa, people with the technical expertise will be needed. It is important to clarify the target audience for each session. Also, considering that these events are learning experiences, it is wise to establish goals and measures of success. Likely, if the SPC organizes technology-based sessions within the next 6 months, there will be a need to hire people with the expertise needed to run the sessions. This will incur costs. Bruce, Gordon and Len will pass on these suggestions to the CMOS VP, and to Mike Manore and Chantal McCartin for discussion.

### **3.3 Status of 2020 CMOS AGM and other business meetings**

The CMOS Annual General Meeting will take place on 25 May by teleconference. Gordon Griffith noted that at the 53rd CMOS in Montreal in 2019, it had been necessary that some participants in the AGM use teleconferencing, and that it had worked well. The DFO system can only accommodate 25 participants so another system will be used. Zoom is possible, as it accommodates up to 100 participants. The CMOS by-laws require date and time notification of the AGM 21 days in advance. There will be no issue meeting that requirement. The CMOS Executive will meet by teleconference on 16 April to resolve the date and time.

### **3.4 Congress 2023 - Process and timing for decision by Ottawa Centre**

The Ottawa Centre considered whether to offer to host the CMOS Congress in 2023 (noting that 2021 will be in Victoria and 2022 in Saskatoon). Factors considered:

- It is understood that no other centre has yet offered to host 2023. This should be confirmed with CMOS national.
- Termination of the 2020 contract with the Delta Ottawa did not require any commitment to book an event with them at any future date.

- This far ahead, it is not a certainty that anyone serving on the LAC or SPC in 2020 will be interested in taking on those roles for a 2023 event. It was noted that a relevant discussion is the recruitment, at local centre level, of more, hopefully younger, members with their fresh expertise and energy. It was noted that in 2010, the LAC chair had been a government employee, with support including the facilities for holding meetings, and the assistance of government staff. It is challenging to do the job without such support.
- For any past opportunity to host a CMOS Congress, the earliest decision made was always booking the venue (even before the LAC and SPC were fully identified).
- With all the adaptation that has been necessary to cope with the constraints of a global pandemic, holding large face-to-face events may no longer be the preferred model by 2023. Various options for remote or hybrid events are possible. Face-to-face events (normally, important opportunities for scientists) are at present, out of necessity, impossible and the science continues – adaptation is happening in real time. Sustainability and carbon footprint will be factors when considering future events, as will use of new technologies.
- Traditionally, the annual Congresses have been a significant source of the finances needed to run the organization, at both national and local centre levels. The share of the profits earned at the 2010 Congress has lasted quite a while and has been of great benefit to the Ottawa Centre over the last decade.
- The Saskatoon event planned for 2022 will be in partnership between CMOS and the Canadian Geophysical Union and the Eastern Snow Conference. It is getting harder for small organizations to continue to use the traditional approaches independently.

In consideration of the issues, noting that there is not, at present, consensus to offer to host 2023, the Centre Executive decided that it is best to ask CMOS National what steps it will be taking to look at the possible future model for CMOS business and events. Gordon Griffith agreed, and said the discussion should begin with the teleconference planned for 16 April. Guidance from that and the AGM on 25 May will be considered by the Ottawa Chapter when it reconsiders this matter after the AGM.

#### **4. Science Fairs 2020**

Both the Ottawa Science Fair and the Expo-sciences de l'Outaouais for this year have been cancelled. No funds have been spent for the Ottawa event but a cheque for \$300 for the purses that were to be attributed to the winning projects in meteorology or oceanography had already been sent for the Outaouais event. In late March, the organizers proposed options for what to do with those funds including to refund the money, and a decision was made by the Ottawa Executive (by e-mail) to maintain our contribution with them for next year's event. It was noted that up to several years ago, CMOS itself awarded the prizes to the students at the Outaouais Science Fair, but that recently the judging system changed and CMOS was asked to provide the prize money in advance.

Dawn confirmed that she had already written to CMOS national for the matching funds for the science fairs. Yvon confirmed that, as of this current date, no matching funds had been received.

It was decided to leave the trophy for the Ottawa Science fair with the school of last year's winner (Macdonald-Cartier Academy).

## **5. Treasurer's report**

The Ottawa Centre currently has approximately \$8500 in reserve. Last year the shortfall was \$1749. At this rate, the Centre will deplete its funds in about 4-5 years. It had been hoped that a successful 54<sup>th</sup> Congress would provide the Centre with a share of any profits, but that event has been cancelled. This necessitates careful management of the Centre's funds. Options for this including the possibility of raising the cost of luncheons will be discussed at the informal summer meeting. The 2019-20 shortfall should be reduced from the previous year's level because we cancelled the March luncheon this season due to the pandemic, CACOR was to host the April meeting and we had not scheduled one for May due to the planned Congress.

## **6. Election of 2020-2021 Executive Committee**

The head of the nominating committee, Martin Gauthier, has provided a slate of members that are willing to serve for the next year. This slate has no new names, but certain positions are changed, chiefly those of chair, vice chair and past president. Martin will not continue as Member-at-Large.

The Ottawa membership is normally asked for nominations from the floor at traditional elections. The election cannot be at a face-to-face event this year, so the Executive discussed the possibility to call for nominations before the slate is sent for election.

The method for the election was also discussed – e-mail vs doodle poll.

It was agreed that the simple way to conduct the election is to send the slate for the vote by email and see if there are any objections or comments. The Centre did discuss that some people on the regular mailing list might not actually be paid-up CMOS members, but it is not easy to verify that if votes or nominations are received. Hopefully only members will participate in the voting.

The effective date for the new executive is always after the Congress (more specifically, the Annual General Meeting). This year that will take place on 25 May.

## **7. Luncheon Speakers for 2020-2021**

It was suggested that a traditional luncheon in September might not be feasible, so it was agreed to tentatively book the Mess for October 2020 through May 2021. These dates could be cancelled if needed.

**ACTION:** Paul will please book the mess for October 2020 through May 2021, in coordination with CACOR (with Ann McMillan). The schedule could also be discussed with Arctic Circle for coordination.

Recalling the discussion under item 3.2 above, it is possible that there will be an event (possibly using Zoom) on the Dunrobin Tornado and related tornado matters on the 2-year anniversary date (21 September). If that is to occur, perhaps the October luncheon would be a good time to host the CMOS Tour speaker(s) (originally scheduled for 25 March 2020). Increased engagement with

the universities could start with these two events. This will give some experience with which to develop a longer-term strategy for these important liaisons. No actions were assigned to organize speakers for any fall events. This should be addressed by email or at the informal summer session.

**8. Other business**

No other topics were raised for discussion.

**9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will likely be virtual, possibly mid-to late June (TBD), to discuss the outcomes of the CMOS AGM, and planning for the fall sessions.

**10. Adjournment: 12:43 PM**

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

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>e-mail</b>
Chair	Dawn Conway	DMConway1@gmail.com
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Recording Secretary	Leslie Malone	lesliemalone@rogers.com
Membership and Archives	Bob Jones	jonesb@ncf.ca
Education Co-ordinator	Sheila Bourque	sbbourque@rogers.com
Past Chair	Martin Gauthier	martin.gauthier@rwdi.com
LAC Chair, 2020 Congress	Bruce Angle	Wxangle58@gmail.com
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