

Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive

Wednesday, 09 July, 2014, 12:00 PM

Minutes

The Black Thorn
15 Clarence Street, The Byward Market, Ottawa

Present: Richard Asselin (member at large), Yvon Bernier (Treasurer), Denis Bourque (member at large), Sheila Bourque (Education coordinator), Bob Jones (Membership coordinator), Leslie Malone (Recording Secretary), Ann McMillan (Chair), Wayne Richardson (member at large). Invited guest: Martha Anderson (Vice President, CMOS National Council).

Unable to attend: Marty Taillefer (past chair), Martin Gauthier (Vice Chair), Paul Pestieau (member at large)

Proceedings:

1. A meeting of the Executive of the CMOS Ottawa Centre was held on 9 July 2014. The Executive was pleased to welcome Martha Anderson, vice president of the CMOS National Council, to participate in the session.

2. The minutes from the May meeting were not yet available for approval, or for discussion on progress on actions agreed at that session. These items are deferred to the August meeting.

3. The meeting was informal, with discussions intended to cover updates on ongoing matters, issues raised at the CMOS congress in Rimouski and new directions arising from the new National Executive, particularly by CMOS President Dr Harinder Ahluwalia in a meeting with CMOS staff and some volunteers on July 9. These are summarized below (items 4 to 10) along with any actions agreed upon.

4. The 'value proposition':

The present benefits of CMOS membership are outlined at http://www.cmos.ca/Slideshow_e.pdf.

A survey questionnaire on the future of CMOS, designed by Dr Harinder Ahluwalia, is posted at <http://www.cmos.ca/FutureCMOS/Future.html>. This questionnaire covers topics including the role and benefits of a professional organization, outreach, and bilateral relationship with the AMS (inter alia). Responses from current members and others are requested by the end of July. A discussion paper dated 2 May 2014 by Dr Ahluwalia (then CMOS VP), 'A road map for the future of CMOS' is also posted at this site.

The Executive discussed the current questionnaire, indicating that some of the questions were hard to answer, and rating was difficult in cases where implications were unclear.

An earlier survey had been sent out in late May (just prior to the Congress in Rimouski) to 1500 persons including current members and others. Approximately 260 responses had been made. Not everyone in the Executive had yet received the summary of results of this first questionnaire, but the Executive would be interested to receive the results of both surveys, and to learn more about how any conclusions drawn will be applied.

5. Membership drive: The Executive discussed the need for a drive to increase membership in both traditional and non-traditional categories (e.g. teachers, librarians, weather aficionados, etc.). One approach, to contact lapsed members to request their re-engagement, has recently been completed for the Ottawa Centre by its Membership Coordinator, Bob Jones (see minutes of the 17 April meeting). For CMOS on the whole, other approaches could include better and wider communication of the benefits of membership (the value proposition), improving incentives to join, enhancing the activities carried out by the Centres, adjusting the level of fees, etc.

With respect to students, the meeting agreed that a special effort should be made by the Ottawa Centre to contact Carleton and Ottawa Universities and engage in discussions with professors and heads of relevant faculties on benefits and opportunities of CMOS membership.

It was noted that it would be useful to brief the new Director General at DFO (Denis Hains) on CMOS and to request his support for the engagement of DFO staff in the activities of CMOS and its Ottawa Centre.

Action 1: Recommend to the National Council that they launch a discussion amongst the CMOS centres to identify those activities and functions that appeal most to their members (Martha Anderson, before 28 August 2014)

Action 2: Recommend to the National Council that they contact AMS, RMS inter alia to find out their approaches to attracting and retaining members in traditional and non-traditional categories (Martha Anderson, before 28 August 2014).

Action 3: Identify contacts from and organize meetings with relevant faculties at Carleton and Ottawa Universities (Ann McMillan and Sheila Bourque, before 28 August 2014).

Action 4: Arrange for and deliver a briefing to the new DFO DG Denis Haines on the CMOS value proposition (Ann McMillan, before 28 August 2014).

6. Communications:

In his discussion paper on the future of CMOS, Dr Ahluwalia proposes a need for a CMOS communications policy to spread the message of met-ocean science. He further proposed that CMOS should have a media coordinator amongst its staff members, and that CMOS could identify and work with appropriate experts in the relevant fields and play a significant role in interaction with the media.

The meeting agreed on the need to improve CMOS communications, but indicated a preference to more extensively discuss options and methods for achieving this goal. For example, use of networking and social media could be improved. On the matter of climate change, it was agreed that a communications plan should be discussed. The meeting also discussed a need for CMOS to be prepared with

communications materials and experts (on matters relevant to CMOS) prior to the federal election in 2015, to cope with potential media interest.

Action 5: Provide the Executive with the recent decisions by the WMO Commission for Climatology on communications, for information (Leslie Malone, by 28 August 2014).

7. Updates to the Member's Directory: It was noted that at present, the members directory through the CMOS home page does not divulge any personal details such as contact information and therefore is not a functional directory. Privacy is, and will continue to be, an important matter for CMOS.

The meeting agreed that there was no need to retain the security feature on the Ottawa Centre member's web page, once the members list has been removed. For all information on the Ottawa Centre, see: <http://cmos.ca/Ottawa/ottawaannounce.html>

Action 6: The security feature will be removed from the Ottawa Centre CMOS web site along with personal information of members (Bob Jones, by 28 August, 2014). ACTION COMPLETED.

Action 7: The latest Members list will be sent to the Executive by e-mail (Bob Jones, by 28 August 2014). ACTION COMPLETED.

8. Speakers for the autumn 2014 roster: It was noted that Dr Ahluwalia had offered to be the guest speaker at the September session for the Ottawa Centre, with the 'value proposition' as his topic. He had proposed, however, to have the lecture at a University. The Executive agreed that it would prefer to retain its successful format of a luncheon setting for such talks. It further noted that the booking of the mess for September was likely already in hand. It was suggested to make every effort to seek the participation of University professors and students at the session for Dr Ahluwalia's talk, and to discuss with them bringing the value proposition to the attention of the broader academic populations in this region.

Action 8: Discuss arrangements for a talk with CMOS president, and determine a date (Ann McMillan, by end July).

9. Succession planning: Ms Anderson noted the success of the Ottawa centre and the excellent leadership of its Executive over time. She recommended that a strong team of people be identified and developed to carry on the work of CMOS, to fill in behind the current leaders. The Ottawa Executive agreed that such succession planning was required, and that a list of candidates should be developed.

Action 9: A list of potential candidates in the Ottawa Centre to take on national CMOS roles will be developed (Marty Taillefer, due date not specified)

10. August meeting: It was decided that an informal meeting would be held on 28 August 2014, at the Black Thorn.

11. Other business: no additional issues were raised.

12. Closure: The meeting was closed at 13:45. The chair thanked the members for their contributions.