

Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive
Date: Thursday April 11, 2024, by zoom. Time: 15:00-16:30

Present: Leonard Barrie (Chair), Yvon Bernier, Denis Bourque, Dawn Conway, Ray Desjardins, Bob Jones, Peter Kimbell, Ann McMillan, Frank Johnson, Shiliang (Dan) Shan, Ward Smith, Ada Loewen (student rep. Carleton U.) from 16:00.

Regrets: Sheila Bourque, David Grimes, John Stone, Erika Brummell (student rep. U. of Ottawa)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 27 February, 2024

The minutes were adopted following correction of a phrase in item 5b (Moved Yvon Bernier; Seconded Ann McMillan).

3. Actions arising

These are covered under appropriate agenda items.

4. Financial Update

Yvon Bernier mentioned that we should request \$525 in matching funds for Science Fair awards, from CMOS National. Len Barrie responded this will be done shortly.

Action: Len Barrie to send request for matching funds.

5. Highlights of the March 5 CMOS National Centre Chairs meeting

Len Barrie and Ada Loewen had attended the meeting, which had been chaired by Shannon Nudds, CMOS Vice-president. All but five Centres were represented.

Plans for the 3-6 June, 2024 Congress were reviewed. Manitoba and Interior BC-Yukon Centres are co-hosting. So far, 239 abstracts have been received; 144 of which are from staff at Environment and Climate Change Canada. ECCC is also supporting the Congress with \$50,000 over five years, plus \$30,000 for registration of its personnel. A \$10,000 subvention from Fisheries and Oceans Canada is pending.

The 2025 Congress will be in Saskatoon and will be in person. Ron Hopkinson chairs the organizing Committee and Chris Marsh, the Science Program.

Shannon Nudds indicated that CMOS would like a national congress organizing committee, to centralize functional support. Denis Bourque commented that this is done by the American Meteorological Association, and the idea had been raised here a few years ago.

CMOS National is involved in two projects: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA), funded by ECCC; and Impact Analysis of CMOS, led by Janet Stalker. The first report is available; the latter will be, in mid April, and will help in renewal of the CMOS Strategic Plan, from 2025.

The next CMOS Centres meeting is on May 7, 2024.

6. Ottawa Centre Activities for 2024

6 a Review of monthly lunch-hour seminars in 2024

Len Barrie noted that three of the four talks in the first months of 2024 have been completed. The talk on wildfires by Yan Boulanger (21 March), was very well received, though the graphics were deemed a bit 'busy'.

The final talk will be by Joanna Dean on 18 April, on "Teaching climate as a historian".

Other potential speakers in 2024

- Dawn Conway will contact Craig Stewart to see if he will give a talk and to explore dates.
- Peter Barry will be invited by Dawn Conway, to give a talk early in the Fall.
- Peter Kimbell will look into a speaker for a possible talk on floods, or atmospheric rivers.
- Peter Kimbell and Len Barrie will look into a talk on Monthly to Seasonal Forecasting:

Action: Dawn Conway, Len Barrie and Peter Kimbell

Other topics proposed included Severe Storms; Short-term (monthly to seasonal) Weather Prediction; Wind Patterns and Pollution Dispersal; the Soil-Water Reserve; and a topic related to Oceans. Len Barrie noted the ECMWF¹ does an ensemble forecast that is sold commercially. He also noted the WMO² has a Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory System; and commented on the social importance of sand and dust. See: <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/sand-and-dust-storms/toolbox/observation-monitoring-modelling-forecasting-early-warning/sds-was>

Other potential speakers include the CMOS Tour Speaker and the SCOR³ speaker.

6 b Report on Science Fair Outcomes in 2024

The Ottawa Regional Science Fair was held at Carleton University on 5-6 April, 2024. Ward Smith, Ray Desjardins, Ada Loewen and Erika Brummell were judges for CMOS relevant projects. Ward Smith reported that 64 of the 150 projects were in CMOS areas. The CMOS judges attended 14 presentations and judged 16 projects. Two received awards: one on defining drought and another on applying water to plants, based on different climatic variables. Len Barrie has recovered the CMOS trophy and will get it engraved, adding the 2024 winning school. Ward Smith will ensure the report on the Fair is available; and will arrange for the

¹ European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

² World Meteorological Organization

³ Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research

trophy to be delivered, along with certificates (being printed and framed by Len Barrie). He will also request photos of the winners with the trophy. Len Barrie stressed the importance of the awards, and of getting abstracts to the judges earlier in the process.

Action: Ward Smith will arrange for the trophy and the certificates (being printed and framed by Len Barrie) to be delivered.

Dan Shan described his experience with the Science Fair in Kingston in 2022 and 2023. He noted an increase in projects related to ocean acidification and to plastics in the ocean. He proposed a special award for CMOS relevant projects at the Kingston Fair in 2025. Members unanimously agreed. Denis Bourque explained different judging arrangements at Fairs.

Action: Len Barrie and Shiliang (Dan) Shan. Len Barrie will send a formal email to Dan explaining the decision of the committee to support a CMOS Award on the theme of Weather, Climate, Oceans and Environment, at the Kingston Regional Science Fair. Dan Shan will contact the organizers and report at the next meeting.

Yvon Bernier's report on the Outaouais Regional Science Fair (attached in the announcement to this meeting) is posted on the CMOS Ottawa website.

7 Other business

7 a Elections preparation and recruitment of new members

Dawn Conway reported on work to date and informed the Executive of two good, willing candidates: Mike Manore (former ECCC) and Michael Brklacich (Emeritus at Carleton U). Members noted that the Committee requires more oceans expertise and proposed consulting Savi Narayanan and Helen Joseph for possible nominees.

Len Barrie's term as Chair is up and a new Chair is needed. David Grimes will continue as Vice-chair. Discussion followed on Frank Johnson's willingness to take on the Chair, given his concerns about expertise and contacts. Johnson **agreed** to take on the role of Chair, for the next year. Bob Jones explained the process of sending the proposed slate to Ottawa area members.

Action: Dawn Conway to request nominees in the area of oceanography.

7 b Outcome of 11 March 2024 CMOS National Virtual Career Panel

Ada Loewen reported there were 43 participants. Panelists were excellent and the Student Committee is considering organizing a similar event in the Fall. The Committee would also like to organize an informal get together or group viewing of a plenary talk, or the talk by the public speaker, at the next Congress. Students could convene at Carleton University or the University of Ottawa. The Student Committee will review the Congress schedule when available.

Action: Ada Loewen to pursue this in liaison with Len Barrie

7 c Summary of Chair and Vice-chair discussion with MSC heads, on the CMOS Ottawa Centre

On 6 March 2024, Len Barrie and David Grimes met by zoom with Diane Campbell (outgoing ADM of MSC) and Cécile Siewe (incoming ADM). The transition of ADM has taken place over three months. Discussion focused on stronger collaboration with and involvement of MSC in the Ottawa CMOS Centre. MSC offered to identify a liaison person to CMOS Ottawa. All

agreed to pursue this. They also considered weather and water to be good themes for cooperation. Ann McMillan proposed a similar link be pursued with DFO.

Action: David Grimes and Len Barrie will follow up on the appointment of a liaison person from MSC to interact with, and to help grow the link between ECCC and the Ottawa CMOS Executive. They will also explore a similar link with DFO.

8 Date of the next Executive meeting

The next meeting and the last with Leonard Barrie as Chair will be by zoom on **Tuesday May 28, 2024**, from **15:00 to 16:30** hours.

9 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 16:35.