

Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive 2024/2025

Date: Tuesday 26 November, 2024

Time: 12:00-13:30

Venue: Irene's Pub

Present: Frank Johnson (Chair), Michael Brklacich, Dawn Conway, Ray Desjardins, Bob Jones, Ada Loewen (student rep. Carleton U.), Erika Brummell (student rep. U. Ottawa), Mike Manore, Peter Kimbell

1. Regrets: Len Barrie, Yvon Bernier, Sheila Bourque, David Grimes, Shiliang (Dan) Shan.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 24 September, 2024

The minutes were adopted following correction of possible dates for the next meeting (item 12).

4. Actions arising

4.1 Letter to lapsed members

Bob Jones informed members that the CMOS national office has sent a general letter to lapsed CMOS members. The Ottawa Executive would like to send a dedicated letter to its 17 lapsed members. Ada Loewen reported that the National Executive is considering auto-renewals.

Action: Bob Jones will draft a letter for local members, for the Chairman's review and signature.

4.2 Relationships with recruitment pools

Frank Johnson noted that we still require a senior contact person from agencies, especially ECCC and DFO. This item was deferred to the next CMOS Ottawa meeting.

5. Report on CMOS French Student Career Panel, Nov. 20

Ada Loewen reported on the french student career panel that had taken place last week. Four professionals (DFO, MSC, RBR and Ouranos) had provided input. The meeting had gone well though participation was limited. A video of the meeting is on the web.

6. CMOS Strategy

The impact assessment has been presented to CMOS Council. It focused on membership and communications issues. The Council is enthusiastic about Artificial Intelligence in the document and in the need to promote an increase in membership.

Ada Loewen informed members that the student group will discuss areas and themes that CMOS could improve on (e.g. meteorology careers; and how best to connect with the shared goals of science-based departments and agencies), and in how best to implement some of the recommendations.

Mike Manore suggested the Ottawa Centre's seminars begin with a reminder of the value of CMOS membership, and that this be better articulated. The current model of benefits suggests a 'club'. Tiered membership could give access to seminars, though not to the Atmosphere-Ocean magazine. Mike Brklacich added that we must stress the strategic advantage of membership, noting that Artificial Intelligence has considerable information on career challenges.

Ottawa members could also serve as mentors, for obtaining grants, or for graduate student scholarships. Ray Desjardins agreed that members could mentor, or supervise theses, or identify co-op or summer work opportunities. Ada Loewen noted the Meteorological Service of Canada is

establishing a fund to encourage students to study meteorological science. Erika Brummell observed that the University of Ottawa geography program is in transition; and there is a disconnect between the University's program and careers in meteorology. In addition, there is no current MSC scholarship, though CMOS national does offer scholarships.

Subsequent discussion focused on membership. CMOS currently has 700 – 800 members. Ada Loewen feels we need to know how to tap into the expertise embedded in federal departments better. Bob Jones agreed that our federal contacts could be an entry point to appropriate experts. He noted a need for more Ice Service and NavCan people as members and mentors, and the need for more discussion of the hiring and staffing situation at universities to attract students to study in CMOS areas. Peter Kimbell informed members of the shortage of candidates for MSC¹ jobs. MSC provides training in Edmonton and Montreal for staff positions.

With regard to Education and the career path, Ada Loewen mentioned the growing relevance of computer science in the field to meteorology. She noted that CMOS' University and Professional Education Committee is offering a 2-day workshop in January where some of these issues will be discussed. Mike Brklacich suggested it would be useful to follow a meteorological event with a talk by an expert who could explain the science behind the event.

Members also briefly discussed the benefits of 'Citizen Science' and meetings of people engaged in it. This can be relevant to many related fields, e.g., meteorology and timing of spring planting of crops.

Ada was asked about a student meeting in February 2025, where students of Professor Corinne Millard would give mini talks in a seminar format. Details will follow.

7. Ingenium Visit

Frank Johnson will follow up on this item with Sheila Bourque.

8. Visit to Ottawa Technical Secondary School

Frank Johnson attended a student career day and reported briefly on this. Erika Brummell spoke to visiting High School students. Mike Brklacich commented that peers are generally more effective than established scientists at reaching students.

9. Lunch Hour Seminars

Updated information on these was provided on a spreadsheet.

10. Review of recent seminars

Peter Berry's September 19 talk on *Using Climate Services to Protect Health in a Warming World* was well received.

David Parsons's talked on October 17, on *Monthly to Seasonal Weather/Climate Forecasting: Challenges and Social Benefits*.

Daul Kovacs spoke on November 19. His title was *Hope for the Best; Prepare for the Worst*. His talk was deemed excellent.

11. Upcoming Talks: 2025.

Dawn Conway confirmed that Craig Stewart (V-p, Insurance Bureau of Canada) will speak on January 16. Stewart has been away during November and she is still working on getting an abstract to help advertise his talk, as well as biographical information.

¹ Meteorological Service of Canada

Action: Dawn Conway

Possible future speakers were discussed. Mike Brklacich suggested a joint climate and security session. He will explore a possible speaker.

Action: Mike Brklacich

12. Updates on Science Fairs in 2025

Discussion was deferred to the January 2025 meeting.

13. Financial Update

This will be provided in January 2025.

14. CMOS Regional Chairs meeting, 5 November 2024

Discussion focused on CMOS' strategic planning.

15. Other business - None

16. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Executive will be on **Tuesday January 14, 2025**. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. and will be by Zoom.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.