



Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive
Monday, 22 February 2021
Approved Minutes

Venue: Zoom videoconference hosted by the Ottawa Centre

Call to Order: 10:05 am

Chair: Barry Goodison

Members of the Ottawa Centre Executive: see **Annex 1**

Present: 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 Abby Dalton (U. Ottawa).

Not present: Bruce Angle, Paul Pestieau

1. The Chair welcomed the Executive to the meeting. The agenda was unanimously adopted with several new items under other business.

2. It was moved by Bob Jones and seconded by Dawn Conway to approve the minutes of the meeting of 25 January 2021 as per version 2 of the draft. All were in favour.

3. Update on actions from the last meeting

The following Actions from the January meeting were completed and required no further discussion:

- Len Barrie developed and shared his report on discussion with Early Career Scientists.
- Yvon Bernier completed the repayment of the \$210 for the cancelled luncheon.
- Barry Goodison provided the Centre's 2020 annual report to CMOS National.
- Barry Goodison invited Luke Copland to introduce the speakers for the 18.02.21 talk.
- Bob Jones recovered the Ottawa Science Fair Trophy.

The following Action items from the January meeting are on the agenda for discussion:

- Review of available rates for term deposits (YB, item 4)
- Share instructions on resending Zoom coordinates (DB, item 5)
- Contact OCE members re: slate, 2021 (DC, item 7)
- Share input on roles and responsibilities (All, item 7)
- Share input on new candidates (All, item 7)
- Find the OCE/CACOR LOA (AMcM, BJ, item 8)
- Contact Serge Nadon for Outaouais Science Fair (YB, item 8)

4. Financial Report

4.1 Financial update

The Treasurer informed the meeting that there were no issues or concerns.

4.2 Investments

The funds from the GIC that matured on 17 February 2021 have been deposited in the Centre's bank account. As requested by the meeting in January, Yvon spoke with the Bank of Montreal about GIC rates and term deposits. The best rates for either GICs or Term deposits, for periods up to three years, were mostly less than 0.5 percent – very low. It was noted that the Centre could choose two and three-year GICs that could be cashable on the anniversary date.

The Executive discussed Mutual Funds and ETFs and unanimously agreed with the recommendation of the Treasurer that we will not invest in either type because the capital in such investments is not guaranteed.

The Centre considered that 0.5 per cent on an investment of \$4000 would provide a return of about \$20 over a year and that rates could possibly improve later in the year. It was moved by Barry Goodison and seconded by Sheila Bourque that the funds stay in the bank account until a better rate of return is available. All were in favour.

5. Review of the Dalton/Hamilton/Garbo talk and ZOOM matters

Denis Bourque provided the analysis of participation for the talk by Abigail Dalton, Andrew Hamilton and Adam Garbo on 18 February, noting that there had been 81 persons registered and 63 'screens' taking part in the event (78 per cent). Of the 63, 32 (51%) were CMOS members; 15 (24%) were Students (7 of these students are amongst the 39 CMOS Members).

All agreed that the trio of talks were first rate, well prepared and very interesting. This serves as an excellent example for future events with multiple speakers and hopefully opens the door to more talks given by students and early career scientists. Luke Copland is linking the YouTube video to his own web site and the U. Waterloo glaciology group is tweeting about the event to promote awareness. Excellent work.

The action to share instructions for resending Zoom coordinates was not discussed, and is deferred to the next meeting.

6. Schedule of Speakers 2020-2021 season

The schedule of talks organized by the Centre for the remainder of the season is complete (**Table 1**). The next talk on the schedule, 24 February, will be by Dr. Katja Fennel, Dalhousie University, this years' CMOS Tour Speaker. The next talk organized by the Centre will be by Mark Ward on 4 March.

The Executive appreciated the work Bob Jones has been doing to improve the web site page for upcoming meetings, especially with respect to registering for the events.

7. Elections, Ottawa Centre, 2021

Dawn Conway is leading the process to determine the slate for the 2021 election and is in the process of contacting all current elected members of the Executive, to see if they are willing to continue for another year. At present there are 14 elected members and two students. In an Ex-officio capacity, the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2020 Congress has also participated in the Executive this year. The Chair and Vice Chair are entering the second year of a two-year commitment (Barry Goodison and Len Barrie) and those positions are not up for election in 2021. A number of observations were made:

- To date, most current members have indicated willingness to continue.
- New people on the Executive might bring fresh energy, new perspectives and increased diversity in disciplines and age groups (e.g., increased representation from ocean sciences, academia, the private sector and from people still part of the workforce).

- The Executive is not in favour of increasing the number of elected members on the Executive – at least not by many.
- By holding the meetings of the Executive virtually, there has been improved participation by and engagement of the current Executive, including student members (no travel time, no struggling with inclement weather or parking). It also might make recruiting new members easier. It might be feasible for CMOS members from farther afield (e.g., Queens U. and RMC Kingston) to stand for election.

It was unanimously decided that meetings of the Executive will continue to be virtual, and that Dawn could use this decision in messaging for recruitment of new Members. It was further decided to hold off on deciding on how many ‘vacancies’ to recruit for, until after Dawn has heard back from all the current members.

Bob Jones informed the meeting that he had worked with CMOS National (Qing) to set up a distribution list of only Ottawa-area CMOS Members in good standing (about 90 persons), for the Centre to use for election communications, particularly voting. **ACTION:** Bob Jones will send this list to all Executive members.

With respect to members in the Kingston area, efforts will be increased to better engage them in our activities. **ACTION:** Denis Bourque will identify how many participants in the virtual talks are from the area. **ACTION:** Abby Dalton will contact Laura Thompson to promote participation of students and faculty at Queens U.

Regardless of whether or not it is determined that there are one or more vacancies in the Executive this year, the Centre must reach out to the Members and seek nominations. The messaging can include information on what the Centre is doing – the virtual talks, the YouTube videos, collaborative efforts with centres in different parts of the country, etc. Persons interested in being nominated should provide information on their areas of interest and on their expertise. This or later messaging could also invite interest in being a speaker, or in proposing a speaker, or in other forms of contributing to the work of the Centre without necessarily being an elected member of the Executive.

Several names have been raised as potential new recruits to the Executive, and the Executive is asked to continue to provide input on this to Dawn Conway.

The Executive briefly discussed the new draft document on Roles and Responsibilities for the Executive. All members are asked to consider how it can be improved. One addition was suggested – all members assist with identification of potential speakers, and with organizing the events (getting the bios and abstracts, communications, etc.). The document can be developed over time, and can be adapted to the changes that will occur when there is a turnover of members.

8. Other business

8.1 Update on Science Fairs

Yvon Bernier has contacted Serge Nadon who is willing to take part as a judge again this year for the Outaouais Science Fair. The Organizers have informed Yvon that the event will be virtual, on 19 March, but that all the details of how this will work have not yet been decided.

Len Barrie and the student representatives will take part as judges in the Ottawa Science Fair (virtual for 2021). Bob Jones has provided information on the procedures, and Len is in touch with the organizers. Len will ask the organizers to update their contact information for the Centre. Registration closes on 26 March, and the judging will take place sometime between then and mid-April. **ACTION:** Len will develop a procedure for the event, to take into account that past practice (e.g. handing out the cheques to the winners) will not be feasible this year.

The Executive needs to consider nominating someone as the Science Fair Coordinator, to be the main focal point for the Centre.

8.2 Relationship with CACOR

Ann McMillan found a copy of the letter of agreement between the Ottawa Centre and CACOR, signed by herself. This was circulated to the members of the Executive for consideration. As per this agreement, the Centre and CACOR share meeting notices. When there are any to share, Bob Jones also posts the events of the sister science groups in the area but noted that they are not very active right now. To promote each other's activities, each group can invite the others to sign up to their mailing lists.

8.3 Joint talk, Ottawa Centre/CACOR

Barry will follow up with Laura Twidle to get the full title and abstract, and a bio, for the talk that is scheduled for 29 April.

8.4 Pamphlets

Sheila Bourque informed the meeting that she had found some examples of the package she had been seeking on 'Learning Weather' – pamphlets and cloud charts, etc. She asked the Executive what, if anything, should be done with this material. **ACTION:** Leslie Malone will add this topic to the agenda for the next meeting.

8.5 Decade on Oceans

The DFO is organizing Canada's launch the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (<https://oceandecade.org/>) in March, and a workshop is planned. **ACTION:** Helen Joseph will forward the details on the DFO event once it is available.

9. Date of Next Meeting of the Ottawa Centre Executive

The next meeting will take place, by Zoom, on Monday, 22 March 2021, from 10:00 am to noon.

10. Adjournment

The meeting closed at 11:33 am. The Chair thanked all participants for an excellent discussion.

Table 1: 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	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 Kimbell, David Sills and Jennifer Spinney.	CMOS national, organized by Len Barrie and Gordon McBean.
22.10.2020	Thurs.	Dr Jean Holloway, postdoc, U. Ottawa, Chair of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists Canada: Impacts of forest fire on permafrost in the discontinuous zones of northwestern Canada.	Len Barrie
18.11.2020	Thurs.	Ms Arna Einarsdóttir: Climate change and music, culture	CACOR, joint event
17.12.2020	Thurs.	Dr Derek Mueller (Carleton U.): Cryospheric and ecological changes along Canada's northernmost coast: The Milne Ice Shelf break-up of 2020	Ada Loewen
21.01.2021	Thurs.	Dr. Konrad Gajewski (U Ottawa): Holocene climate variability of the North American Arctic and impacts on terrestrial ecosystems & human populations	Barry Goodison
18.02.2021	Thurs.	Student trio: Abby Dalton on glacier changes on SE Ellesmere, Andrew Hamilton (post-doc) on glacier-ocean interactions, and Adam Garbo (MSc) on validating and improving iceberg drift models in the CAA.	Luke Copland
24.02.2021	Wed.	CMOS Tour speaker, Dr Katja Fennel, virtual science lecture on 'Autonomous observing technology ushering in a new era in biogeochemical ocean observation and prediction'	CMOS national
03.03.2021	Wed.	CMOS Tour speaker, Dr Katja Fennel, Dalhousie U., Q&A session	CMOS national
04.03.2021	Thurs.	Mark Ward on the work of the marine research vessel Alucia	Dawn Conway
18.03.2021	Thurs.	Dr. Ron Drever on Natural Climate Solutions for Canada	Ray Desjardins
08.04.2021	Thurs.	Andrea Niemi (DFO Winnipeg): Drivers of forage species variability in the Canadian Beaufort Sea. Joint with CMOS Centre Winnipeg (co-host). We will organize.	Helen Joseph
29.04.2021	Thurs.	Laura Twidle (CatIQ Connect): The Impacts of Extreme events in Canadian Catastrophes. Tentatively joint with CACOR	Barry Goodison
May 2021		No event will be scheduled	

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

Position	Name	e-mail
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