

Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive 2024/2025

Date: Tuesday 24 September, 2024

Time: 15:00-16:30

Venue: Zoom

Present: Frank Johnson (Chair), Len Barrie, Yvon Bernier, Sheila Bourque, Dawn Conway, Ray Desjardins, David Grimes, Bob Jones, Peter Kimbell

Regrets: Michael Brklacich, Ada Loewen (student rep. Carleton U.), Erika Brummell (student rep. U. Ottawa), Mike Manore, Shiliang (Dan) Shan.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

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

The minutes were adopted by consensus.

3. Actions arising

Nomination of a councillor from NCC

David Grimes suggested the nomination be dropped for now. The item is thus closed.

4. Ingenium Visit

Sheila Bourque will follow up on a possible visit. The Ingenium contact, David Pantalony, has held a seminar on instrumentation. John Gilbert continues to assist Ingenium with its meteorological instrumentation; CMOS Ottawa should also visit and assist as appropriate.

5. Review of the September 19 lunch hour seminar

Peter Berry's talk on *Using Climate Services to Protect Health in a Warming World* was well received. A recording of the talk is now posted on the CMOS Ottawa YouTube site. Members considered how best to act on the speaker's suggestions for action. The actions could include an informal chat to students, to encourage future CMOS involvement.

6. Upcoming talks

Frank Johnson reviewed the page he had prepared on future speakers. The next talk will be on October 17, when David Parsons will speak on *Monthly to Seasonal Weather/Climate Forecasting: Challenges and Social Benefits*.

Dawn Conway reported that Paul Kovacs and Craig Stewart are confirmed speakers for November and January. She is working on getting abstracts and biodata.

Action: Dawn Conway

Len Barrie has no new information on the CMOS tour speaker, but suggested we do have a full slate.

Suggestions for future speakers included Igor Shkvorets. Len Barrie also suggested asking new members to give a seminar (e.g. Mike Brklacich).

Action: Frank Johnson will send Mike B. a note proposing this.

7. Financial Update

7.1 Signing authorities will be updated with the bank in November.

7.2 Zoom services are now being billed monthly, to Frank Johnson's name.

8. Liaison with federal departments

8.1 In reviewing the CMOS Ottawa membership, Bob Jones stressed the importance of a contact person from Environment Canada. He mentioned Jennifer Hebert, executive secretary to ADM Cecile Siewe, but stressed the need for someone more senior. David Grimes had discussed this with the new ADM in September. Siewe had proposed further discussion. Grimes will follow up, and will promote the relevance of CMOS talks to the interests of MSC; and the establishment of a stronger liaison between CMOS and the Meteorological Service of Canada. He will copy Bob Jones on the outcomes.

8.2 In discussion, Bob Jones noted that we must consider the benefits of CMOS membership to the departments. Len Barrie suggested that this includes involving the federal employees with the broader community; the scientific interest of our seminars; CMOS' support for science fairs; the involvement of students in Congresses; and EC sponsorship of its members to congresses, which carries a year of free CMOS membership; and other benefits.

8.3 It was also suggested that we explore relationships with recruitment pools, and that the Ottawa Executive explore how CMOS can be most relevant to DFO and ECCC. Sheila Bourque mentioned structural barriers, such as the difficulty ECCC staff have in accessing Zoom from work. She was informed this was no longer an issue. She proposed Isabel Ruddick (ECCC) as a contact; however, Ruddick is now retired. Bob Jones suggested Ruddick as a potential future Executive member. Peter Kimbell could propose other people.

It was agreed that a senior contact person is also required from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

9. CMOS Membership: Ottawa members

Bob Jones reviewed the list of Ottawa members that he had prepared. He indicated a drop of 10 members from last year, from 83 to 73. Sheila Bourque noted that the drop included previously active members and students. While the attrition rate is close to the CMOS national average, lapsed members could be encouraged to rejoin. Frank Johnson accepted Jones' suggestion that a letter be drafted and sent to lapsed members.

Action: Frank Johnson and Bob Jones.

10. CMOS Regional Chairs meeting

Frank Johnson had circulated a summary of the September 3 Regional Chairs meeting, in advance. Only 5 Centres had been represented. Johnson reported on key points and noted that the Ottawa Centre is among the most active. Jones mentioned concern with the number of emails received, and potential conflicts with talks by other Centres or associated organizations: for example, the Toronto Centre's talk on the Arctic, by Mark Serez (September 25) and a talk by Trevor Hancock on the *Wellbeing of society*, organized by the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome (September 26).

11. Updates on Science Fairs in 2025

Nothing new to report. Len Barrie suggested the Chair send a note to Ward Smith proposing Smith taking the lead on judging at the Ottawa Fair of 2025.

Action: Frank Johnson

12. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Executive will be at noon, at Irene's Pub, 885 Bank Street. Frank Johnson will survey members on their availability on Tuesday November 26, Wednesday November 27 or Thursday November 28.

Action: Frank Johnson

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 14:30