

Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive

Tuesday, 6 October 2021

Approved Minutes

Venue: Zoom videoconference hosted by the Ottawa Centre

Call to Order: 3:00 PM

Meeting Chair: Barry Goodison

Present: Leonard (Len) Barrie, Yvon Bernier, Denis Bourque, Sheila Bourque, Dawn Conway, Ray Desjardins, Barry Goodison, Bob Jones, Helen Joseph, Leslie Malone, Ann McMillan, John Stone, Abby Dalton (student representative, U. Ottawa); Ada Loewen (student representative Carleton U.).

Not present: Michael Steeves

Members of the Ottawa Centre Executive for 2021-22 and web links: see **ANNEX 1**

1. The Chair welcomed the Executive to the meeting. The agenda was adopted with several items added to Other Business (see **ANNEX 2**).
2. It was moved by Helen Joseph and seconded by Denis Bourque to approve the minutes of the meeting of 29 June 2021. All were in favour.
3. **Update on actions from the last meeting**
All actions from the past season had been completed or determined moot, with one exception (clearing out the CMOS locker at the Junior Officer's Mess). COVID-19 protocols have prevented our entry into the Mess during the pandemic. Bob Jones informed the Executive that he will clear out our locker when entry into the building is allowed.
4. **Financial Report**
The Treasurer reported that there were no issues or developments regarding the finances. The one recent transaction was the payment to Denis Bourque for the Zoom licence.
At present, the Centre has approximately \$7075 in the bank and one GIC (\$3000 plus interest) that matures on 22 November 2022. The Centre's current assets are therefore approximately \$10,200.
5. **CMOS proposal to develop a monthly Newsletter**
The last meeting of the CMOS Centre Chairs (7 September 2021) was chaired by the CMOS Vice-President Serge Desjardins (Atlantic region). His vision for the next year (supported by the President, Jim Abraham) includes setting up a new monthly Newsletter. CMOS would hire someone to ensure the product looked professional. Content is expected to be developed by the Centres. It is still the plan to continue the Bulletin, and to keep the website.
In discussion, the Centre Executive noted the following:
 - the Centre appreciates that CMOS is generating ideas and welcomes the opportunity to take part in the discussions on future initiatives.
 - Having three regular communications vehicles (website, Bulletin and the proposed Newsletter) is an ambitious undertaking, especially given that the web site needs considerable attention, funding and content development.
 - Why not make better use of the News section on the front page of the CMOS website?
 - The Centre would like to know the need for and expected benefit (added value) of the proposed Newsletter (what can the Newsletter do that could not be covered in the Bulletin, or on the web site?)

- Has CMOS considered enhancing the existing use of social media platforms, as an alternative to a Newsletter? Format, speed, frequency of information sharing make social media platforms more flexible than Newsletters; younger scientists appear to favour social media over Newsletters; social media postings can be shared quickly and effectively with both CMOS members and with other interested parties.
- As to content, enhancements to information and opportunities for Early Career Scientists (job postings, career opportunities, etc.) would be very welcome. As well, the content for all of CMOS' communications should better reflect CMOS's interests in climate, environment, water, cryosphere, services, impacts, policy etc., in addition to its core Atmosphere/Ocean focus.
- The Chair will summarize this feedback and pass it on to Serge Desjardins.

6. CMOS proposal to develop a national Science Fair Award

Each year there is a Canada-wide Science Fair. The winners in each local/regional fair advance to provincial and then national levels. CMOS proposes to develop new prizes, with a potential cost of up to \$4500, for the National Science Fair to stimulate interest in CMOS-relevant topics. It is hoped to find a partnering donor/sponsor to generate the award. In discussion, the Centre noted the following:

- At least in the Ottawa region, there is an increasing problem with finding projects on CMOS-relevant themes. The grand challenges of the Ottawa Regional Science Fair (<https://www.orsf.ca/rules-and-regulations/>) match those of the National Science Fair organization: Discovery, Energy, Environment, Health, Information, Innovation, Resources
- It might be useful to find ways to influence the generation of CMOS-relevant science fair projects at local/regional level. This might include:
 - Asking the National Science Fair Organization if the Grand challenges can better explicitly reflect atmosphere/ocean sciences, climate science, climate change, impacts, mitigation and adaptation, inter alia,
 - letter-writing from CMOS to the organizing bodies for the science fairs, including identification of suitable topics and criteria to be met for CMOS awards,
 - offering CMOS mentors early in the science-fair cycle (rather than merely looking at the completed projects, hoping one or more might be CMOS-relevant and of sufficient quality for consideration of awards,
 - having CMOS experts volunteer to sit on the Boards of the Organizing Committees for the Science Fairs,
 - having CMOS experts participate in project judging at all levels.
- Different regions may have different curricula and focus areas, and different systems for interaction and judging. There may, for example, be a strong support in Atlantic Canada for Ocean themes, but little support in centres like Ottawa and Winnipeg.
- It was agreed that a list of the science fairs around the country (and by which CMOS Centres these are supported) would be very useful.
- The Chair will summarize this feedback and pass it on to Serge Desjardins

7. Suggestions for a CMOS Tour Speaker

The first discussion was whether the Tour speaker would give a series of in-person presentations, or would be a virtual event this year, hosted by CMOS National. The Centre favoured a virtual approach, as it is a better choice for the environment (no travel/emissions), and potentially the audience would be larger. In addition, it is by no means certain whether the pandemic rules will allow in-person events in the upcoming spring.

As to possible speakers, it was suggested to select from the speakers that presented at the last Congress, many of whom gave excellent talks.

8. Speakers for the Centre's 2021-2022 season

8.1 Denis Bourque reviewed the September talk, presented by Peter Kimbell and Barbara Delisle. 62 screens¹ participated. Of these, 40 (65%) were CMOS Members and 5 (8%) were students. Prior to the meeting, there had been 95 registrations recorded, so 65% participated (quite typical). Of the 38 registrants that failed to join in, 22 were CMOS Members and 5 were students. The talk was very well received.

8.2 For the 2021-22 season, the schedule of confirmed talks is presented in **Table 1** below. Other suggestions for the season, e.g. December 2021 and spring 2022 (and possibly for the 2022-23 season), many of which are tentative, are circulating separately to these minutes.

Table 1: Speakers/talks for the 2021-22 season, Ottawa Centre (as of 06.10.2021)

Date	Day	Speaker	Title	Liaison
23.09.2021	Thurs	Barbara Delisle and Peter Kimbell	Canadian Weather Radar - Public Display Update and Plans for Upgrading Franktown Site	Bob Jones
21.10.2021	Thurs	Dr. Alan Betts	Science and Society Challenges	Ray Desjardins
18.11.2021	Thurs	Dr. Stephan Gruber	Permafrost Climate Services as a way to frame the research in NSERC PermafrostNet	Ada Loewen
16.12.2021				
20.01.2022		Trevor Andersen and Astrid Schetselaar (students of Chris Burn)	Trevor Andersen: Storm force winds in Hurricane Alley, KM 450-465, Dempster Highway, Yukon; Astrid Schetselaar: Increase in maintenance costs for highways due to climate change in Yukon.	Ada Loewen
17.02.2022		Elyn Humphries	Peatland/tundra methane flux studies	Ada Loewen, Ray Desjardins
XX.03.2022				
XX.04.2022				
XX.XX.2022		CMOS Tour speaker	TBD	CMOS National

8.3 For the October talk (Alan Betts), Ray Desjardins will introduce the speaker and Len Barrie will manage the Q&A session. For the November talk (Stephan Gruber), Barry Goodison will introduce the speaker and Helen Joseph will manage the Q&A session.

9. Other business

9.1 Climate change in school curricula

Len Barrie brought this topic to the attention of the Centre executive and led the discussion. CBC recently ran an article highlighting climate change in the school curricula and in particular, the work of Prof. Ellen Field who addresses the challenge of including, and of integrating climate change into the educational process.

¹ A 'screen' might represent one, or more, participants.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/what-on-earth-climate-change-classroom-1.6187138>

The Centre noted the CMOS School and Public Education Committee (SPEC) and suggested SPEC should be central to any effort of CMOS in discussing public education systems. As well, there are active STEM initiatives such as 'Lets Talk Science' – it is not clear what role CMOS takes in fostering such initiatives.

The Centre noted that CMOS publishes and keeps up to date a statement on climate change. https://www.cmos.ca/site/publications/pos_statements/climate19?nav=sidebar.

It was agreed to learn more as a Centre about the issue of climate change in school curricula by hosting an expert talk on the subject. **ACTION:** Len Barrie will contact Dr Field to see if she might be interested in speaking to our Centre.

9.2 Membership

Bob Jones informed the meeting that there are now only 83 members, fully paid up, in the Ottawa Centre region. One year ago there were 90 of which 12 lapsed (6 of these were students), but we have had 6 new members join as well. There is very low engagement of the Ocean group in Ottawa (DFO does, however, offer office space to the CMOS office).

The Executive considered that many in the Ottawa list were retired civil servants and some are students who can join for free. There should be clear incentives to keep existing and attract new members.

9.3 Anti-bias statements

During the past season, the Executive had noted that groups across the country are tackling bias and discrimination and are aiming to improve inclusiveness, diversity and equity in their areas of concern, in part through specific statements in their public domains. Further, it was noted that the City of Ottawa honours the peoples and the land of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation and that many public events in the Ottawa area begin with this recognition.

It is not clear what might be expected of CMOS, or the Ottawa Centre in this regard.

ACTION: Barry Goodison will contact Gordon Griffith for advice on any action that CMOS would recommend be taken by the Centres.

9.4 Upcoming CMOS Congresses, 2022 and 2023

The meeting was reminded that the CMOS Congress (2022) is planned to be an in-person event, held in Saskatoon. However, there is still concern about the pandemic. The Local Arrangements Committee will soon be discussing whether or not to shift the event to a virtual forum. The event is a joint one with the Eastern Snow Conference and the Canadian Geophysical Union, so the decision will affect all three organizations.

It is still expected that the 2023 Congress will be virtual. The Winnipeg and BC Interior Centres have indicated their interest to co-host the event.

10. Date of Next Meeting of the Ottawa Centre Executive

The next meeting of the CMOS Centre Chairs will be on 2 November 2021. The next meeting for the Ottawa Centre will take place, by Zoom, on 4 November, 2021.

10. Adjournment

The Chair thanked all for their participation and contributions to the discussions. The meeting adjourned at 17:08.

ANNEX 1: Ottawa Centre Executive 2021-22 (<https://cmosarchives.ca/Ottawa/ottawaexecs.html>)

Position	Name	e-mail
Chair	Barry Goodison	barrygo@rogers.com
Vice-chair	Leonard (Len) Barrie	leonardbarrie@gmail.com
Treasurer	Yvon Bernier	ycbernier@videotron.ca
Recording Secretary	Leslie Malone	lesliemalone@rogers.com
Membership and Archives	Bob Jones	jonesb@ncf.ca
Education Co-ordinator	Sheila Bourque	sbbourque@rogers.com
Past Chair	Dawn Conway	DMConway1@gmail.com
Member-at-large	Denis Bourque	denisabourque@gmail.com
Member-at-large	Ray Desjardins	Ray.Desjardins@canada.ca
Member-at-large	Helen Joseph	macdonaldjoseph@hotmail.com
Member-at-large	Ann McMillan	mcmillan@storm.ca
Member-at-large	Michael Steeves	meridian848@gmail.com
Member-at-large	John Stone	john.stone@rogers.com
Student rep., U. Ottawa	Abigail Dalton	adalt043@uottawa.ca
Student rep., Carleton U.	Ada Loewen	ada.loewen@gmail.com

Links:

The Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society: <https://www.cmos.ca/>

CMOS Ottawa Centre: <https://www.cmos.ca/site/ottawa>

Archived materials: https://cmosarchives.ca/Ottawa/index_ottawa_archives.html

ANNEX 2

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 29 June 2021
3. Update on actions from the last meeting(s)
4. Financial Statement and Status of Investments
5. CMOS proposal to develop a monthly Newsletter (in addition to the Bulletin, website and A-O) – call for volunteers
6. Creating a national CMOS award for the Canada-wide Student Science Fair
7. Suggestions for a CMOS Tour Speaker
8. Speakers 2021-2022 season for the Ottawa Centre
 - 8.1 Review of the Kimbell/Delisle talk on 23 September
 - 8.2 Speakers for the December 2021, and March, April talks, 2022
9. Other business
 - 9.1 Discussion on recent CBC article on the lack of climate change in Canadian school curriculums: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/what-on-earth-climate-change-classroom-1.6187138>
 - 9.2 CMOS Membership
 - 9.3 Discussion on inclusion of a recognition of the peoples and the land of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation in the Centre's talks
 - 9.4 Other matters
10. Date of Next Meeting of the Ottawa Centre Executive
11. Adjournment