

**Meteoritical Society Council Meeting**  
**Invitees**  
**Meteoritical Society Council Meeting**  
**ZOOM Online Meeting – 9 am (EST time) December 10, 2020**

**Agenda for the Fall Telecon Meeting of the Meteoritical Society**

**Council Member Attendees**

Mini Wadhwa (President)	Neyda Abreu
Brigitte Zanda (Vice President)	Chris Herd
Tasha Dunn (Treasurer)	Takashi Mikouchi
Munir Humayun (Secretary)	Mario Trieloff
Catherine Corrigan (and Elements)	

**Council member regrets:**

Trevor Ireland  
Kuljeet Kaur Marhas  
Pierre Rochette  
Maria Eugenia Varela

**Guests**

Nancy Chabot (VP-elect)  
Philipp Heck

**Agenda**

0.0 Welcome	09:00
1.0 President's report	09:10
2.0 Chicago Meeting to Virtual Conference	09:20
3.0 Vote on Amendment to the Barringer Bylaws	09:40
4.0 Motion: Frontiers in Mars Sample Chronology	10:00
5.0 Treasurer's report	10:10
6.0 Secretary's report	10:20
5.1 Retiring Councillors (Corrigan, Rochette, Trieloff, Varela)	
5.2 New Councillors (Busemann, Crowther, Nguyen, Ebel)	
7.0 New Business	10:35
6.1 Vote on new NomComm rule	
6.2 Creation of a Website Committee	
6.3 Creation of an Impact Crater Database Committee (unfinished business)	
8.0 Adjourn	10:45

## **0.0 Welcome**

At 9:01 am (US EST), the President convened the meeting of the Council and welcomed all those attending across 14 time zones. The President began by noting this was her final Council meeting and that she would transition to Past President in January. She welcomed the incoming President Brigitte Zanda and the incoming Vice President Nancy Chabot. She profusely thanked outgoing Past President Trevor Ireland for his six years of service leading the society, and his guidance and “wise counsel” over the past two years during some very difficult times that the society has gone through. She thanked Cari Corrigan, Pierre Rochette, Mario Trieloff and Maria Varela for their four years of service on the council and welcomed the four elected councilors that replace them in 2021.

## **1.0 President’s Report (Meenakshi Wadhwa)**

As “a first for our society, we had to cancel the annual meeting in Glasgow” due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The first Business Meeting held by webinar took place this year (Aug. 12, 2020). The Leonard and Barringer Medal addresses were posted online on the society’s website. Links for all of these awards are in the annual newsletter.

She thanked Mendy Ouzillou and the Membership Committee for completing the transition of the society’s website from Mineralogical Society of America to the WebSanity™-maintained Meteoritical Society website. The new features enable members to directly access *Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences* (MaPS), renew their memberships online, change their passwords or update their biographical information. The new system is more secure and members would no longer use their 3-4 digit member numbers as passwords but set up their own secure passwords. Secure payment through Stripe™ allows members to renew online. Automated payment acknowledgement and renewal notices are now available that expedites the membership renewal process.

She mentioned the need to take the Chicago annual meeting for 2021 online as the pandemic reached unprecedented levels leading to increased limits on assembling in public spaces. She acknowledged Philipp Heck, Chicago meeting organizer, joining to discuss this option with the Council.

## **2.0 Chicago (2021) Virtual Conference proposal (Philipp Heck)**

Philipp Heck observed that the membership interest survey conducted in September produced a pretty good response with 269 respondents with 60 % indicating a preference for a face-to-face meeting. Philipp described the pandemic as the worst conditions yet seen in the City of Chicago. Currently, public gatherings are restricted although its not clear how long such restrictions would remain in place. The pandemic restrictions are likely to remain in effect until about February. The gradual rollout of a Covid-19 vaccine would ameliorate the conditions, but the anti-vaccine movement could delay the benefits of a vaccine. “We might not be out of the woods by August”. If restrictions on gathering was 50 people, or even 200 people, the meeting would not meet the food-and-beverage minimum needed to break even compared with average MetSoc attendance upon which the estimates were based. Another concern is the state of travel restrictions. Even if national travel is permitted, international travel restrictions are likely to remain in place and when those are to be lifted is not known. Budgets are also a concern. Currently, the

Field Museum has all budgets for travel frozen so no travel-related expenditures are possible. These issues create huge uncertainty for the meeting organizers and risk financial consequences that are huge. Philipp acknowledged that the society offered a financial guarantee for the meeting but stated that he did not wish to bank on that given the concerns raised and the high risks. Philipp stated that he preferred to have an in-person meeting but felt that the risks outweighed the benefits. So with great regret he proposed taking the meeting fully virtual.

The Council discussed their experiences with recent virtual meetings, including the Goldschmidt Conference (June) and the recent Geological Society of America (October) meetings (Dunn, Corrigan, Wadhwa). Problems with poster sessions in the virtual conferences were noted. A smaller meeting format was observed to be more amenable to the virtual format (Chabot) so there is hope for the MetSoc. A site that had a virtual conference with distinct break out rooms set up received positive reviews (Zanda). The number of people that could be hosted by these sites was raised (Herd).

President Wadhwa supported the move to a virtual conference, but solicited the views of other members of the Council to go fully virtual in 2021. Trieloff offered the view that given the current situation, the Chicago meeting organizers could not afford to take the risk of setting any number for an in-person meeting without serious financial consequences and supported the move to virtual meeting. Abreu offered her experience that hybrid meetings had proved to be a “difficult format” since the costs had to be met by a rather small number of attendees. The question was raised as to whether canceling the Chicago meeting could arise, and this was considered to be a “non-starter” (Chabot, Wadhwa). Herd observed that the accumulation of new results required a medium within which to present this work by students, etc., and that two cancelled meetings in a row would be detrimental to the career opportunities of students. The need for a virtual award ceremony was raised to recognize both the 2020 and 2021 awardees (Humayun). Wadhwa agreed that a webinar format awards ceremony would be necessary and expressed confidence that with the appropriate lead time available by making this decision early a successful event could be organized.

Heck raised concerns on the impact of a virtual meeting on sponsors for the 2021 meeting without the in-person opportunity. Humayun observed that the growth of online advertising could be an opportunity if sponsors could be effectively recruited since they would have a captive audience on the virtual conference website.

Motion: Given the circumstances, the Council supports moving the Chicago 2021 meeting to a fully virtual meeting.

The Council approved the motion unanimously. If there are problems with canceling the contract, Philipp would return to the Council with a Plan B. The organizers plan to meet with the conference venue next week and report back to the council.

### **3.0 Vote on Amendment to the Barringer Bylaws**

An amendment to the Barringer bylaws discussed in detail at the Annual Meeting of the Council was submitted for a vote at this meeting. The amendment proposed to allow under exceptional circumstances the award to be made to more than one (but not exceeding three) collaborating scientists for outstanding joint research in impact cratering. The amendment specified that no individual could be awarded the Barringer more than once either individually or as part of a collaborative team. There was a brief discussion for clarification but no concerns were raised.

Motion: Approve the Amendment to the Bylaws governing the Barringer Award as written.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council (see attached).

### **4.0 Frontiers in Mars Sample Chronology (Chris Herd)**

Chris Herd drew the attention of the Council to a workshop that he and James Darling (University of Portsmouth) were running on Frontiers in Mars Sample Chronology that would take place in late March as a virtual meeting. The goal is to identify method development needed in advance of Mars Sample Return, anticipated by the end of the decade. Funding for the workshop has been provided by the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and no funds are requested from the Meteoritical Society. However, formal sponsorship of the workshop by the Meteoritical Society was requested. A report or special issue of a journal is anticipated at the end of the workshop.

Motion: That the Meteoritical Society co-sponsor a virtual workshop on Frontiers in Mars Sample Chronology, to be held in late March or early April 2021, at no cost to the Society.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Council. An announcement in *Elements* would be made for the February issue.

### **5.0 Treasurer's report (Tasha Dunn)**

The treasurer made a brief and informal report on the progress of the operating funds and endowed funds of the society. The fund levels in the Bank of America operating account and the Wells Fargo accounts were shared with the council. MetSoc has set up a Stripe™ account to handle payments for membership renewals as part of the new member portal. One advantage of the Stripe™ account is that the treasurer can refund a member for overpaid dues expeditiously. The endowment funds are in a Merrill-Lynch account which has gained only slightly since the beginning of the year, due to the large loss in stock values during the pandemic. The Wells Fargo account will be phased out soon and its funds transferred to the Bank of America operating funds account that would also save the society the cost of maintaining the Wells Fargo account.

The transfer of MetSoc business from Mineralogical Society of America has gone OK, but a number of extra duties has befallen the treasurer, including sending monthly updates of the membership list to *Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences*, *Elements* and

*Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*. Dunn queried the council as to whether these duties should remain with the treasurer or be taken up by the Membership Committee. Wadhwa responded that this should remain a task for the officers of the Council. Dunn also reported that the *meteoricalsociety.net* address has been taken down and would no longer be used for membership renewal. The new membership portal on the *meteoricalsociety.org* site has taken over all those functions.

A final financial report from the Sapporo Annual Meeting has not been received. The incoming president (Zanda) will contact the organizers after the excitement of the Hayabusa2 sample return has peaked.

Zanda offered that the treasurer assess her workload and get back on whether she might want help with the routine tasks. Dunn agreed that she would report on this at the Spring telecon. The council also discussed whether the growth in the endowment funds merited an increase in awards, an issue the treasurer could take up with the Endowment Committee.

### **6.0 Secretary's report (Humayun)**

The secretary reported on progress towards the newsletter, expected to be ready for distribution shortly. Corrigan asked to include a note on the online version of *Elements* for members currently working from home.

The secretary announced the changes occurring on the Council. Four members having completed their terms would be stepping down at the end of 2020, all of whom are thanked for their service to the society: Cari Corrigan, Pierre Rochette, Mario Trieloff and Maria Varela. Four new members would join the Council beginning in January 2021: Henner Busemann, Sarah Crowther, Denton Ebel and Ann Nguyen.

### **7.0 New Business**

#### **7.1 Vote on a new NomCom rule**

The Nomenclature Committee requested to allow the Editor of the MetBull to approve certain meteorite types without obtaining a full vote of the NomCom. The specific meteorite types were spelled out in the NomCom working document, and included ordinary chondrites, eucrites and ureilites from dense collection areas that involved routine classifications by experienced persons using proven methods (see attached document). The Council discussed the rule and requested minor changes in wording (marked in red).

Motion: Approve the revised rule (#9), as amended by the Council, for the NomCom working document.

Council voted unanimously to approve the rule as amended.

The existing meteorite request form was described as awkward. A better interface would be desirable.

### **7.2 Creation of a Website Committee**

The Council discussed the need to continue the excellent work done by Mendy Ouzillou on improving and updating the website. Chabot offered that to avoid the website from becoming dated, such efforts had to be continuing. Wadhwa recommended the creation of an *ad hoc* Website Committee to continue improvements to the functionality of the Meteoritical Society website. The exact membership would be determined by the incoming president, Zanda. Since this would be an *ad hoc* committee, no changes to the bylaws are required. A student perspective on the website was considered important, and Council perceived that student members should be part of the committee. The Council voted unanimously on a motion to approve the creation of the *ad hoc* Website Committee.

### **7.3 Creation of an Impact Crater Database Committee**

The President will follow up with members of the Task Force on Impact Cratering including finding a suitable institution to house the proposed Impact Crater Database. A query will be made with LPI to inquire if they would host the database. The Task Force was to provide guidelines and draft an amendment to the bylaws that would formally create the committee. The future membership of such a committee and the drafting of bylaws parallel to those that govern the NomCom would be deferred to the incoming President.

### **7.4 Update on *Elements***

Corrigan provided a brief update on *Elements*. A digital version of *Elements* is available online, and this could be more accessible for members who currently work from home. *Elements* is shipped using biodegradable packaging in the EU but has not yet set this up for its US distribution. Biodegradable packaging options are under consideration for the US. The Swiss Society of Geology has replaced the Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology, following their merger as a partner on *Elements*. Rebecca Lange is the new Petrology principal editor. A search for a new Geochemistry principal editor is coming up and society members are welcome to suggest potential candidates. The next search for the Mineralogy principal editor will be in two years. New special issue topics need to be submitted before February 2021.

### **7.5 Ethics Subcommittee**

In parting President Wadhwa proposed the creation of an *ad hoc* Ethics Subcommittee to review written complaints brought to the attention of the society by members. The society has guidelines in place regarding ethical misconduct but no formal process for appealing a complaint has been set up. The Geochemical Society has a detailed code of ethics and an Ethics Committee. The creation of the *ad hoc* Ethics Subcommittee would develop guidelines and procedures for evaluating complaints and responding to future complaints.

## **8.0 Adjourn**

The President thanked the Council for their assistance during her term. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.