

Meteoritical Society Council Meeting

July 13, 2025, 12 pm – 4:30 pm (AWST)

In person at Perth (see last page for details on venue) and online

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Council in 2025

Council Members Invitees (in person unless noted as virtual)

Guy Consolmagno (President)	Elena Dobrică (virtual)
Maria Schönbachler (Vice President)	Juliane Gross (excused)
Nancy Chabot (Past President – virtual)	Marina Ivanova (virtual)
Cari Corrigan (Treasurer)	Yangting Lin
Jutta Zipfel (Secretary)	Yves Marrocchi (excused)
Byeon-Gak Choi (excused)	Gordon Osinski (excused)
Alvaro Crósta	

Guests (in person unless noted as virtual)

Katarina Miljkovic (Perth Meeting)
Rhonda Stroud (Flagstaff)
Hailiang Dong (GCA - virtual)
Shogo Tachibana (MS) (Joint Publications Committee),
Emma Bullock/Cari Corrigan (Elements)
Mike Weisberg (Nomenclature Committee - in person)
Jeff Grossman (Database Update - virtual? or Mike in person)
Aaron Cavosie (Impact Cratering Committee - in person)
Romy Hanna (Membership Committee - virtual)

The following documents were sent to councilors prior to the Meeting:

TravelAward_2025_Report.pdf
Membership Committee Report July 2025.pdf
2025_ICC_Committee_Report_10Jul2025.pdf
MetSoc_Ethics_July2025.pdf
2025 Council report for Elements.pptx
Met Soc Treasurer's Report 2025 final.pdf
JPC report 2025 .pdf
GCA_Annual_Report_to_MetSoc_2025.pdf
Frankfurt-Council - vs 2.pdf
Update_Report to Council_2025.pdf
NomCom-Minutes-June-30-2025.pdf

Please note that times are given in Australian Western Standard Time (AWST).

Agenda and Minutes

1. President's welcome; review of electronic votes since last meeting 12:00 pm AWST

The president welcomed all councilors and guests present, and those who joined the meeting remotely.

The secretary reported on online votes conducted since the last council meeting:

Vote 18e Approve the minutes from 20 May, 2025 Met Soc Council Meeting. (3 June 2025).

Vote 19e Are you in favor of Florence becoming the venue for the 2029 meeting? (10 June 2025)

Vote 20e Moved, that the Meteoritical Society enter into an agreement with The Geological Society to support the publication of monographs on meteoritics. (23 June 2025)

2. Perth meeting

- 2.1. Meeting status and news (Katarina Miljkovic and Aaron Cavosie) 15 min 12:05 pm AWST

K. Miljkovic gave a short update from the meeting organizers. She announced that they received support from additional sponsors. Earlier in July the number of delegates was 230 and 219 signed up for the Welcome Reception and 225 for the Gala Dinner. Over 100 students registered for the student lunch. Some delegates had to cancel their attendance but do not need to be refunded. One delegate who had to cancel does require a refund which will be covered by the Society directly. In any case the meeting will run a deficit as the number of registered delegates is lower than anticipated.

She briefly described the venue, which offers three rooms of equal sizes; two will be merged during the regular sessions, since there will be two parallel sessions only. All three rooms will be merged for the Barringer lecture, the award ceremony, and the business meeting. A total of 45 poster boards for up to 90 posters are accessible throughout the meeting in the same area where morning and afternoon tea will be served.

The Icebreaker reception at the WA Museum Boola Bardip will start with a traditional welcome to country. The Barringer lecture will be delivered by Phil Bland on Monday evening. The banquet will take place at Frasers Restaurant in Kings Park and offers 25 round tables of 10 seats each including one VIP table with the deputy lord mayor of Perth

and deputy vice chancellor at Curtin University. Entertainment offers a DJ, few speeches and a comedy sketch.

Various Wednesday afternoon events were organized which include vault tours at WA museum behind the scene and tours to the Laboratory Building on campus of the Curtin University, and a short impact crater workshop.

2.2. Travel awards (Nancy Chabot – virtual) 20 min

12:20 pm AWST

N. Chabot reported on the new process where the travel awards committee is now chaired by the past president. A report from the chair was distributed to councilors prior to the meeting.

A total of 66 awards could be granted with about US\$ 100k being able to fund about 89 % of the applicants.

A discussion followed among councilors on how they felt about the process. All thought that the process worked really well but is subjective. Scientific criteria were easy to assess. Concern was raised about the evaluation of the financial needs of the applicants, and how partial funding could have affect attendance of the meeting in general. One option could be to simplify the request form to ask more directly for how much money is needed. N. Chabot offered to work together with LPI on this. Another concern raised was that some applicants had applied repeatedly over the years, and whether there should be a limit on how often to apply for a travel award?

It was further discussed how to make the process and evaluation less subjective in future, and whether the award should be used to pay the registration fees directly?

In conclusion, the process worked very well, and it was especially helpful to address adequately the different requirements for each travel award. The treasurer needs to work with A. Treiman to see whether the NASA travel award will be available in 2026.

3. Membership Committee (Romy Hanna) 20 min

12:35 pm AWST

The chair reported on the students' and early career scientists' lunch. They had about 100 expressing interest and expected 50-75 attendees.

The mentor/mentee program was again successful. Forty-two mentees signed up for it but only 15 mentors volunteered with 13 being available in the end. Most mentors had two mentees. The priority was given to students who did not have a mentor last year, and who have overlapping research areas with a mentor which worked ideal for 27 pairs.

R. Hanna will ask for feedback after the meeting to see how it worked. Last year mentors replied that having one mentee only would be better. She also advised that it would be better to have the mentor/mentee option open only during early registration as it takes some time to match pairs. In order to encourage more mentors to sign up it may be a good idea to put out a call for mentors in the newsletter prior to future annual meetings.

The Ed Scott lectures were going very well. So far there were 3 lectures with about 80 attendees. Two more lectures are scheduled to come. Since associated costs are low it is still unclear how to spend the funding available for these lectures. The membership committee is currently discussing ideas on how to spend that money in accordance with the donors' wishes. The chair will present these suggestions to council later this year.

The discussion that followed raised some questions:

How long did it take to match mentor/mentee pairs? In Brussels it was beneficial to both but it does take some time to do it well. R. Hanna, as chair took on this task alone.

It was recommended to advise mentors to show up at presentations of their mentees to show that they care about them.

How did the suggested activities from the students' lunch get realized, e.g. online series of easy talks focused on career development and an online forum (e.g. via Websanity)?

Nothing happened yet because no leads were found to take care of these activities, neither in the membership committee nor the outreach committee who is seeking volunteers, too. A last option would be to ask among the attendees of the student lunches if someone from them would like to volunteer. The infrastructure for a forum could be easily provided by Websanity but it would be necessary to find someone monitoring that forum.

4. Impact Cratering Committee (Aaron Cavosie) 20 min

1:00 pm AWST

A. Cavosie briefly informed about the planning of the post field trip to Dalgara Impact Crater visiting 3 to 4 different sites and one top site. Thirty attendees signed up. The trip will take three days, one to get to and one to come back from the station. The organizers provide camping gear.

As chair of the impact cratering committee he reported that the membership is very enthusiastic and fun to work with. He summarized shortly current activities and progress made.

Activity 1 has been nearly accomplished. The committee was looking for defining criteria, according to the committee's consensus, of what constitutes diagnostic shock criteria. Despite having different expertise all 12 members serving on the committee fully agreed on the criteria they got consensus on. Earlier in July 2025 a manuscript was submitted to *MAPS* as a committee report presenting the outcome of this activity.

Activity 2: The next step is the application of that criteria to produce a list of impact craters that meet these criteria. A database is the ultimate goal. Where it will be based is not yet clear but hosting it by the Society would be preferential. Funds are available to support such an activity.

Steven Goderis and Maria Schönbächler, as ex-officio member, were appointed new members of the committee.

5. Ethics Committee (Guy Consolmagno) 5 min

1:20 pm AWST

Nancy Chabot, the chair, reported that no complaints were received in 2025. She further reported that she had approached the Geochemical Society to learn about their record

retention policy. The Geochemical Society Record has a retention policy and retains their files for 7 years. It was advised that, if the Society should have a record retention policy, it must be regarded as a "legal" document that should not be posted online. It would be better mentioned under "general guidelines".

6. *Elements* Report (Emma Bullock/Cari Corrigan) 15 min

1:25 pm AWST

Cari Corrigan reported for Emma Bullock who could not attend the meeting. She started her report with an overview of the structure and upcoming replacements. The principal editor Sumit Chakraborty (mineralogy) will be replaced by Penny King (ANU) in January 2026. Keeping to the proposed budget for *Elements* was problematic because of high costs for paper and shipping (3 US\$ added to costs for shipping to non-US destinations). Therefore, the chief editor is looking for a European printer which would cut the costs for shipping by about half. Subscription for print issues went down by a third since the choice to opt in for print is available. In the same time costs for printing went up so that there is no money gained.

Elements celebrated the 20th anniversary at the Goldschmidt meeting. Sometimes *Elements* comes to meetings and has a booth. They have an attractive online store.

CosmoElements has not been done recently. These are small articles and easy to write, of about four printed pages. It was suggested to ask for articles about the results from the impact cratering committee or about planetary defense. A current thematic issue about sample return and the Moon that involves members is in the making. There has not been any thematic issue suggested from members for some time.

7. Treasurer's Report (Cari Corrigan) 35 min

1:43 pm AWST

The treasurer thanked the past treasurer, Tasha Dunn, for how she left things in such a good state, so it was easy for her to take over.

The treasurer gave a brief summary about upcoming tasks, the membership, and finances:

- The next major task is filing taxes which are due on October 15.
- The membership currently is at 1059.
- At the end of May 2025 the assets were slightly higher than last year. Although the market is very volatile and there are V-shape fluctuations, overall the endowment is healthy and gained some money.
- The operating fund may differ from prior years at certain times. This is mainly due to financial agreements in the new Wiley contract and how revenues are coming in and editorial support is paid for.
- Income sources and expenses were in accordance with prior years, and as expected.

Meetings: The Society received a surplus from the annual meeting in Brussels which was devoted to support travel awards to those members from countries which are not considered low income but with limited funding sources. The Perth meeting likely will have a major deficit. The treasurer estimated that the loan will compensate for that.

Donations: The treasurer received generous donations to the endowment fund and specific funds in particular. It is important to the membership to take the options for donating money to certain funds. However, some of these funds are highly overfunded and others could need more money in order to become sustainable. The overfunded funds, namely the Nier Fund and the McKay Fund, are indicated on the online renewal form.

The budget numbers for 2026 from Wiley are expected to come before November 2025.

There followed voting on the recommendations of the treasurers.

Vote 21: Nancy Chabot moved to hold the dues at the level they are currently.
Maria Schönbächler second.
All present were in favor.

Vote 22: Jutta Zipfel moved to accept the Treasurer's recommendation not to move money between the endowment fund and the operating fund.
Maria Schönbächler second.
All present were in favor.

Vote 23: Nancy Chabot moved to amend the budget to have US\$ 6000 for the Outreach Committee.
Maria Schönbächler second.
All present were in favor.

Vote 24: Maria Schönbächler moved to approve the amended FY 2026 budget.
Alvaro Crósta second.
All present were in favor.

8. LUNCH BREAK

2:15 pm AWST

9. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 25 min 2:40 pm AWST
9.1. Joint Publications Committee Report (Shogo Tachibana)

Shogo Tachibana briefly reported on the JPC and their doings. They are 6 members in total with three representatives from the Geochemical Society and three from the Meteoritical Society. They had identified six potential candidates to join the editorial board as associated editors. To this date three candidates had accepted the invitation and one candidate had not yet responded.

9.2. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (GCA) update (Hailiang Dong)

Hailiang Dong gave an update about *GCA*. He showed the latest data from Elsevier up to June 12, 2025, and answered questions from council.

In short, he summarized that -

- Submission and rejection rates in 2025 are expected to exceed numbers from 2024. The rejection rate was about 62 % split into 46% desk rejection from the chief

editor and about 16% by associated editors after peer review. Submissions were dominantly coming from Asia, mainly from China, and amounted to about 70 % versus roughly <30% in 2015.

- The turnaround speed from submission to final decision is currently about 146 days compared to 383 days on average in 2021. Over the last few years this rate has been going up, leading to fewer days needed to reach a final decision. One goal of the editor is to speed up the turnaround rate even further.
- The open access rate in 2025 is 44 % and the impact factor has risen to 5.0 putting *GCA* in 2024 on the top of other geochemical papers.
- The number of associated editors (AE) is currently 104. The number of female AEs has increased as has the geographical diversity, especially from East Asia. However, since more submissions are coming from Asia, H. Dong expressed the need to increase this number even further which will require finding more AEs in more topics, e.g., in stable isotopes in low- and high-temperature geochemistry. The search should be focused especially on the global south.

The following questions were raised by councilors: How is the relationship to *Elsevier*, and whether there are issues council should be informed of? H. Dong stated that the relationship with *Elsevier* is good. Signing contracts between *Elsevier* and individual AEs is now optional rather than mandatory. There are currently no issues of concern. However, if the number of submissions should rise further, H. Dong would need more editorial support from *Elsevier*. To keep the journal running a double Executive Editor system should be considered. Having help to deal with desk rejections would be helpful.

10. Frankfurt meeting (Jutta Zipfel) 20 min

3:00 pm AWST

Jutta Zipfel gave a short update on the organization.

- Frankfurt airport is a major international hub and easy to reach. The airport is connected to the city with trains and the main train station is located in the center of the city. Everything is accessible either by public underground (U-Bahn) transportation and buses. Venues and hotels are easily reachable that way. Hotel places have been reserved at prices starting at around €100.
- The organizers are planning for 400-500 people to attend the meeting.
- The Senckenberg Museum has spaces reserved for the ice-breaker and rooms for workshops and the council meeting.
- The big lecture room building on Campus Westend will be the venue for the conference, sessions, and posters. The neighboring “Casino” (dining hall) will be the site of the Wednesday night banquet. The current plan is for three parallel sessions, and offering remote access via a passive Zoom link. The Casino has space for 450 people. The same night as the banquet, there will be a solar eclipse with almost 90 % totality in Frankfurt.
- An external conference organizer was hired for handling registration, billing, and taxes.
- The Schwiete-Stiftung will support the meeting generously with support for travel grants, early career event, coffee breaks.

- The organizers aim at a budget of US\$ 250k -280k, and registration fees not exceeding those of prior years.

The local organization committee needed to be approved. Along with 10 members from the Goethe University, Senckenberg and the Physikalischen Verein, it has three external members namely the president of the Meteoritical Society, the chair of the LOC for Perth meeting in 2025, and the chair of the LOC for Flagstaff meeting in 2027.

Vote 25: Yangting Lin moved to approve the membership of the Local Organization Committee as proposed.

Alvaro Crósta second.

All present were in favor.

11. Flagstaff meeting (Rhonda Stroud) 20 min

3:25 pm AWST

Rhonda Stroud provided some quick updates. Dates have been set as 25-30 July, 2027. Tours to the Barringer Meteor Crater will be supported by the Barringer crater company.

Flagstaff – Typical daytime weather is dry with temperatures around 80 F (26 C). It is located in a mountainous pine tree forest area. July is a suitable site for a meeting. The city is a center for astro-tourism in Arizona; a state observatory and the Barringer Meteor Crater are 30 min away. There are many attractive outdoor activities to do in the surroundings.

The venue is a nice compact college campus with hotels and restaurants in walking distance. No car is needed on the site. The meeting will be held in the *High Country Conference Center*. It has a hotel attached to it. A larger lecture hall seating 800 people is across the street. Securing the space accounts for about 25 % of the total estimated budget. The package includes breakfast and lunch which have to be booked with the conference center. They are assuming four hundred participants; costs include the banquet but not the opening reception at the Lowell Observatory.

They plan to offer tours on an ongoing basis from the meeting directly to visit the Barringer Meteor Crater. Hiking down takes a full day starting early in the morning. Half day tours are being arranged.

There are various options for going to Flagstaff. a) Fly into Phoenix and go to Flagstaff by car or shuttle bus. b) Fly to Las Vegas and take a connecting flight on a small plane. c) Fly to Los Angeles or Chicago and take an Amtrak train from there.

Currently there are uncertainties for funding for science and how it could impact on attendance. This may affect next year's meeting in Frankfurt more than the meeting in Flagstaff in 2027.

The council encouraged the organizers to keep the registration fees low.

Mike Weisberg gave a short update on activities of the Nomenclature Committee since the beginning of 2025.

There is a steady pace of new meteorites coming in to be approved. Migration of the database to cold fusion has been completed. Updating the procedure's document is underway.

The committee has currently 11 members. The first term of two members will end in 2025. The chair plans to approach them to ask if they would be willing to serve a second term. One member's second term will end 2025 and needs to be replaced. Currently the committee's chair is looking into potential candidates with a similar expertise and will to serve on the committee. Natasha Almeida joined as deputy database editor; she will be working with Jeff Grossman.

As of this report there are 77755 approved meteorite names and 6394 provisional names in the database. The rate of meteorites submissions remains high. Numbers for 2024 have been published in *The Meteoritical Bulletin, No. 113 in July 2025 in MAPS* (<https://doi.org/10.1111/maps.14374>). In 2025 there were 832 meteorites including 4 falls.

The Nomenclature Committee met twice in 2025, in February and in June, to talk about the new database. The purpose of the June meeting was to give members of the committee the opportunity to give suggestions for enhancing the database from their point of view, e.g., usage of the voting utility. In addition to committee members, past members and two staff members from LPI joined the meeting. There was an additional meeting in a smaller group to discuss the results of the survey led by LPI.

Current tasks are working on two proposals for updating the procedure's documents. There is a need to add rules for establishing dense collection areas and installing a dense collection areas editor (e.g. select names). Adding rules for what establishes a quorum on voting became necessary because optional voting members may affect the percentage of actual voters.

At the moment the workload is manageable and the committee works efficiently. The appointment of associate editors has really helped the process. The main problem is keeping members voting and not falling behind.

Jeff Grossman summarized the background of the migration of the database and gave an update on the current developments.

Background: In their contract with NASA, LPI had secured funds to migrate the database to cold fusion. Their major concern was security. They negotiated with the Meteoritical Society and made an agreement that LPI could proceed with input from the Society on each step of

the way while ensuring that the Society is keeping ownership of the information and tables in the database.

Update:

- As a first step the database was translated to the language cold fusion and stored on a secure server. This required many meetings of the database editor with the programmer from LPI before the task was completed and the database could be launched to the public earlier in 2025. This version is a duplicate of the old database as no new features were incorporated.
- The software manager needed to construct programming tools, compatible with the new language, that can be used by the database editor to edit the database. This task has been accomplished and editing is almost as efficient as it used to be.
- Currently various options for a new design are being explored, and a designer at LPI is working on this. The changes are expected to come soon. A small committee was asked to approve the design changes. Members of that committee are Mike Weisberg (chair of nomenclature committee), Maria Schönbachler (vice president), Jeff Grossman (database editor), and Jerome Gattacecca (editor of the Meteoritical Bulletin).
- The next step will be to implement improvement suggestions - a) most suggestions for the usage of the database come from the Nomenclature Committee including Jeff, and only few other ideas from the survey. There is still time to include suggestions from council. b) Several dozen good suggestions to improve the interface to work behind the scene and for Nomcom members' workflow were collected. Discussion on these with LPI is still needed.
- At the moment, potential connection to other databases, e.g. astromets, etc. is still open.
- Funding through NASA to LPI may impact further development.

In the following discussion it was suggested that showing the metamorphic shock scale in a table would be helpful.

Further it was discussed if it would be practical to have a mirror site to keep the database secure. A functional mirror of the public interface would be possible. Jeff Grossman will talk to appropriate contacts at LPI what specifications would be needed.

ADJOURN

4:30 pm AWST

The president thanked all councilors and guests and adjourned the meeting on time.

Perth – meeting location info for Sunday July 13

Curtin University, Building 207, Room 222

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7QEzvgYSZkfWFDEV9>

The easiest access to campus is via Uber or taxi. Ask to be dropped off at “Curtin University Taxi Stand #2”

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/UnnY17LvsZHaAczG7>

The room is 5 min walk across the campus. We will have student volunteers waiting at this taxi stand to show you the way.

Alternatively, you can arrive by bus: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/PY5RypJjXkiytXkd8>

There are a number of buses that pass by. Check gmaps before you travel for bus numbers and times. Buses are generally on time. You need a bus pass to get on the bus. You can't pay on the bus.

If you are driving, park anywhere. It is free on the weekends.

Kat will be there on the day, too, accessible via +61468965342 on Whatsapp/ Viber/ Signal and also via email.

Note: there are building works on campus. Follow my directions to avoid getting stuck as taxi/ubers don't necessarily know how to navigate around the building site.

Lunch

We will serve lunch, mostly picking plates and/or sandwiches. Please note any dietary requirements.

Registration and Welcome Reception

at the WA Museum Boola Bardip, 3 pm July 13, 2025

On-site conference registration will begin at 4 pm on Sunday, July 13, with a welcome reception commencing at 5 pm at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.