

Meteoritical Society Council Meeting
August 09, 2026, 12 pm - 5:00 pm (Central European Sommer Time = UTC + 2)
in person and online

Minutes and agenda of the 4th Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in 2026

Council Members Invitees

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

Guests

Aaron Cavesie (Impact Cratering Committee)
Queenie Chan (Service Award)
Philippe Claeys (Joint Publications Committee)
Hailiang Dong (GCA Editor)
Gillian Greenough (Wiley Publisher)
Tim Jull (MAPS Editor)
Rhianon Mayne (Publications Committee/future Secretary)
Sara Russell (future Vice President)
Rhonda Stroud (Organizer Flagstaff 2027)
Milliarca Valenzuela Picon (Organizer Antofagasta 2028)
Mike Weisberg (Nomenclature Committee)

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

2026_ICC_Committee_Report_09Aug2026.pdf
GCA_Annual_Report_to_MetSoc_2026.pdf
JPC_Report_Met_Soc.pdf
MAPS Budget 2027.xls
MAPS Council Meeting 8..9.26.pdf
MAPS report Aug 2026.doc
Membership Committee Report 2026 Aug.docx
Met Soc Treasurer's Report 2026.pdf
MetSoc_Ethics_August2026.pdf
NomCom-Report to Council_08_03_2026.pdf
PubCom-Publications_2026.pdf

Minutes and Agenda

1. Welcome (President)

12:00 pm CEST

The president welcomes all present and opens the meeting.

a) The secretary announced and reviewed two votes held online since the last meeting.

Vote 20e: Approve the EC's recommendations for supporting the selected 2 Community Grants and 9 Research Grants at the levels indicated. (6 July 2026)
12 votes in favor.

Vote 21e: Approve minutes from the council meeting on June 06, 2026. (20 July 2026). 10 votes in favor, one abstained.

b) The president reported on progress on various items of importance:

A. The LPI is no longer being funded to the extent that it used to be by NASA, and this affects us in two ways. First, the support they give us for the annual meeting, including processing abstracts and flagging student papers, authors qualified for travel grants, etc., used to be free. Now it is not. The cost to pay for this is around \$20,000 per meeting. The executive committee thinks that this service goes beyond support for those attending the meeting but also anyone who would want to read or reference the abstracts afterwards. For this reason we agreed to support this cost at Frankfurt and propose to continue to carry this as a regular expense of the society and not something to be included in the budget of each meeting.

B: A more serious issue is the maintaining of the Meteorite Data Base. This is supported for the next year but after that we will have to pay for it. LPI has suggested three levels of support, the cheapest of which runs to about \$80,000 per year. We will be looking into alternatives!

C. The issue of a permanent corporate address in California remains. There is no particular urgency but we should resolve this within the next year. There are a couple of companies headquartered in Sacramento that provide this service for under \$50 per year; one is only rated B by the Better Business Bureau and the other is not rated by them at all. I will be in Sacramento in February and will research them further.

D. As of July we now have a second bank account in California for the use of MetSoc meeting organizers in the US, (or elsewhere if needed) separate from our main bank account. This should making running these meetings, paying for venue space etc., much easier.

E. Larry Nyquist, one of our Fellows, died on August 5. Greg Herzog is preparing a note for MAPS

2. Committees

2.1 Hailiang Dong
Executive editor GCA - 15 min

12:05 pm CEST

Hailing Dong gave an update about the performance of GCA over the last year. He showed the latest data from Elsevier up to 2026, and answered questions from council. In short, he summarized that -

- Submission went up from about 1200 submissions in 2024 to 1500 in 2025. As of August 8th, 1050 submissions were already received. Further, the rejection rate went up to about 69 % split into 48% desk rejection from the chief editor and about 21% by associated editors after peer review.
- Rate of open access publication is lower than last year but there has been a big range in rates over the last 5 years.
- Rejection rates of special issues are as high as for normal submissions. The editor ensured that the quality of submissions to special issues is comparable to those of general submissions.
- Similar to last year submissions are dominantly coming from Asia, mostly from China and increasingly from India. The rate for Asia is about 70 %, a huge increase from 28 % in 2015. However the rejection rate is about twice the rate of those from the US.
- The turnaround speed from submission to final decision is currently about 136 days compared to 171 days on average in 2022. Over the last few years fewer days are needed to reach a final editorial standard decision.
- In 2025 the Scopus Cite Score is 9.1, high compared to other comparable journals. The impact factor is 5.2 and highest in comparison to other leading journals publishing geochemical papers.
- The number of associated editors (AE) is currently 130. The number of female AEs is 36 at a rate of 26.5%. The gender of 14 % is unknown and 2.2.% prefer not to disclose it. The geographical diversity has increased, especially from East Asia.

In conclusion, Dong sees the need to increase the numbers of AEs in certain scientific areas, e.g., Economic Geology and Microbial Geochemistry. Further he is working with the JPC to recruit more AEs among highly qualified early to mid career scientists.

2.2 Philippe Claeys
Joint Publication Committee report - 15 min

12:20 pm CEST

Claeys emphasized that the major duty of the JPC is to help and support the executive editor (EE) by evaluating and recommending potential AEs. The chair

suggested to council to consider if the committee should take an even more active role? For example, the committee could correspond and recruit potential AEs which would free time from the EE. Currently, the workload on committee members is low. However there is one MetSoc member who is not very responsive which may be of concern when replacing committee members in future.

Discussion points included, if it would be better to issue a call advertising the search for AEs for GCA? Further, whether processing times of AEs are evaluated, and if AEs serve limited terms? There are no data shared with the JPC that allow evaluation for individual processing times. It is not the case that AEs serve for only limited terms. A major concern to the JPC is the burden on the EE because of the need to recruit more AEs. More AEs are needed mainly because of a high rate of specialization, regional diversity, and increasing numbers of submissions.

2.3 Aaron Cavošie

12:35 pm CEST

Update from the Impact cratering committee 20 min

Cavošie reported about progress since last year. Eight meetings were held during this time. The major outcome was a final report that was published in MAPS earlier this year. It summarizes the criteria that were developed and should be used in defining an impact crater. These criteria mirror the consensus of all committee members.

The current work focusses on the usage of those criteria to over 220 structures that were claimed to be impact craters. Each structure is evaluated by at least 3 members, totaling to about 660 reviews. Up to date 95 % of this task has been completed. Individual documentation and evaluations will be published and can be cited. About 50 sites were recognized where the published evidence is incomplete. In addition, sites of which the status is controversial among ICC members will be re-evaluated by the full committee. Same will be the case for structures that have been described and published only in non-peer reviewed abstracts or in predatory journals. The goal is to make the list of recognized impact structures more robust and reliable. Further, incomplete documentation that can be cited may open new research opportunities and help in securing funding.

A couple of committee members are rotating off by the end of 2026. Changing membership on the committee is considered an important way to ensure diversity of experience and regional expertise.

2.4 Mike Weisberg

12:55 pm CEST

report on NomCom 20 min

Weisberg reported on the Nomenclature Committee. Three members are rotating off by the end of this year, and one member resigned already end of 2025 because of too many other responsibilities. At least three open positions should be replaced, in order to avoid loss of expertise on the committee. Among these is the position of the MetBull editor, Jerome Gattacecca. The position of the new editor will be taken by Ansgar Greshake. The next committee meeting in September/October will mainly focus on reclassifications.

The new database is running successfully and working well for the external usage, which mainly comprises search of the database. Some improvements are still desirable. Over 80k meteorites are in the online database. The update for the last were published in MetBull 114. In total 1944 meteorites and 34 new dense collection areas were published.

There is great variability in the quality for iron meteorites classifications. The major concern is about the high numbers of anomalous irons that may be an artefact of limitations of the technique applied. Bidong Zhang proposed to establish a program to test approved methods for analysis of iron meteorites. The aim is a transparent and community supported process to establish minimum analytical standards for classification quality data, which should then ensure consistency and reliability among classification datasets. Further it should help NomCom in evaluating newly classified irons. A caveat to this process is that not all laboratories may have access to ICPMS. Those who do not would need to pay for analyses.

There followed a discussion about the future of the MetBull database. Options for hosting it at LPI in future and potential alternatives were considered. It was suggested to create an ad-hoc committee to look into things.

Vote 22 Set up an ad-hoc committee with members of the Nomenclature Committee, Maria Schönbächler, and members of the impact cratering committee and report back this year.

Moved by Nancy Chabot

Second by Cari Corrigan

All in favor.

The president appoints Maria Schönbächler as chair of this new ad-hoc committee with the duty to appoint members at her discretion.

2.5 Cari Corrigan
Elements report - 15 min

13:15 pm CEST

Corrigan's role has changed since last year as she is no longer the chair of the executive committee but acts as representative of the Meteoritical Society. As such, she is a member of the editorial council. In this new role being treasurer at the same time is important, as it is helpful to have an understanding of the financial means and possibilities.

The hybrid model has been installed and will be tested starting in August 2026. Issues for non-US based members will be printed and shipped from Germany. The EC evaluated the printing from the new printer to be equal to current quality.

Corrigan reported further that the finances are currently developing positively. Surprisingly, there were more print advertisements as anticipated and membership was going up.

2.6 Cari Corrigan
Treasurer's report - 20 min

13:30 pm CEST

Corrigan, the treasurer, gave a brief summary about the finances:

- At the end of May 2026 the operating fund is about what it was expected. Income sources and expenses were in accordance with prior years.
- The endowment fund developed positively over the last year. The amount transferred between the two major funds was adjusted to performance.
- The operating fund in 2026 has a surplus. The proposed budget for FY27 has a deficit. This deficit is mainly due to a larger loan to the organizers of the MetSoc meeting in Flagstaff. In addition, expenses for LPI services regarding abstract handling and registration needed to be budgeted for the first time. Further it includes higher expenses of the membership committee, mainly because of costs for the MetSoc booth at AGU, and for the new member forum. Part of the latter initiative will be covered by the Ed Scott legacy and the budget needs to be amended for that. Other than that the proposed budget is well balanced.
- The treasurer does not recommend an increase in dues.
- The treasurer asked the council to approve the budget amended by the amount from the Ed Scott legacy.

Vote 23: Nancy Chabot moved to approve the treasurer's recommendation to keep the dues the same. Jutta Zipfel second. All present were in favor.

Vote 24: Jutta Zipfel moved to approve the amended FY 2027 budget. Gordon Osiniski second. 7 voted in favor and 1 abstained.

14:05 Break 30 min

2.7 Council only

14:20 pm CEST

MetSoc 2030

Discussion and Decision 15 min

Three proposals were received, coming from Ahmedabad in India, Beijing in China, and Boulder, Colorado in the US. These proposals had been presented at the last council meeting in June. Follow-up questions were asked and answered and councilors were given time to come to a final decision.

After a long discussion, evaluating pros and cons, council agreed on keeping the established 3-years rotation of meetings between Europe, North America, and other places. That means proposals from everywhere are encouraged but some may be given preference because of the year and geography

2030 would be a year where a meeting in North America would be favored. That was considered as well as that currently more than 50% of the membership come from North America. Therefore, council was in favor of the proposal for Boulder,

Colorado which was confirmed by affirmation. However, council strongly emphasized that the proposals from India and China were very strong, and that they would like to see both resubmitted the following year.

2.8 Nancy Chabot - **Council only**
Ethics Committee report 10 min

14:35 pm CEST

Chabot presented two cases evaluated by the committee during the last year. She kept her report concise and kept anonymity of all parties involved. The committee recommended the Meteoritical Society council having a policy that gives guidance on when and how letters of invitation for a visa should be written. This wording should outline what justifies an invitation and how individuals, who would receive an invitation letter, contribute to a meeting. It was decided to post this policy on the website.

Vote 25: Gordon Osinski moves that council agrees that the wording, as forwarded by the Ethics committee, should be posted somewhere in a public place.
Second: Nancy Chabot
6 voted in favor, 3 abstained.

2.9 Nancy Chabot

14:45 pm CEST

Topic – 2029 - International Year of Asteroids and Planetary Defense
Awareness <https://www.un.org/en/observances/asteroid-awareness-year>.
And thoughts for MetSoc involvement. 10 min

The past president posed the question if the Meteoritical Society should promote the international year of asteroids and planetary defense? It was felt that the Society should be actively supporting it. It was suggested that this would be an activity for the outreach committee to recommend ideas that could be revisited. In addition, Chabot offered to write a call for ideas for the newsletter.

3. Annual Meetings

3.1 Jutta Zipfel
update on MetSoc 2026 15 min

14:55 pm CEST

Zipfel gave a short summary about the meeting. About 463 registrations were received. The number of students is high with 127. This may have been due to the support from the Schwiete foundation providing 27 travel grants for students and early career researcher. She also gave an update on the planned events. One post conference excursion had to be cancelled because of a low interest. The post-conference tour to the impact crater in the Nördlinger Ries was overbooked. Luckily four extra spaces could be made available. Everything was taken care off as best as possible so that the meeting can start.

3.2 Rhonda Stroud
update on Flagstaff 20 min

15:10 pm CEST

Stroud gave an update on the current status of their plans:

- Icebreaker reception will be on the 25th of July at the Lowell Observatory. There will be space for registration and drinks with appetizers. The outdoor patio will be open for MetSoc attendees, enjoying the view and networking. In addition, the telescopes and other attractions will be accessible to be explored.
- Budgeting is problematic because of recent travel restrictions and budget cuts. Therefore the biggest uncertainty remaining, is the number of participants. Currently the organizers are hoping for about 300-350 participants, similar in numbers to the meeting in Los Angeles in 2023.
- The strategy is now to plan for a "normal" meeting which offers the usual amenities that attendees expect. These include the icebreaker and Wednesday afternoon excursions. The latter include a trip to the rim of the Barringer crater, walking tours in Flagstaff, or hiking tours with support from the USGS.
- Plans for the Barringer lecture are a multimedia show that can be customized to MetSoc's interest. It may also attract people from the outside. Seating for 900 visitors will be available. Funding has not yet been secured. Various options will be explored.
- The meeting will be held in the High Country Conference Center. The package includes breakfast and lunch which have to be booked with the conference center. It has a hotel attached to it. But there are other budget options for hotels in walking distance. Securing campus dorms for low-cost housing is planned.
- Fundraising will be a major focus for the upcoming months. Fixed costs cannot be reduced, and there are not so many costs that can be cut down to save money, if attendance rate is low.
- Hiking trips going down to Meteor Crater are planned for early mornings on Sunday before the meeting and Saturday after the meeting.
- Post-conference tours are guided 1-day and 2-days tours to the Great Canyon. The organizers arranged offering tours for smaller groups to the Antelope Canyon by a Flagstaff company.

3.3 Millarca Valenzuela Picon
update on Antofagasta 20 min

15:30 pm CEST

The report from the organizers summarizes current activities and plannings:

- Currently the team is developing the meeting webpage.
- Preferred dates for the meeting are July 30- August 4th in 2028.
- A list for members of the LOC was shown from Chile. As it was not complete the approval for the LOC was moved to an upcoming meeting. The list should be modified by adding a member from the team who are organizing the next meeting in Florence, the President at the time, and a member on the team of the organizer from the past meeting.
- Contacting sponsorships from universities, societies and Museums is in progress. Waiting for replies from foundations and government to support.
- The aim of the Chile meeting is to attract in many participants from South America. Therefore the selection of the venue went to a less expensive

place in the city center. The hotel is comfortable at low prices. It has lecture rooms that can serve between 300 and 400 people.

- Wednesday excursions could include walking tours to the old town and the bay; to an area with old silver processing mines during Bolivian times.
- Post-conference excursions to Altiplano, e.g., Salar de Atacama, Geysers del Tatio, Altiplanic lakes, and Crater Monturaqui (difficult to get there).
- If there is interest of the participants, the organizers can help with suggestions for touristic tours through Chile or to other places in South America. For a larger group even a more coordinated tour could be provided.

4. Committees cont.

4.4 Queenie Chan

15:50 pm CEST

membership report - discussion forum - student lunch - 20 min

Tim Jull (Item 4.1.) was late - so Queenie Chan (item 4.4.) moved up.

A.) Membership report

Geographic distribution is similar to 2025 with 50% of the membership coming from North America. The membership is constantly increasing from 2021. The standard membership has been going down since 2023, mainly because the early career membership which was introduced in 2023 is taking members out of that category. Especially the number of students is going up since 2025, mainly due to the booth at LPSC.

Options that could be taken to increase the membership:

- 1) Early career scientist at MetSoc Meetings - reduce registration rate?
- 2) Extend the eligibility for ECR membership in cases of maternity leave, parental leave, long-term illness, or disability.
- 3) Attract other member groups, e.g., school teachers by providing access to teaching materials.

B.) Discussion forum

The new member discussion forum is led by Jingyou Chen and was set up by Websanity. Jingyou will continue to improve the structure of the forum while adding details to enrich the content.

Jingyou, the chair of the membership committee, and members (secretary and treasurer) of the executive committee have been granted admin rights.

The costs are \$2,000 for initial setup and monthly fee of \$175-\$275.

C.) Early scientist lunch

Event was fully booked with 100 participants, about 80 people were present. Three senior scientists were invited to share their scientific experience, Ralph Harvey, Tomoki Nakamura, and Sara Russell. They gave a short talk and then had the chance to sit down and talk to EC people. It was felt to have been a great success.

D.) Mentor/Mentee in Frankfurt

About 71 participants signed up with 18 mentors and 53 mentees. Signing was possible during registration with a deadline at the early bird registration. Keep this deadline as it allowed enough time for matching pairs. Unfortunately, not enough mentors signed up, which gave an unfavorable mentor/mentee ration of 1:3- 1:4. Pairing criteria included geographical vicinity, scientific alignment, no coauthorship, no mentor/mentee ratio higher than 1:4.

Mentors were allowed to indicate the number of mentees they feel they can actively support during the meeting. For seven mentees no mentor could be matched.

Add as further criteria, avoid a mentor to be a McKay judge for the mentee.

Discussion: Allow mentors signing up for the program without need to register. Some participants are not allowed to sign up for the early bird deadline, and after that the window of opportunity is gone. Keep the deadline but allow for early signing up. Alternatively, after the early bird deadline a group email should be send to all registrants asking if they are interested in signing up as a mentor.

The question arose whether booths should be kept? MC recommends to keep these because of the big effect on the membership. Costs for the booths are high, \$6000 for AGU and \$2500 for LPSC, which exceeds the discretionary funds of the MC. The MC should decide which one to keep. The number of new sign ups was highest during LPSC.

4.1 Tim Jull

16:25 pm CEST

MAPS report - 15 min

From Sept 2024 - May 2026 193 papers were accepted and 70 rejected, acceptance ratio of 73.4%. The 2-year impact factor is 2.4. Over the last 10 years the factor varied from 2.2 to 2.9.

Number of submissions generated by AI are raising. If caught, any of these are rejected.

The new Wiley submission system is still causing problems as it is an unstable and inflexible system. Examples for problems are loss of data; editors cannot act as proxies to help submitters; number of attachments to the decision letter of the editor is restricted; manuscripts can only be searched by submission number or part of text of title (not by the author's name); etc.

The Wiley representative who was contacted and informed about these problems just left the company.

Another major problem is typesetting and proofing. Some authors experienced the need to resubmit a proof 2-3 times.

Increasingly authors are publishing open access. Up to 5/2026 already 75% in comparison to 53% in 2025. Most are published through a "read and publish" agreement with their institutions and funding agencies.

Number of pages is expected to be in the range of the last 6 years. Several special issues were published including issues for Ryugu and OSIRIS-Rex.

Concerns about the quality control should be brought up by the executive committee when talking to their Wiley representative. The high number of 4 corrections and one erratum in 2025 are totally due to miscommunications between typesetters, either they were not corrected by the typesetters or the authors did not communicate with the typesetters.

Budget: The budget is presented and comparable to last year's budget. It was corrected for Agnieszka Baier not coming to Frankfurt.

Vote 26: Zipfel moved to accept the budget as presented.
Gordon Osinski and Marina Ivanova second.
All present voted in favor

It is hard to get younger AEs especially if they don't have a stable position. The PC is more than happy to recruit new editors. Start with an open call in the newsletter. The secretary will send a list to the chair of the PC with names who signed up for interest becoming an AE.

There followed a discussion about the impact factor of the journal. It is unclear why the impact factor is fluctuating. Maybe it is a consequence of the many special issues?

4.2 Rhiannon Mayne -
Publication Committee report - 15 min

16:40 pm CEST

Last year's focus was on ReX system. This not so much of a problem this year as not many complaints were received.

The focus in 2026 was on Wiley/MAPS and AI Policies.
The Wiley AI guidelines were reviewed and a survey amongst committee members came up with the recommendations:

- Council should decide whether MAPS links to Wiley's existing AI policies or develops MAPS-specific policy language.
- Authors should be required to declare, at submission, the extent to which they used AI/LLM tools in preparing their manuscript.
- Reviewers should be explicitly informed that AI/LLM tools may not be used at any stage of evaluating an assigned manuscript. This should include uploading manuscript text, associated data, or reviewer notes derived from the manuscript to any AI platform/LLM. Reviewers should be required to confirm their understanding of this restriction before accepting a review assignment and again when submitting a review.

These recommendations are current practice in other journals, e.g., by AGU and Elsevier. Wiley's current AI policy allows reviewers to use AI for specific things.

Add a link in the authors instructions for MAPS. Reviewers may be reached with a checkbox in the submission system when accepting a review assignment.

Have our policy on our Website.

Mayne will prepare a policy for the website and an announcement for the newsletter and the online forum.

Vote 27: Corrigan moves to agree that Rhiannon Mayne and the president meet and draft language to accept the Wiley policy on AI as discussed by council.

Zipfel second.

All vote in favor

4.3 Gillian Greenough
Wiley information - 15 min

17:05 pm CEST

Had to excuse herself and could not join the meeting.

5. Adjourn

17:06 pm CEST