

**Summary of the motions and key items discussed at the**

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST 2006 COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

**for posting on the MSA website**

Attending:

John W. Valley, President  
Robert M. Hazen, Past President  
Barb Dutrow, Vice-President  
John M. Hughes, Treasurer  
George E. Harlow, Secretary  
Mickey Gunter, Councilor  
David London, Councilor  
Ross John Angel, Councilor  
Robert Downs, Councilor  
Simon Redfern, Councilor  
Roberta Rudnick, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
George A. Lager, Co-Editor, American Mineralogist  
Gordon Nord, MSA Webmaster

Note: Motions and Council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = Sense of Council, S = Second.

The First Meeting of the 2006 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America was held in the Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, UT on Saturday, October 15, 2005.

**ITEMS**

1. Call to Order

J. Valley called the meeting to order at 3:20 PM, Saturday, October 15, 2005, and the roll-call was bypassed as the participants were introduced at the earlier 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Council for 2005.

## 2. 2006 Budget

Treasurer Hughes commented that the RiMG volumes would be included as assets going forward, which should make the annual budget appear less imbalanced by showing essentially that the large printing expenses have been moved into a performing asset. That is, an asset (= book stock) that can be sold to recover the printing and editorial expenses of the volumes over time. The Executive Director noted that over a 5 year period that the expenses and revenue of the RiMG volumes were within \$5K on total of \$750K (i.e., averaging \$150K/year) and that we do sell all RiMG volumes that are printed.

*R. Rudnick moved to approve the 2006 Budget included in the Treasurer's report. S = S. Redfern. Motion passed unanimously.*

## 3. Authorization for the Treasurer and the Administrator

*R. Hazen moved to authorize the MSA Treasurer to conduct the financial affairs of the Society and J. Alexander Speer as the Executive Director of the Society to write checks and make other forms of payment and transfers on the Society's accounts as directed by the Treasurer and Council actions. S = M. Gunter. Motion passed unanimously.*

## 4. Acceptance of committee appointments for 2006 Council year:

*M. Gunter moved to accept the committee members and chair appointments and other appointed posts for the 2006 Council year contained in the report of the Committee on Committees made to the Third 2005 Council meeting and as amended at the Third 2005 Council meeting. S = R. Downs. Motion passed unanimously.*

## 5. Appointment of editors

R. Hazen moved to appoint Robert F. Dymek, Bryan C. Chakoumakos, and George A. Lager as editors of the *American Mineralogist*, Jodi Rosso as editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* and

Monograph series, and Andrea Koziol as the MSA Events Editor of *Elements*. S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 6. Authorization of mail and telephone ballots.

*B. Dutrow moved to authorize the use of mail, telephone, and electronic ballots, whenever necessary and allowed, to conduct the affairs of the Society.* S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob Downs asked about how balloting would be handled on the MSA website. A. Speer said that it would be similar to what was done for the 2005 ballots, but following suggestions from members, candidate statements and ballot issues will be available as downloadable files.

#### 7. Items Tabled from the Third 2005 Council Meeting.

No items were raised.

#### 8. Future of MSA

Pres. Valley reviewed his perspectives on the present environment in which MSA exists.

(a) It is an exciting time for our sciences with diverse connections across disciplines, many new discoveries, and improving analytical techniques.

(b) Finances are limited for developing new activities by the Society. Future finances are uncertain. Our highest priority must be preservation of American Mineralogist during revolutionary changes now taking place in academic publishing.

(c) These are unusual times as Science is being challenged at unprecedented levels within American society.

These conditions pose challenges to the Society, which need to be addressed, and finances are a key to action. Valley noted that R. Hazen

had made significant strides through the President's Fund and hopes that this effort will be continued this year. John suggested that the Benefactor's Committee will be critical to developing new sources of funding for both ongoing activities and new initiatives. The budget provides line items that can be addressed through sponsorships from benefactors, presumably corporations. We must work assiduously to search for appropriate matches and develop the relationships that will both support and endow our activities. R. Angel questioned whether we should be careful about getting corporate support, not everything should be for sale. B. Dutrow said that she needs a selection of targets for her near-term attention given the reality of time and attention she has available. Discussion moved on to how to connect with both commercial firms and the mineral collecting community. J. Valley suggested that an on-line auction of scientifically interesting specimens might work with collectors. G. Harlow said that Tucson might be a place to try to kick this off via promotion at the MSA booth. Bob Hazen picked up on this and said he would work on a proposal for such an endeavor before we all leave Salt Lake City. He also agreed to continue spearheading the fund raising drive for another year.

Bob Downs moved on to the subject of the on-line database and mineral property reports in the *Handbook of Mineralogy*, which will be made available on-line too, as an important activity by the society. He has private funding for the project but certain activities might be enhanced with additional support. He said that the First Volume of the Handbook is being updated and should be finished in the near future.

8. Other business. *None.*

9. Adjournment

*B. Dutrow moved that the 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 Council meeting be adjourned. S = R. Rudnick.* The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Harlow, MSA Secretary