

MINUTES OF THE FIRST 2007 COUNCIL MEETING
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Attending:

Barb Dutrow, President
Peter Heaney, Vice President
John W. Valley, Past President
John M. Hughes, Treasurer
George E. Harlow, Secretary
Ross John Angel, Councilor
Robert Downs, Councilor
Simon Redfern, Councilor
Roberta Rudnick, Councilor
Jean Morrison, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
Robert Dymek, *American Mineralogist* Editor
Mickey Gunter, Past-Councilor, to discuss the Bloss offer

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

The First Meeting of the 2007 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America was held in the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, October 21, 2006.

ITEMS

1. Call to Order

B. Dutrow called the meeting to order at 3:28 PM, Saturday, October 21, 2006, and the roll-call was bypassed as the participants were introduced at the earlier 3rd Meeting of Council for 2006. She welcomed the new councilor, Jean Morrison (Klaus Mezger could not make the meeting) and thanked John Valley for his dedication and service as President.

2. 2007 Budget

Treasurer Hughes commented that the budget represents incremental change from previous years and noted the benefit of the donation from Bob Downs to meet the editorial expense for Frank Dudas, the new *Handbook* editor.

R. Angel moved to approve the 2007 Budget included in the Treasurer's report. S = R.

Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Future of MSA

(a) Don Bloss has approached MSA to establish a Fund in his name to advance the study of optics and optical crystallography. It would be funded by both royalty income MSA now pays Don on his two books that MSA sells and by additional gifts from him. Don has also considered reassigning the copyright to his two books to MSA. The Executive Director provided Council with a draft trust agreement patterned after the one for the Kraus Fund, which appears to be closest to what Don has in mind. The pertinent section for the Council's discussion is Item #4:

"The trust income in excess of administrative costs shall be used exclusively to promote optical and optical crystallography studies and the use of applied crystal optics in the solution of problems through the support of research, lectures, short courses, or development of educational materials to be made available electronically or through other published media."

Alex Speer noted that among the potential funded activities, a scholarship carries a high overhead. Mickey discussed his communication with Don. Barb Dutrow suggested that a short course to train students in optical mineralogical techniques would be a useful mechanism, because optics is given such short shrift in many academic institutions. On the topic of the fund itself, Alex Speer reminded Council that it would not be independent until it reached \$50K, and went on to suggest that recent MSA-Talk exchanges on optical mineralogy had many useful ideas and suggestions.

The SoC was to appoint a committee of one (Mickey Gunter) to research what to do on the subject of Don Bloss's offer and report back to Council. Alex Speer will continue his communication with Don to finalize a trust agreement.

(b) Fund Raising

Barb Dutrow reminded Councilors that when they or a colleague makes a big instrument purchase that they suggest the vendor consider a donation to MSA and that the vendor's name be forwarded to the Corporate Donations arm of the Benefactors Committee. There was a general discussion of mechanisms for identifying potential donors, such as that mentioned above, as well as keeping track of individuals and industries with interests and activities relevant to MSA.

J. Valley noted that Bob Hazen had made a successful start on a Capital Campaign through his solicitation among Past Presidents. It was suggested that the Society's Centennial should be used as an opportunity and target deadline for fund raising. J. Valley emphasized the importance in raising endowment funds to protect the core activities of the society. B. Dutrow suggested a short course on High Resolution Provenance Studies held prior to an AAPG meeting—one is currently in the development stages. R. Dymek commented that we have not been publishing many papers relevant to the petroleum industry but that provenance study research might be a good way to make the connection.

The membership is our largest and professional audience, so we should try to engage

it for ideas and support. Peter Heaney suggested that we should find ways to better communicate the activities of our membership. He noted that Rachel Russell's podcast interviews with authors were nicely done and gave the website a new flavor; we should evaluate the impact of such activities to see whether we should develop them further. B. Dutrow expressed a desire to provide a face-lift to the website. A general discussion of the appearance of the MSA website ensued with some divergence of opinion between the view that it is stodgy versus it being very easy to use because of its density rather than pizzazz.

Heaney raised his concern with mineralogy instruction, its reduction, conflation with petrology, and general diminishment in academia. He suggested we investigate how mineralogy is being taught and how the society could help this pedagogy – after all, mineralogy students are our future membership.

Valley returned to fund raising, suggesting that one opportunity for sponsorship is student memberships. He suggested that for \$150 someone or some entity (XYZ) could sponsor a student membership for a year with the student to be identified as the XYZ member of MSA. These naming opportunities could be extended for all student members whether or not they are sponsored (i.e., first \$10 paid) by a member or not.

G. Harlow returned to the topic of Latin America and the opportunity to engage, particularly through our website. If we could offer some Spanish/Portuguese language pages or resources, we might get a lot of hits, interest, and membership or support. He believed many actual or potential members may be bilingual, so engaging them might be the mechanism. A. Speer suggested that offering RIMG volumes as “payment” for translation services would be easiest for the Society.

The SoC was to have Council members to continue to explore or work on these topics with the goal of producing concrete requests for action by next Council Meeting.

4. Acceptance of committee appointments for 2007 Council year:

R. Rudnick moved to accept the committee members and chair appointments and other appointed posts for the 2007 Council year contained in the report of the Committee on Committees made to the Third 2006 Council meeting and as amended at that meeting. S = J. Valley. Motion passed unanimously.

It was agreed that any further changes to committees would be shared with Council and the Executive Director via email.

5. Authorization for the Treasurer and the Administrator

P. Heaney 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 = J. Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Appointment of editors

J. Valley 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, Andrea Koziol as the MSA Events Editor of *Elements*, and Frank Dudas as editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*. S = J. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Authorization of mail and telephone ballots.

R. Angel 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.

8. Other business. *None.*

9. Adjournment

R. Angel moved that the 1st 2007 Council meeting be adjourned. S = R. Rudnick. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Harlow, MSA Secretary