

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD 2009 COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

Attending:

Nancy Ross, President  
John Brady, Vice President  
Peter Heaney, Past President  
Darrell Henry, Treasurer  
Mickey Gunter, Secretary  
Carol Frost, Councilor  
Marc Hirschmann, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
Gordon Nord, MSA Webmaster  
Jodi Rosso, Editor, *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* (1-2 pm)  
David Bish, Vice President-elect  
Wendy Bohrson, Councilor-elect

Absent:

Peter Burns, Councilor  
Penny King, Councilor  
Klaus Mezger, Councilor  
Jean Morrison, Councilor

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

The Third meeting of the 2009 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was held at Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, October 17, 2009

ITEMS

[1] Roll Call and Introductory Remarks by the President.

N. Ross called the meeting to order at 8:06 am on October 17, 2009. After some brief remarks, she asked all those in attendance to introduce themselves.

[2] Additions to and deletions from the Agenda, approval of the Agenda.

*N. Ross pointed out an error in the location for the 2010 fall GSA meeting; it will be in Denver and not Minneapolis.*

[3] Accept the following Reports to Council containing no questions or action items as a group. Reports will be acknowledged by Secretary.

Benefactors Committee (Corporate Benefactors), Benefactors Committee (Membership Giving), *ad hoc* Policy Statement Committee - Asbestos, Editorial Office and Editors of the *American Mineralogist*, MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, MSA Representative on the Executive Committee of *Elements*, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Board of Directors, MSA Webmaster, Outreach Committee (on Databases), Lecture Program Committee, Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund, Distinguished Public Service Medal Committee, Representatives to the American Crystallographic Association, American Geological Institute, Clay Minerals Society, European Mineralogical Union, Friends of Mineralogy, Geological Society of America, and the Interest group for Pegmatites, Planetary Materials.

**Not heard from:** MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Advisory Council, Outreach Committee (K-12), Representative to the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD), Society of Mineral Museum Professionals.

*P. Heaney moved to accept the reports. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.*

[4] Revisions, if any, and approval of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 Council Meeting. The minutes reflect all revisions previously sent to the MSA Secretary.

*D. Henry moved to approve the minutes. S = J. Brady. Motion passed unanimously.*

[5] Review of Executive Committee actions and President's Report. Any items for action or discussion were taken up under the appropriate sections later in the day.

See the appropriate sections below.

[6] Accept medal, award, grant, and honor recommendations:

*J. Brady moved to approve the recommendation to award Robert Newton the Roebling Medal for 2010. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.*

*C. Frost moved to approve the recommendation to award Ross Angel the Dana Medal for 2011. S = P. Heaney. Motion passed unanimously.*

At the time of the council meeting no recommendation had been forwarded to council from the MSA Award committee.

*Council voted that the nominee for the Kraus award did not meet the criteria for that award, and that the committee review the nominees again and submit one who does. (See #7 below for details.)*

The following list of individuals were nominated as new MSA Fellows:

*Thomas S Duffy, David L. Kohlstedt, Sergey V. Krivovichev, Bruno Lanson, William F. McDonough, Peggy A. O'Day, Aral I. Okay, Terry Ann Plank, Mihaly Posfai, Nita Sahai, Renata M. Wentzcovitch, Richard Wirth, Youxue Zhang*

*M. Gunter moved to approve the nominated fellows above. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously.*

*P. Heaney moved to approve the recommendation of Jessica Lynn Till and Neil Robert Bennett to receive the Mineralogy/Petrology grant. S = M. Gunter. Motion passed unanimously.*

[7] The following action items were put forward by the Crystallographic Research Grant Committee (Kraus) about awards:

- a) indicate that acceptable projects are in the fields of crystallography, mineral physics, mineral chemistry, and mineralogy.

*After some discussion, and a review of the wording of the published grant descriptions and Trust Deed, it was SoC that the original wording for the grant is correct and consistent with the donor's original request.*

During this discussion there was a concern that the research proposal recommended for funding to council by the committee did not meet criteria for this award.

*P. Heaney moved to not accept the recommendation of the committee and to ask the committee to select a proposal that meets the criteria. S = N. Ross. Motion passed 6 in favor and 1 opposed.*

- b) reword the age stipulation to make it clearer

Council proposes the following language be added to the award announcement: "The applicant must be between the ages of 25-36 when their proposal is submitted, and they cannot be MSA councilor."

*C. Frost moved to approved this wording change. S = M. Gunter. Motion passed unanimously.*

- c) add the stipulation that applicants may not apply for both the MSA Kraus Award and the MSA Grant in Student Research In Mineralogy and Petrology in the same year.

*M. Hirschmann moved to accept this stipulation. S = M. Gunter. Motion passed unanimously.*

[8] MSA Committee membership and appointed posts for 2010 as recommended by the Committee on Committees. Review and fill any outstanding vacancies. The actual vote on appointment of Committees and other posts will occur during the First 2010 Council Meeting this afternoon.

The proposed list of possible candidates was reviewed by council, and slight refinements were made to it.

[9] Several other Reports have items relating to appointed posts:

- (a) Appoint a new meetings coordinator.

*Action item: N. Ross agreed to continue to serve in this capacity.*

- (b) Appoint an MSA representative to work with the Program Committee of the 2010 Goldschmidt Conference to encourage MSA participation and to facilitate MSA sponsorship of sessions.

*Action item: Penelope King be asked to fill this role by the Meetings Coordinator.*

- (c) Cam Davidson's administrative duties at Carleton University have increased significantly and he has asked to be replaced as Lecture Program Coordinator.

*Action item: A ranked list of possible candidates was prepared. M. Gunter will contact these individuals, explain the duties of the position, and find a suitable replacement.*

- (d) Barb Dutrow, chair of the Benefactors Committee - Capital Campaign, has asked that she be replaced.

*Action item: Some possible replacements were discussed and they will be contacted by the secretary to see if they are interested.*

- (e) Initiate search for a new editor for *The Handbook of Mineralogy*. Frank Dudás will remain as editor until a new editor has been approved by MSA Council.

There was a discussion about how best to make available and update the contents of the Handbook.

*It was SoC that J. Brady and G. Nord should discuss these issues.*

- (f) MSA Council needs to appoint a representative to the Management Board of the proposed mineralogy, petrology, volcanology, and geochemistry (MPVG) Division at GSA. The individual should be aware that the main purpose of the division will be in organizing MPVG sessions at meetings, understand the organization of GSA, and who could be effective leaders in the GSA-MPGV Division.

Possible candidates were discussed. Councilor Wendy Bohrson agreed to be MSA's representative. See Section 24.)

[10] The Nominating Committee for Officers presented a list of possible candidates for Vice-President, and for Councilor. The list was reviewed, ordered, and approved so that the MSA Secretary can contact those on the list in the sequence decided by Council to invite them to run for office.

*P. Heaney moved to approve the modified list. S = J. Brady. Motion passed unanimously.*

[11] Consider recommendations of staff evaluations from the Management Committee of the preceding day. All visitors to Council left the room during this time.

Recommendations were reported orally. The management committee reported their recommendations, and raises, to the full council. After some discussion and slight modifications Council was in agreement with the committee's recommendations.

*J. Brady moved to approve the recommendations of the management committee. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously.*

[12] Council needs to confirm that its Spring 2010 Council meeting will be in conjunction with 2010 Goldschmidt Conference, Knoxville, TN. The Executive Director has tentatively arranged with the conference organizers a Council meeting for the day before the Conference. It would be Sunday 13 June 2010.

*M. Gunter moved to approve the date and location for the spring 2010 council meeting. S = M. Hirschmann. Motion passed unanimously.*

[13] The Executive Director requests that Council accept the 2009 election results and give permission to destroy the ballots and ballot files upon acceptance.

*M. Hirschmann moved to accept this request. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously.*

[14] The Treasurer had no specific action items relating to 2008 and 2009 finances for the Council, but the 2010 budget will need to be approved during the First 2010 Council Meeting. The Treasurer described highlights of both years and answered questions.

D. Henry pointed out that our finances are still on solid ground, and we tend to underestimate our income and overestimate our expenses. Interestingly, MSA investments on Oct 15, 2009 were \$2.225 million, the same as on June 30, 2008; thus, our investments have recovered from the drop in the stock market. For a more thorough report of MSA finances see his report at:

[http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Officers\\_Reports/Trsr\\_Rprt\\_09.pdf](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Officers_Reports/Trsr_Rprt_09.pdf)

The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director gave brief updates on MSA membership numbers, subscriptions, and MSA finances.

A. Speer pointed out that we were on track with in our current budget year, and that GSW income was up. He also pointed out that our membership is up, and almost near a record; this was mainly due to the students who became members to receive the discount for the Dyar, Gunter and Tasa (DGT) mineralogy textbook.

[15] One of the newer requirements for (non-profit) corporations is that the 2008 Form 990 (tax return for non-profits) is provided to each of its governing body board members before it is filed with the IRS and that the results of any audit produced by an independent group is provided for their review is provided as well.

The Executive Director introduced this document, asked that Council review and discuss MSA's 2008 IRS Form 990 and the Financial Statement drafts, and that the Council approve their filing.

A. Speer made a brief presentation about this new tax form and also pointed out we had a "clean audit." He also discussed some of MSA cash-flow issues and the need for a line-of-credit. However, income from the DGT book has helped to minimize the need to draw on our credit line.

*D. Henry moved to approve the Form 990 for filing. S = M. Hirschmann. Motion passed unanimously.*

[16] The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) has a number of cautions, but no specific action items. MSA's investment advisor at Wachovia Securities has been prepared since last winter to make some strategic reallocations of funds a bottoming-out of the 2008-2009 market downturn. Cash reserves had been allowed to build up so that fast actions could be taken to reallocate when the timing was appropriate. The FAAC continues to urge Council to:

- a) use a conservative approach in the expenditure of endowment funds for the operation of The Society;
- b) solicit endowment funds from members and corporations, in an effort to maintain the ongoing financial health of MSA.

[17] The MSA President requests that MSA Council review the proposed draft of guidelines for using MSA-listserv that will appear on the MSA website page for MSA-Talk:

([http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/MSA\\_Talk.html](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/MSA_Talk.html)).

The need for this came about by a member of the MSA-listserv to publicize his employment problems, much to the consternation of other members.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mineralogical Society of America  
Ground Rules for using the MSA-Talk Listserv**

The MSA-Talk Listserv is a forum created for the community of mineral scientists to discuss topics of interest in the general areas of mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and crystallography.

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to MSA-Talk, go to:

[http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/MSA\\_Talk.html](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/MSA_Talk.html).

Before subscribing you should understand your responsibilities as a user of MSA-Talk:

- Actively encourage and promote the free exchange and discussion of information, ideas and opinions, except when the content would compromise the national security of the United States; violate proprietary rights, personal privacy, or state/federal/local laws and regulations affecting telecommunications; or constitute a crime or libel to MSA-Talk, its operator, users, any individual or organization.
- Do not use this system for delivery of personal mail, commercials, spam, or messages or items of a similar nature. If you are not sure, then email the message to MSA Executive Director J.A. Speer ([jaspeer@minsocam.org](mailto:jaspeer@minsocam.org)) for review.
- This forum is not to be used as a platform to accuse or defame any individual or organization. You may disagree with any comment posted and post a reply, but this server may not be used to spread misleading, derogatory or disparaging comments under any conditions.
- Notify MSA immediately when you discover any violations.
- The use of MSA-Talk Listserv is not a right, but a privilege. That privilege may be revoked at any time by the MSA Executive Committee. The name "MSA-Talk" may not be used for any commercial purposes without explicit permission in writing from MSA.

---

Disclaimer

*The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) supports the MSA-Talk Listserv for the benefit of mineral scientists worldwide and the public. MSA expressly disclaims responsibility for, and liabilities resulting from, any information or communications from and between users of the MSA-Talk Listserv except those messages posted by MSA itself relating to MSA's programs, operations and services.*

*Users are warned they may be individually liable for anything they communicate using the MSA-Talk Listserv, including but not limited to defamatory, discriminatory, false or unauthorized information. Users are cautioned they are responsible for complying with the requirements of applicable copyright and trademark laws and regulations.*

---

\*\*\*\*\*

*J. Brady moved to approve the above policy. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.*

[18] The Short Course Committee has no action items. However, two updated proposals were received just before and after their report was submitted:

- a) *Sulfur in Magmas and Melts and its Importance for Natural and Technical Processes*, from H. Behrens and J. Webster. The Council has approved this course, but the Committee was able to render only brief comments on the revision.
- b) *Metamorphic Processes: Techniques, Models and Interpretations* from David Cole (ORNL) and Barb Dutrow (LSU). This course, for Fall of 2011, has not been previously seen by Council and the Committee has not yet had a chance to review it.

[19] The *interim* Meetings Coordinator has several action items regarding meetings:

- a) Appoint an MSA representative to work with the Program Committee of the 2010 Goldschmidt Conference to encourage MSA participation and to facilitate MSA sponsorship of sessions.

*Action item: N. Ross will serve in this position with help from Penny King.*

- b) Provide input in regard to co-sponsoring a Chinese earth science meeting. The International Division of the Geological Society of America is considering organizing a section meeting in China in 2012. The Geochemical Society has also expressed strong interest in co-sponsoring such a meeting. The Chinese Geochemical Society has aggressively sought to host a Goldschmidt Conference in Beijing but past experience with Pacific Rim meetings in Japan and Australia is that they were lightly attended by westerners. This more general geoscience meeting co-organized by earth scientists in Beijing, the Geochemical Society, the Geological Society of America, the Mineral Society of America, and potentially the European Association for Geochemistry (EAG) is an alternative.

*Action item: N. Ross will continue to work on this in her role as meetings coordinator*

- c) MSA Council should consider how to more effectively learn about and sponsor sessions at GSA (and other meetings). As a first step, the protocol for sponsorship of technical sessions proposed for GSA needs to be discussed with Jim Beard and Phil Brown, the MSA representatives on the GSA Joint Technical Program Committee. Enhanced communication between the different societies may be easier within the new structure of the MPG Division in GSA.

N. Ross (meetings coordinator) introduced a discussion on GSA meetings. She pointed the roles of J. Beard and P. Brown, and noted the MSA's executive committees approves sponsorship of GSA sessions. It seemed the main action item of

this discussion was to make the process of proposal submission more effective and to hopefully standardize the MSA medal and award winner lectures.

- d) The 20<sup>th</sup> V M Goldschmidt Conference will be held in Knoxville, TN from June 13-18, 2010. The theme of the meeting is *Earth, Energy, and the Environment*. The International Program Committee (Dave Cole, Ted Labotka, and Hap McSween) has identified twenty theme areas. MSA Council should appoint a representative to work with the Program Committee to encourage MSA participation and to facilitate MSA sponsorship of sessions.

*Action item: N. Ross agreed to be MSA representative to the Goldschmidt meeting, as this is basically a repeat of 19a above.*

- e) An email should be sent to the MSA listserv as well as MSA announcements in November encouraging MSA members to submit proposals for Pardee and technical sessions for the 2010 Annual GSA Meeting (31 October to 3 November, 2010, Denver, CO).

*Action item: The MSA meeting's coordinator will send this email.*

- f) At the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 Council Meeting, MSA Council expressed interest in organizing and hosting the 2018 IMA Meeting as a start in celebrating MSA's Centenary in 2019. No action has been taken with regard to this matter except to alert George Harlow, MSA's representative to IMA, about Council's inclination.

MSA's possible role in organizing the 2018 IMA meeting discussed with some tentative ideas tossed out (e.g., host the meeting in Blacksburg, combine it with a North American Goldschmidt, etc.).

*Action item: The MSA secretary will contact George Harlow to find out the status of this potential meeting.*

- g) Another "Frontiers in Environmental Geosciences" meeting is being planned for June 2011 in Aberystwyth, Wales.

*After some discussion about MSA involvement in this meeting, it was SoC not to formally co-sponsor this meeting but to try and help in other ways.*

Lunch break (12:00 to 1:00 pm)?

[20] Jodi Rosso, MSA Series Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry & Monographs*, arrived at the Council meeting after lunch to brought to present several items to council:

- a) Council's approval to research the details associated with the formation of a system for individuals to purchase RiMG volumes electronically via MSA website site.

Jodi gave a brief introduction of some of her ideas on how to move forward with more e-options for RiMG (e.g., we could sell individual chapters or put together special "issues" or "course packs" by pulling chapters from different RiMGs). Some



of these ideas originated because authors and users of RiMGs often want pdfs of certain chapters.

*P. Henry moved to approve J. Rosso's request. S = J. Brady. Motion passed unanimously.*

- b) Council's approval to research the details associated with the production, distribution, and security of RiMG volumes as e-books.

Jodi continued her presentation with a discussion of how to make sure that MSA can obtain sufficient funds through e-publishing to offset its cost.

*J. Brady moved to J. Rosso's S = M. Hirschmann. Motion passed unanimously.*

[21] The *ad hoc* Policy Statement Committee (Preservation of Natural History Collections: Minerals and Rocks) has a revised *Position Statement on Preservation of Natural History Collections: Minerals and Rocks*. They ask Council to determine whether another review is needed or if the committee has adequately addressed the original responses received during the comment period so that it can be approved by Council and posted. The revised policy:

**Preservation of Natural History Collections: Minerals and Rocks**

Mineral and rock collections are foundations for the study of our planet. Their preservation is critical to retaining a record – often the only record – of deposits and outcrops that define Earth's history and processes. Colleges, universities, and museums that have sponsored the creation of geological collections also have a responsibility for maintaining them. This obligation includes sustaining the physical integrity of samples, organizing them within a professionally accepted intellectual framework, and making them accessible for scientific research and education. Given these responsibilities, the institution should have a written management/policy statement to instruct current and future staff and provide a clear guide to the disposition of the collection in all circumstances. In the event that an institution deems the collection no longer relevant to the pursuit of its mission or it cannot adequately maintain the collection, then following the policy statement will provide the mechanisms that both maximize the probability of the preservation and use of the collection as originally intended and minimize liability for any claims of mismanagement. If deaccession (sale or gift) becomes necessary, the entire process should be widely publicized from the start. Transparency and counsel by many is the best guarantee that the goals of preservation of the collections and their accessibility to scientists and the public will continue to be met.

*M. Gunter moved to approve the policy statement. S = J. Brady. Motion passed unanimously.*

*There was also a SoC to add a phrase at the end of the statement saying. "Those who are seeking advice on the disposition of mineral or geological collections at risk can contact the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals, which has a committee on collections, dedicated to providing assistance with respect to collections at risk."*

[22] The MSA Executive Director asks that Council give him the discretion to waive the requirement that the Society own the copyright for the original and any renewal terms for any writing in collected works that are published by the Society – until MSA has in place an agreement for authors who work for organizations that requires their work to be "licensed" to a publisher. This will prevent what is an otherwise clerical task done for each published paper (assignment of copyright to MSA) becoming an item needing to be voted on by Council. Article VII. Publications, Section 5. MSA Bylaws gives Council this discretion:

The Society shall own the copyright for the original and any renewal terms for any writing in collected works that are published by the Society. The author of any such writing shall have the right to make a nonprofit or noncommercial use of the work provided that the author affixes to each copy the copyright notice used by the Society when the writing was first published. The author shall have the right to make or authorize for profit or commercial use of any such writing only after first obtaining the written consent of the Society. Copyright ownership may be waived upon approval by the Council.

A. Speer explained the need for his request rests with a new policy at MIT whereby the university will not allow authors to sign away their copyright, as is required for publication in the *American Mineralogist* and *Elements*. There was considerable discussion on this topic ranging from MSA “taking a stand” and not allowing this to “a wait see” idea – meaning that at some point organizations will come to a realization that, while “open access” might seem worthwhile, someone still needs to bear the cost of content creation.

*J. Brady moved to approve the MSA Executive Director’s request. S = M. Gunter. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Action item: After the vote, N. Ross requested that we re-visit this issue at the next council meeting.*

[23] The MSA President has two recommendations for enhancing the “MSA Network”

- a) establish a global network of MSA representatives at 2- and 4-year colleges, universities, government laboratories, museums, and industries. The primary job of these MSA Representatives will be to provide information about the Society and its mission to students and professional colleagues.

*It was SoC that N. Ross should proceed with the activity.*

- b) consider how to use MSA’s Facebook page most effectively for networking and contributing information, discussion, and comments of relevance to MSA and to advertise the activities of MSA to the wider community.

*M. Hirschmann moved to replace MSA’s Group page with a Fan page. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.*

[24] The Executive Director provided an update on the organization of the proposed mineralogy, petrology, volcanology, and geochemistry (MPVG) Division at Geological Society of America.

A. Speer gave a thorough presentation on the current status of the MPVG division specifically pointing out why MSA should be interested and results of a survey. Some supporting discussion ensued, with the main focus of selecting an MSA representative to the MPVG management committee.

*M. Hirschmann moved to approve that Wendy Bohrson be MSA’s representative on the management committee. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously.*

[25] Adjournment

*P. Heaney moved that the Third 2010 Council meeting be adjourned. S = N. Ross.*  
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mickey Gunter, MSA Secretary