

**Minutes of the First 2012 Council Meeting**  
Mineralogical Society of America  
Saturday, 8 October 2011  
Red Wing Room, Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN

Attending:

Mike Hochella, President  
John Hughes, Vice-President  
David Bish, Past President  
Darrell Henry, Treasurer  
Andrea Koziol, Secretary  
Kim Tait, Councilor  
Christine Clark, Councilor  
Pamela Burnley, Councilor  
Sumit Chakraborty, Councilor  
Wendy Bohrson, Councilor  
Guy Hovis, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
John Brady, MSA member  
Mark Van Baalen, MSA member  
Jenny Thomson, Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Barbara Dutrow, MSA member

Note: Motions and Council action items are presented in italics; SoC = sense of Council

ITEMS

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Mike Hochella called the meeting to order at 3:21 PM. He thanked the outgoing officers (Secretary, President, and Past-President) for their work in the past year. All present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of 2012 business matters [1] through [5], listed below.

2012 Budget

[1] Approve 2012 Proposed Budget included in the Treasurer's Report, with any modifications as a result of more-recent Council-approved actions (Section 4 Appendix B, in the Treasurer's Report for the Third 2011 Council Meeting).

Authorization for the Treasurer and Executive Director to Conduct Financial Affairs of the Society

[2] The MSA Treasurer is authorized to conduct the financial affairs of the Society. J. Alexander Speer is the Executive Director of the Society and is authorized to write checks and make other forms of payment and transfers on the Society's accounts as directed by the Treasurer and Council actions.

Acceptance of Committee Appointments for 2012 Council Year

[3] Approve suggested Committee member and chair assignments and other appointed posts (Section 7, Report of the Committee on Committees to the Third 2011 Council).

Appointment of Editors for 2012

[4] Martin Kunz, Ian Swainson and Jennifer Thomson are appointed Editors of the *American Mineralogist*. Jodi Rosso is appointed Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* and *Monograph* series. Andrea Koziol is appointed the MSA Event Editor for *Elements*. Kenneth W. Bladh is appointed Editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*

#### Authorization of Mail and Telephone Ballots

[5] Mail, telephone, e-mail, and Internet ballots may be used whenever necessary and allowed to conduct the affairs of the Society.

#### Conflict of Interest Policy

[6] One requirement of the new IRS Form 990 is that MSA have a procedure to review MSA's Conflict of Interest Policy with Council, have every Council members sign a Conflict of Interest Information Form annually (copies will be brought to the meeting) and that there is a record that this has been done.

Discussion of [3]: the chair of the Kraus Research in Crystallography Committee was modified to Kim Tait and the chair of the Student Research in Mineralogy and Petrology Award Committee was modified to Christine Clark.

*David Bish moved that items [1] through [6] be approved, W. Bohrson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

### 3. Any Items Tabled from the Third 2011 Council Meeting

There were no items to discuss.

### 4. Future of MSA

[7] The Fall, 1996 Council asked that an agenda item on the future of MSA be included at each First Council meeting.

Mike Hochella opened this discussion by remarking that his view is tempered by his interest in other fields, and his experience with other scientific societies, namely the Geochemical Society. Three items he placed before council to discuss:

1. A by-law change to set the term of office for President, Vice-President, and Past President of MSA to be 2 years each.
2. Work with the editors of *American Mineralogist* to redefine and reinvigorate the journal.
3. Work with AGU, the Geochemical Society and the Goldschmidt meeting organizers to promote interactions and increase the visibility of MSA.

Discussion of point 1 followed. Arguments for two-year terms (continuity, time to get projects done) were noted, as were arguments to stay with one year terms (could be less urgency with a two-year term, an inactive president would be inactive for two years, one year works well now, allows more participation by more members). An unintended consequence may be that with 2 year terms, the six year commitment of being Vice President, President, and then Past President may be too long for some potential candidates. Fewer qualified members may be interested in running in the elections.

Mike Hochella asked for sense of council at this time in the discussion. 4 persons favored 2 year terms, 6 favored 1 year terms, and two persons abstained. No council action at this time, but this topic will be revisited.

Discussion of point 2 followed. Mike Hochella noted that the quality of the *American Mineralogist* (*Am Min*) is outstanding. However the impact factor (while just one metric, and just a snapshot in time) is lower that he (and we) would like. He noted that for instance past MSA award winners have not published much in the journal. He asked Jenny Thomson, Editor of *Am Min*, to comment.

Jenny listed several points. The journal now has Virtual Issues. Submissions have picked up this summer. *Am Min* does have competition from other journals. Submission-to-publication times are shorter than previously. Preprints are available on the web.

Discussion followed on why authors submit to different journals. Suggestions included the name (implies just mineralogy papers?), or perception of the journal's 'personality'. *Am Min* is not known for publishing review articles, but it could, and raise its impact factor that way.

The conversation moved into what is a journal today, and in the near future, as the concept of a paper journal may go away. *American Mineralogist* becomes a brand, in a way. All agreed that quality control and careful editing will remain. Good content will increase the impact factor. Jenny Thomson reminded council that one way to get good content is to suggest to colleagues and speakers in sessions to submit future manuscripts to *American Mineralogist*. She also announced that she wishes to end her term as editor in December 2012 and so a search for a new editor should start soon.

There was not time to fully discuss point 3 but Mike Hochella noted that he will be working with the AGU administration. He pointed out that the size and strength of our society, and our ownership of *American Mineralogist*, are the envy of the Geochemical Society and others.

## 5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

## Adjournment

*A motion to end the meeting was made by Wendy Bohrson and seconded by Darrell Henry. Motion passed unanimously at 5:20 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea M. Koziol, Secretary

