

Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive 2024/2025

Date: Tuesday 11 February, 2025

Time: 16:00-17:00

Venue: Zoom

Present: Frank Johnson (Chair), Len Barrie, Yvon Bernier, Sheila Bourque, Erika Brummell (student rep. U. Ottawa), Dawn Conway, Ray Desjardins, Bob Jones, Ada Loewen (student rep. Carleton U.), Mike Manore, Shiliang (Dan) Shan.

Regrets: Michael Brklacich, David Grimes, Peter Kimbell.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, following addition of an item under Other Business.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 14 January, 2025

The minutes were adopted following a correction to item 8 Science Fairs. The item now includes the revised dates of the Kingston Science Fair; and corrects the amounts for prizes and sponsorship.

3. Actions arising

3 a. Follow-up with ECCC and DFO¹

3 b. Senior contact person from ECCC and DFO

These items were deferred pending David Grimes' availability.

Action: David Grimes

3 c. Ingenium Visit

Sheila Bourque reported on interest by David Pantalony in a tour of up to 20 CMOS representatives. This could be in April 2025. She sought advice on how best to offer the tour to CMOS members beyond the Ottawa Executive.

3 d. Calendar Exchange on meeting schedules

Should the CMOS calendar be populated with information on Centre events? Bob Jones responded yes, but that people must be encouraged to consult the calendar. Also, that notices of speakers must be timely. He has contacted other CMOS Centres on how they track our notices of seminar speakers. Ada Loewen reported on plans for a monthly CMOS newsletter, which will include information on seminars. Jones agreed this would be helpful.

3 e. Comments on CMOS Strategy

Any remaining comments on the strategy must be sent to Frank Johnson by February 21.

4. Lunch hour seminars

Mike Manore reviewed his spreadsheet on attendances at seminars, noting that participants from the government, and from 'other/retired' categories had been combined. He commented that records of two talks could not be retrieved; Gordon Griffith will be provided with the names of the speakers involved. Manore noted a decline in zoom participation, though the number of 'views' on the CMOS YouTube Channel indicate a broader reach than just the real-time Zoom participants. Len Barrie suggested people were perhaps saturated by luncheon events.

5 Review of previous noon-hour seminars

5 a. Craig Stewart's talk of January 16 was deemed very good.

¹ Environment and Climate Change Canada; Fisheries and Oceans Canada

5 b. UPEC Meeting, January 22-23, 2025. Ada Loewen informed members that the report of the CMOS University and Professional Education Committee would be available at a future date.

6 Upcoming Talks

6 a. The **February 20 seminar** will be by three Carleton University doctoral students who will present their research on northern peatlands.

6 b. On **March 20, Ruping Mo** will talk about Atmospheric Rivers. Bob Jones has details on the talk.

6 c. Peter Galbraith will talk about the Gulf of St Lawrence on April 17. Frank Johnson has the details.

6 d. Sheila has requested information on the **CMOS tour speaker**.

6 e. Other speaker suggestions

The following were mentioned:

- Scot Glen on Sail Drones
- Igor Shkvorets on Sail for Science
- Mike Brklacich
- Montreal speakers

Mike Brklacich had asked if the group would be interested in a talk on Climate Change Anxiety or on Environment and Security, e.g., Climate Change Resilience or Food Security Resilience. Members agreed to these topics, noting that the food security topic must be related to climate change.

Clarification of 'food security' was requested. Ray Desjardins will look into information and expertise at Agriculture and AgriFood Canada.

Action: Frank Johnson will respond to Mike Brklacich.

7 Updates on Science Fairs in 2025

7 a. Outaouais Regional Science Fair: The date of this Fair is March 14 – 16. A new person is in charge and has been sent information by Yvon Bernier on how we have accorded prizes in the past. Bernier will work with Serge Nadon on judging.

7 b. Kingston Science Fair: Dan Shan reported that the website for the fair has been updated and the date of the Fair has been advanced by one week. We must now set up the awards, which will be similar to awards at the Ottawa Regional Science Fair. He will contact the awards coordinator and inform him that we normally receive an invoice then send a cheque for \$500 (awards of \$100 and \$200 plus \$200 for sponsorship). Judges will be Dr. Jennifer Shore, Associate Dean of Science (RMC) and Dr. Dan Shan. An additional judge from civil engineering may be considered. Students sometimes make a brief video on their projects.

Regarding how students know that CMOS is the prize donor, Len Barrie responded that this is through a plaque and a framed certificate.

Erika Brummell described the process of awards in 2024 at the CMOS awards session.

7 c. Ottawa Regional Science Fair: Arrangements are on track and consistent with past procedures.

8 Finances

8 a. Update on Finances. Yvon Bernier reported that once information is received on bank interest gained on GICs, the financial statement will be finalized for the Annual Report to CMOS, which is due 7 March, 2025.

8 b. Membership list for Ottawa Centre. The 2024 membership is complete at 73, and our subvention was based on that. The 2025 memberships are now being renewed. Bob Jones will advise later on changes over the 2024 list.

Action: Bob Jones

8 c. Support for student attendance at CMOS Congresses

Previous discussion had confirmed the intent of covering the registration fee for students involved in the Ottawa Centre Executive. This was endorsed. Discussion followed on whether the Executive should open coverage up to other students. It was agreed that the 2025 registration fees of Ada Loewen would be covered; and that Frank Johnson would bring a proposal back to the Executive, concerning expansion to other students.

Action: Frank Johnson

9 Executive Committee for 2025-26

Dawn Conway reminded members it is time to renew Executive membership. She called for suggestions for new members and for current members to inform her if they are not able to continue on the Executive. Bob Jones and Dawn Conway will prepare a message to members on this matter.

Action: Bob Jones and Dawn Conway

10 Other Business

Len Barrie reported the concerns of U.S. colleagues on the erosion of support for climate studies in the USA. CMOS has sent a letter of support to them. Len Barrie, Frank Johnson and David Grimes will review the matter and decide if another message should be prepared; and the press alerted to the concerns of the Canadian community. Frank Johnson noted that RBR (Canadian Oceanographic instrumentation company) is very concerned about this matter.

Action: Len Barrie, Frank Johnson and David Grimes

11 Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Executive will be by Zoom, starting at 4 p.m. on 8 April, 2025.

12 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:00