

Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive 2024/2025

Date: Tuesday 14 January, 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.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 26 November, 2024

The minutes were adopted following minor edits to items 6 (paragraph 3) and 11 (paragraph 2).

3. Actions arising

3.1 Letter to lapsed members

This action was deemed of limited success. The Centre continues to have ~ 73-74 members.

3.2 Senior contact person from ECCC and DFO¹

David Grimes will continue to follow up with the ADM at ECCC. Delays with the Department's response are likely due to prorogation; and changes in the P.M.'s office. A senior contact at DFO is still to be identified.

Action: David Grimes

3.3 Student talks - Discussion was deferred.

4. Ingenium Visit

Sheila Bourque is following up on a possible visit and has contacted David Pantalony by email. The Arctic Circle group is planning a tour of storage facilities containing historical artifacts or observations. The question was raised whether this could be combined with a CMOS visit. Ada Loewen, a teaching assistant for a course on weather and water, wishes a visit for her students. Pantalony limits public tours of the facilities to around 20; whereas Ada's class has as many as 100 students. Mike Manore will explore interest in a tour with colleagues on the observing side.

Action: Sheila Bourque to follow up on a visit; and to introduce Ada Loewen to Pantalony.

5. Lunch hour seminars

Twenty-eight people have registered for the January 16, 2025 talk by Craig Stewart.

Mike Manore explained his spreadsheet on attendances at seminars from 2021 to present, noting a slow decline in attendance, as well as some peaks. The data does not detail registrants vs. actual attendees (approx. 60% of registrants). Most attendees are from the general public or retirees, as well as academics. Sheila Bourque wondered whether students registered as academics or 'other'. David Grimes suggested the trends in registration could indicate perceived relevance. Attendees could be asked where their interests lie. Grimes offered to raise this in discussions with ADMs.

¹ Environment and Climate Change Canada; Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mike Manore suggested promotion of talks to other CMOS Centres. Bob Jones observed that delays in publicity reduce attendance; and agreed some notices may end up in spam folders. He also noted a need for more speakers from federal departments.

6. Upcoming talks

- a) Craig Stewart will speak on January 16. Dawn Conway will introduce him. Mike Brklacich will handle the Question-and-Answer session.
 - b) Ada Loewen reported there would be a meeting of the CMOS University and Professional Education Committee (UPEC) on January 22-23.
 - c) The February 20 seminar will be by three Carleton University doctoral students who will present their research on northern peatlands. Ada will contact Erika Brummell to see if she can chair this seminar.
 - d) On March 20, Ruping Mo will talk about Atmospheric Rivers. Peter Kimbell will follow up to get the title and an abstract.
 - e) Peter Galbraith will talk about the Gulf of St Lawrence on April 17. Frank Johnson will firm up details.
- Action:** Ada Loewen; Peter Kimbell and Frank Johnson.

7. Review of the previous lunch-hour seminars – Nothing to report

8. Updates on Science Fairs in 2025

Outaouais: Yvon Bernier is still trying to contact the organizers. He suggests providing the same prizes as last year.

Action: Yvon Bernier to continue trying to contact the organizers.

Kingston: The Kingston Science Fair is on Thursday and Friday, March 20 and 21. Dan Shan has been in touch with the organizers who have agreed to set up awards totalling \$300 (prizes of \$100 and \$200), plus \$200 for sponsorship. He awaits a response from the organizers.

Ottawa Science Fair: Len Barrie has been in touch with the lead person and is the liaison with the Ottawa Regional Science Fair management. Ray Desjardins and Erika Brummell (t.b.c.) will judge; Ward had offered to be the CMOS lead but has a scheduling conflict, hence Len Barrie will lead this year. Ada Loewen will judge if her schedule allows. Len expressed a need for another bilingual member. Prizes are \$100 and \$200 in cash prizes plus a sponsorship of \$350.

9. Update on Finances

Yvon Bernier reported that the financial statement for 2024 is in preparation. He awaits information from the bank on interest. A \$5,000 Guaranteed Investment Certificate matured in November 2024 and had yielded \$450 in interest. A new GIC had been purchased for \$6,000. The centre's assets are currently \$11,405

10. CMOS Regional Chairs meeting

Frank Johnson had circulated a summary of the November 5 Regional Chairs meeting. Other Centres have membership concerns (e.g., BC's membership is down 17%). The Montreal Centre has few seminars but attends Ottawa's. There is overlap with Toronto seminars, so better coordination is needed. Frank Johnson proposed sending other Centre Chairs information on our speakers and meetings, but was wary of imposing more bureaucracy. The National CMOS Office puts their information on line: Len Barrie suggested they be asked to post information on our meetings. Mike Manore proposed we request that Centre Chairs circulate our meeting information, and that they be asked to inform us of their meetings. He also suggested that lists of seminars be seasonal. David Grimes thought that action should be more than a simple posting of seminars on others' websites; for example, Gordon Griffith could be asked to send a reminder of talks to all CMOS members.

Action: Frank Johnson will work with Bob Jones on how best to advertise our seminars to other Centres.

CMOS Strategy

The CMOS Draft Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2030 had also been distributed. Comments on the Plan should be submitted by the end of January 2025.

11. Other Business - none**12. Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Executive will be by Zoom, starting at 4 p.m. on Tuesday February 11, 2025.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 17:00