Meeting of the CMOS Ottawa Centre Executive

Date: Tuesday August 29, 2023, by zoom. Time: 15:00-16:30

Present: Leonard Barrie (Chair), Yvon Bernier, Denis Bourque, Sheila Bourque, Erika Brummell (student rep. U. of Ottawa), Dawn Conway, David Grimes, Frank Johnson (part of meeting), Bob Jones, Peter Kimbell, Ada Loewen (student rep. Carleton U.), Ann McMillan, Shiliang (Dan) Shan, Ward Smith, John Stone
Not present: Ray Desjardins

Len Barrie opened the meeting and welcomed Erika Brummell.

1 **Adoption of the agenda**
The agenda was adopted by consensus.

2 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of June 27, 2023
The minutes were adopted by consensus.

3. Actions arising
These are covered under item 5.

4 Financial Update
Yvon Bernier commented that there had been nothing new since the June 27 report.

5. Ottawa Centre Activities for 2023-2024
5 a Len Barrie reiterated his welcome to Erika Brummell and summarized Centre activities. She was informed that the Executive had decided to support the registration fees of Ottawa Executive student representatives to CMOS Congresses.

5 b Monthly lunch-hour seminars
Len Barrie reviewed upcoming and confirmed seminars:

Sabah Ibrahim, 21 September: “Winning the Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency”. Len Barrie will introduce her.
Action: Len Barrie to confirm any remaining details.

David Sills, 19 October: “The Northern Tornadoes Project: What We’ve Learned About Tornadoes, Downbursts and Derechos in Canada”. This will complement a previous talk on severe weather. **Action:** David Grimes will take the lead at the seminar.

David Grimes has confirmed that Craig McLean of NOAA will give a talk, potentially on the priorities and ongoing actions for the ‘Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development’ (2021-2030) or on the Global Ocean Observing system (GOOS).
Action: Confirm date of talk. David Grimes to take the lead at the event.

Ward Smith confirmed that Andrew VanderZaag is willing to give a seminar.

Action: Ward Smith to confirm details at the next meeting.

Michel Jean has confirmed he will speak in 2024. David Grimes has suggested this be in February or March. Jean could speak on monthly to seasonal evolution of weather forecasting; steps being taken in earth system modelling; or interactions with artificial intelligence.
Action: David Grimes will explore the topic and date of a talk, with Michel Jean.

Len Barrie confirmed that Gilbert Brunet will be in Canada in January and will give a seminar on January 11 on a topic such as 'The Status of Monthly to Seasonal Weather Forecasting'.
Action: Len Barrie will arrange for an abstract to be sent to Bob Jones.

Bob Jones reported that there had been a very good session at the CMOS Congress on the role of artificial intelligence in weather prediction. John Stone also informed members of an excellent article in The Economist.

Ada Loewen will discuss a possible seminar date with Joanna Dean (Assoc. Prof. at Carleton U.). April was suggested, but an earlier month is also possible.
Action: Len Barrie will work with Ada Loewen on a date.

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Peter Kimbell is looking into a speaker on forest fires, for 2024. Possibilities include Mike Flannigan (University of Thompson Rivers, Kamloops) or Yan Boulanger (NRCan).

Len Barrie is checking plans for the CMOS Tour Speaker with Gordon Griffith, CMOS Executive Director. Ann McMillan will check on the SCOR[1] speaker.

Dawn Conway proposed Craig Stewart as a future speaker. Stewart is the V-P for Climate and Federal Affairs for the Insurance Bureau of Canada. There was general interest in this speaker especially if he were to consider demographic elements and the impact of climate change on the insurance sector.
Action: Dawn Conway to follow up.

Discussion followed on how best to advertise our talks, and on putting them on CMOS regional and national websites. Sheila Bourque suggested raising this issue at the September 5 meeting of CMOS chairs.

5 c Discussion of Future Meetings: Outcome of Member Survey
Denis Bourque summarized the results of the July survey on the nature of future meetings. 660 people had received it and 100 had responded. Seventy were CMOS members, half of whom were retired. Most preferred a virtual (and not a hybrid) talk. Denis Bourque will compile and distribute further information, including on member interest in in-person meetings without a seminar. This could include a site visit or event at a museum. **Action completed.**
Ada Loewen commented on the value of in person seminars for connecting student to other organizations.

Members concluded that we should stick with the current pattern of virtual meetings. If an interesting opportunity arises, a seminar could then be arranged around it.

[1] Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research

Denis Bourque noted the interest in recordings of past seminars and the relative ease of arranging virtual speakers. He also pointed out that the Ottawa Centre is one of the two most active in Canada.

Erika Brummell informed members that the seminar series at the University of Ottawa (Geography Department) could provide an opportunity for hybrid events. She also indicated he experience and knowlege about running the hybrid Zoom equipment.

The ad hoc committee's work is now complete and the committee is disbanded. Len Barrie thanked the members for their work.

5 d Museum of Science and Technology and CMOS
Sheila Bourque reported that the Ottawa Centre had established contact with the Museum prior to the pandemic. There is now a new contact person and she has linked with that person. Sheila will follow up on this in September when staff are back from summer breaks.

John Stone commented that a joint project with the Museum of Science and Technology is proposed. The Museum has a small display on climate change: we could improve on it and propose a joint talk with the museum. It was noted that anything we proposed would have to fit the museum's business plan and agenda of activities.

Frank Johnson reported that we have received an invitation (from Pantalone) to look around the Museum's archives. He and Sheila Bourque will collaborate on what we could do with the Museum and will meet with people there as necessary. Frank Johnson will channel relevant information to Len Barrie.
Action: The Executive will discuss links with the Museum again, at its next meeting.

6 Other business
David Grimes will replace Len Barrie at the September 5 meeting of Centre Chairs.

7 Date of the next Executive meeting
The next meeting will be by zoom on **Tuesday September 26, from 15:00 to 16:30** hours

8 Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 16:30.