

45 BEACON

LETTER FROM HEADQUARTERS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011 NOW AVAILABLE

The 2011 Annual Report, which covers the highlights of the Society's various programs over the course of the prior calendar year, was recently posted on the AMS website. It will be linked to prominently from the home page for the next few months, but will always be available—along with the reports from prior years—on the pages that provide the documentation on the Society's administration.

It is hard to characterize 2011 as anything but very successful in terms of the various programs and initiatives of the Society. The Annual Meeting always seems to set a tone for the coming months as it kicks off the year in January. The 2011 Annual Meeting in Seattle was well attended, and its theme of communications resonated with the community throughout the various components of the meeting. Building on many ideas introduced at the Seattle meeting, and applied to a theme of technological advances in our community, AMS President Jon Malay worked with the organizing committee over the course of last year to prepare for the 2012 Annual Meeting that would kick off the current year just as successfully.

The AMS journals completed the recovery from the prior year's data loss with less impact on the production times than had been feared (though we deeply regret the impact of the data loss on those authors whose papers were directly affected), and ended the year with strong submissions. Despite the economic uncertainties, the important meetings throughout the year organized by boards and committees within the STAC, Professional Affairs, and Weather and Climate Enterprise commissions were well attended and programmatically successful. Efforts to expand the breadth of the community served by the AMS were realized with the creation

of several new boards and committees that reach into sciences that intersect with the atmospheric sciences. The Society's certification programs, educational initiatives, and input to national policy discussions were also vibrant. A review of the highlights summarized in the 2011 Annual Report will show the Society to be focused on its mission and making great progress toward its goals and objectives through the efforts of more than 900 volunteers serving in the various boards and committees who are listed in the report. In addition, there are more than 1,000 dedicated volunteers who serve as journal manuscript reviewers who also help to carry out the work of the AMS.

The acquisition of the building next door to the longtime AMS Headquarters at 45 Beacon Street in Boston was reported in the 2010 Annual Report, but 2011 represented the year that the 44 Beacon Street property was integrated into the Headquarters operation. The relatively minor, but time-consuming, renovations required to bring the space into compliance with various fire and safety codes, as well as upgrading the physical systems without compromising the historical character of the building, ended up taking most of the year. As reconfiguration of staff started taking shape in late 2011, the economic value of this acquisition began being realized. The additional space allowed existing departments to reconfigure in ways that led to more efficient operations, and several staff positions that support the Society's publications operations, which had been located elsewhere, began the process of being consolidated at Headquarters. This consolidation of staff has already led to increased levels of support with decreased cost. It is projected that the savings from these efforts will soon reach a level close to

the annual debt service on the building—meaning that what was already a prudent investment for the Society goes well beyond that.

I encourage you all to take a few minutes to peruse the 2011 Annual Report available on the AMS website. I am confident you will be proud of all that the Society accomplished last year on behalf of our community, and many of you will be surprised at the breadth of

the initiatives that continue to serve not only our community, but society as a whole.

KEITH L. SEITTER, CCM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OBITUARIES

David Ian Francis Grimes, leader in African meteorology, died on 22 December 2011 at the age of 60 following the sudden onset of a rare neurological disorder, the sporadic form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

David joined the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading, United Kingdom, in 1990, from where he recently received his long-service award. David was renowned for the care that he showed to students, playing major roles in the administration of both undergraduate and masters' courses over many years. Students recall the warmth of David's welcomes on their arrival at Reading, as he was often the first member of staff that they met. David was a skilled and dedicated teacher, often illustrating his lectures with his own, sometimes very amusing, cartoons. He also contributed to and led many field trips with his characteristic energy and humor.

DAVID GRIMES 1951–2011

David trained as a physicist, and after spells at the University of Leicester and the Open University, he moved to Reading to perform research on the use of satellite data to monitor rainfall over the whole of Africa. His scientific drive was accompanied by an equally strong desire to insure that the science that he did was of clear benefit to those whose lives are reliant on what the weather brings. He joined the Department's TAMSAT (Tropical Applications of Meteorology using SATellite data and ground-based observations) research group, and took over its leadership in the mid-1990s. TAMSAT produces data that allow African meteorologists to monitor the progress of their rainy seasons and to give early warning of floods and droughts. With more than 20 years of satellite data now

available, the same data are being used to understand African climate change and climate variability.

The longevity of TAMSAT as a force in African meteorology comes down to an underlying simplicity of method that has proven itself time and again to be more robust than apparently more sophisticated methods. David authored or coauthored 27 papers on various aspects of African rainfall, exploring novel approaches to exploiting data that led to links with hydrologists, statisticians, and agricultural scientists, in Reading and beyond, which made TAMSAT's work of even more relevance to real-world problems. David was also passionate about training and inspiring new generations of African scientists, which he achieved either via many training schools in Africa or by attracting African scientists to Reading. He was also often frustrated by the bureaucratic barriers that prevented African students from coming to Reading to train, and showed no fear in challenging such decisions.

In 2010, TAMSAT received the "IBM Award for Meteorological Innovation that Matters," which is administered by the Royal Meteorological Society. In the citation for that award it states that TAMSAT

"continues to deliver massive benefits to Africa in terms of essential rainfall predictions, through the use of satellites. Operationally, the rainfall products generated by TAMSAT are used extensively by African weather services, providing a unique and essential



David Grimes

IN MEMORIAM

SCOTT FORREST ARCHER
1954–2011

source of data. This technology providing precipitation information is of such importance in developing regions, that it merits this recognition. From its inception, TAMSAT have shown how even the early generations of satellite technology can be harnessed quantitatively to provide vital rainfall information over a wide region.”

David will be greatly missed and remembered with great affection, not only by his friends, colleagues, and students in the Department of Meteorology, but also by meteorologists all over Africa and beyond who David has influenced via either his teaching or his research collaborations.

— KEITH SHINE

GOING GREEN

Introducing the AMS Committee on Environmental Responsibility

If AMS had a “team color,” you might imagine that it’s blue, given the Society’s blue logo and its scientific focus on the sky and seas. But AMS has been going green. Over the past couple of years, the Society has been focusing on the environmental impact of its activities and trying to have a gentler footprint. The professional staff, elected leadership, and volunteer members are all involved with this green initiative, coordinated by the newly established Committee on Environmental Responsibility. Over the next several months, the “45 Beacon” section of *BAMS* will feature short stories on some of the committee’s activities. This month, we describe the committee’s genesis, a “grassroots” movement, appropriately enough.

For years, AMS member Eugene Cordero, professor of meteorology and climate science at San Jose State University and coauthor (with Laura Stec) of the book *Cool Cuisine: Taking the Bite out of Global Warming*, had been concerned about food service at AMS Annual Meetings. From the amount of wasted food, to the lack of recycling bins for disposable food containers, to the choice of menu items, Eugene saw opportunities for more environmentally responsible choices and raised the issue with the AMS Council. In April 2007, the AMS Executive Committee established an Ad Hoc Committee on Green Meetings, chaired by Eugene, to develop recommendations for environmentally responsible practices for AMS meetings, including food service. The result was the AMS Green Conference Guidelines, adopted by the Council in September 2007 and implemented at the 2008 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We’ll report on the specifics of these guidelines next month.

To build on the Ad Hoc Committee’s work on green meetings, the Executive Committee established

the Committee on Environmental Responsibility, as a standing committee of the Executive Council, in April 2009. That committee’s responsibilities are “[t]o seek to improve the environmental responsibility of the Society’s operations, to strive to make the Society a leading example of effective environmental stewardship, and to serve as a source of information for others with similar aspirations.” Dian Seidel of the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory currently chairs the committee of 14 members, including two student members. You can visit the committee website for terms of reference, membership roster, and work plan at www.ametsoc.org/committeepages/envres/index.html.

In the coming months, look for more stories in “45 Beacon” on enhancing energy efficiency in AMS office buildings, environmentally responsible investment strategies for the AMS portfolio, greening AMS publications, community outreach at AMS Annual Meetings, and more.

CERTIFIED CONSULTING METEOROLOGISTS (CCM)

The following individuals were recently granted the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) designation. For more information on the AMS CCM program, go to www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html#ccm.

679	Lance Steele	2012
680	Richard Walker Jr.	2012
681	Stephen Mark Leidner	2012
682	Ronald Lowther	2012
683	Daniel Lennartson	2012

David C. Curtis has been appointed to a three-year term on the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)'s Climate Change Technical Advisory Group (CCTAG). Curtis joins experts from both the public and private sectors and academia as a panelist responsible for advising DWR on the scientific aspects of climate change, its impacts on water resources, the use and creation of planning approaches and analytical tools, and the development of adaptation responses for California's water sector.

For the past 40 years, Curtis has worked designing, developing, and implementing award-winning innovations in more than 50 automated river- and flood-monitoring systems across the United States

and in 18 countries abroad. His most recent work involves applying new climate and weather information technologies such as radar-rainfall and satellite estimates to flood warning, hydrologic analysis, and modeling. He has led several state-of-the-art efforts utilizing gauge-adjusted radar rainfall estimates to develop improved design storms that potentially impact hydrologic standards throughout the United States.

Curtis is vice president of Northern California of WEST Consultants, as well as the current president of the National Hydrologic Warning Council.

WEST Consultants is a water resources engineering firm with more than 60 employees in seven offices in Oregon, Washington, California, and Arizona.

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

22–23 September 2011, Boston, Massachusetts

Participants—President Jon Malay, President-Elect Louis Uccellini, Past-President Peggy LeMone, Executive Director Keith Seitter, and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen. Councilors: Ken Carey, Anne Douglass, Mike Hardesty, Jill Hasling, Peter Lamb, Rebecca Morss, Pat Phoebus, Bill Read, John Schaake, Richard Spinrad, Joe Witte, and Xubin Zeng. Commissioners: David Jorgensen (Publications), Jay Trobec (Professional Affairs), Mary Cairns (STAC), Gene Takle (Education and Human Resources), Len Pietrafesa (Weather and Climate Enterprise), and Julie Winkler (Planning). Past-President Tom Karl, and Councilors Tom Bogdan, Lee Branscome, and Ahsha Tribble were absent. AMS Staff: Joyce Annese, Stephanie Armstrong, James Brey, Melissa Fernau, Claudia Gorski, Ken Heideman, Paul Higgins, William Hooke, Barry Mohan,

Anne McDonough, Gary Rasmussen, and Melissa Weston. Annese and Seitter served as recorders.

[The numbering of the following sections follows that in the agenda, but the sections are listed in the order they were addressed at the meeting.]

0.0 AGENDA. President Malay called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, 22 September 2011, and welcomed all. The roll was called, and Secretary-Treasurer Rosen announced a quorum of voting members was present. President Malay reviewed the agenda.

1.3 COUNCIL MINUTES. The Council reviewed and approved the minutes from its meeting in Seattle, WA, 23 January 2011, and approved the minutes of its conference call on 3 January 2011.

1.5 COUNCIL MAIL BALLOTS. All Council e-mail ballots not previously approved unanimously were formally approved, and ballots that were “provisionally approved” were formally approved.

2.1 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION. Commissioner Cairns presented her report. The Council approved forming a Board on Environment and Health (BEH) and asked final terms of reference be provided in January. The Council approved converting the Ad Hoc Committee on Data Stewardship under the Executive Committee (EC) to a Board on Data Stewardship within STAC, but with recommendations for initial membership of the Board and modifications to its terms of reference, which will be presented in January for final approval. The

Council also approved converting the IIPS Committee under the EC to a STAC Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies (BEIPT). The terms of reference and membership for the Board were approved by the Council.

Commissioner Cairns requested and received Council approval for a named symposium in honor of Robert Duce for the 2013 Annual Meeting. She also reviewed other activities within the Commission, including recommendations for named symposia beyond 2013. Commissioner Cairns had concerns about a request for an international meeting given the state of the economy, and asked Council for their thoughts before the Radar Committee went through the work of putting together a formal proposal. The Council felt international outreach is important, especially with strong radar interests in Asia, and would be supportive of the proposal for a meeting in Japan in 2013.

The proposal for an AMS Statement on Social Sciences was reviewed, and the Council approved moving forward with the Statement while requesting that a more specific title be developed.

[The Council briefly recessed from 9:55 A.M. to 10:05 A.M.]

2.1 PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION. Commissioner Jorgensen commended the Publications Department for its efforts in implementing the new manuscript tracking system. He also reported on the reduction in color charges to authors, the plans to do an author survey, publication submissions, and appointments of new editors. It was suggested that the Board on Weather Analysis and Forecast-

ing approach the Department of Defense to engage that portion of the operational forecasting community. The Council approved the appointment to three-year terms ending in 2015 for David A. Kristovich, Chief Editor, *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*; Christa D. Peters-Lidard, Chief Editor, *Journal of Hydrometeorology*; and Paul M. Markowski, Chief Editor, *Weather Analysis and Forecasting*.

2.2.1 AN OPEN-ACCESS CHOICE FOR AUTHORS PUBLISHING IN AMS JOURNALS. Commissioner Jorgensen explained this option and the added fee for this service. The Council approved having the staff introduce an open-choice option for authors as soon as the details of pricing and implementation could be resolved.

2.2 PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER. Commissioner Trobec summarized activities of the Commission over the past year and provided a brief review of the boards under his Commission, along with appointments of new members.

2.4 EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSION. Commissioner Takle reviewed the activities of the Commission and provided reports from the boards within his Commission.

2.4.1 EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSIONER. Commissioner Takle completes his three-year term in January. The EC presented two candidates to replace Commissioner Takle, and after discussion, the Council approved

David A. Smith as the new Education and Human Resources Commissioner for a term ending January 2015. The Council commended Commissioner Takle for his service.

2.5 PLANNING COMMISSION. Commissioner Winkler reported on efforts within the Commission to review progress on recommendations coming from both the 2006 External Review Report and the 2007 AMS Strategic Goals document and associated implementation plans. Commissioner Winkler asked each commissioner to provide updates to their Strategic Goals Implementation Plan by 1 November. The Planning Commission will have a preliminary report in January for the Council.

Commissioner Winkler also presented a recommendation to consider a young professional for appointment to the Fifth Councilor position this year. Possible candidates for Fifth Councilor were discussed in preparation for a later agenda item on this appointment. The Council approved Wendy Abshire to a four-year term on the Commission ending January 2016.

2.6 WEATHER AND CLIMATE ENTERPRISE COMMISSION. Commissioner Pietrafesa presented his report, which included proposed changes to the Organizational Procedures for his Commission to codify current structure and practice. The Council approved the proposed changes, as well as the proposed new membership list for the Commission's Steering Committee. In response to a request for guidance about possible emeritus or legacy appointments to the Steering

Committee, the Council stated its preference for a rotation of members and that past members should not formally continue serving after their terms expire.

2.6.1 WEATHER AND CLIMATE ENTERPRISE FUTURE COMMISSIONER.

President Malay reported the discussion by the EC about possible candidates for future commissioner and its recommendation that Mary Glackin serve as the new future commissioner. The Council approved the recommendation.

[The Council recessed for lunch from 12:25 P.M. to 1:15 P.M.]

3.1 AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STATEMENTS.

Councilor Morss, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Statements, presented her report on dealing with statements approved prior to 2007. The Council commended the Committee for its efforts and accepted its recommendations as amended. The Council discussed the desirability of continuing to make out-of-force statements available on the AMS website, but in a manner that clearly identified them as no longer in force. The Council charged the Executive Director with implementing the report's recommendations.

3.3 STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC EXPRESSION.

After discussion, the Council voted to approve the EC as the drafting committee for a revised Statement.

3.4 STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

After a lengthy discussion led by Councilor Lamb, who is the Council representative to the drafting

committee, the Council agreed to an approach toward a new draft of the statement that builds on the 2007 version of the statement. The Council thanked the drafting committee for its efforts to date and expressed its desire for the committee to continue working toward a draft that incorporates the Council's discussion.

3.5 STATUS OF STATEMENTS IN PROCESS.

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the status of other Statements in progress.

4.1 STATUS OF 2011 BUDGET.

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the status of the 2011 budget and projections for the remainder of the year.

[The Council briefly recessed from 3:30 P.M. to 3:45 P.M.]

4.2 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET.

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the Society's performance versus budget for 2010 and the 2011 revised budget. He then proposed a budget for 2012, which was recommended for approval by the EC. After discussion on various aspects of the budget, the Council voted to accept the 2012 budget as proposed.

4.3 UNA REPORT.

The Council was provided a history of the Society's financial reserves, including its unrestricted net assets, for the past 15 years.

4.4 BUDGET CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES.

Executive Director Seitter presented the guidelines, which were approved by the Council in 2009 and are to be reviewed annually.

4.5 PAGE-CHARGE WAIVER COMMITTEE.

Publications Director Heideman reported on the success of the page-charge waiver system. Councilors Morss and Hardesty complete their terms on the Waiver Committee in January, and the Council thanked them for their service. Councilors Zeng and Read volunteered to serve on this Committee, and Councilor Schaake agreed to continue his service.

5.1 AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT.

Past-President LeMone reviewed the process followed by the Committee. The Council considered the list of proposed awardees and citations, and it voted to approve all those proposed. The Council was provided an updated description for the Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist in advance of further discussion the next day.

5.2 AWARDS NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT.

The report forwarded by Joe Friday was reviewed, and the Council expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Committee. The Council concurred with the recommendation that the chair of the Committee serve as non-voting ex officio on the Awards Oversight Committee to facilitate communication between the two committees.

5.3 PROPOSAL FOR NAMING A ROOM.

Past-President LeMone discussed the proposal for naming a room at AMS Headquarters in honor of Joanne Simpson, in addition to those named in honor of Rossby, Brooks, and Spengler. The policy approved in

January calls for the Council to invite a small number of letters of support for consideration at its next meeting. Several councilors volunteered to secure the required letters.

5.4 POLICY, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES FOR AWARDS.

Past-President LeMone reviewed the changes to this document requested by STAC Commissioner Cairns. The majority of these changes are intended to clarify procedures for several of the awards, including the creation of separate categories and procedures for Society and Commission awards. The Council approved the proposed changes, and President Malay thanked LeMone and others for their efforts to date, recognizing that more work on the procedures will be needed over the next year.

5.5 WEXLER MEMORIAL LECTURE.

Executive Director Seitter presented a proposal from the History Committee to reestablish the Wexler Memorial Lecture. The award was given only a few times after its creation in 1961, and a review of various options led to the decision that further discussion be held the following day.

6.0 PROPOSED AMS FELLOWS.

In the absence of Past-President and Chair of the Fellows Committee Karl, President Malay presented the list of proposed new Fellows. Council discussed and approved the following candidates for Fellows:

Philip E. Ardanuy
Anthony J. Broccoli
Richard D. Clark
Timothy J. Dunkerton
Chris Elfring

Charles W. French
Richard Grumm
Fiona M. Horsfall
Christian D. Kummerow
Francois X. LeDimet
Zhengyu Liu
Donald R. MacGorman
Frank J. Misciasci
Paul Newman
Edward A. O'Lenic
Harry A. Otten
David Pace
Christa D. Peters-Lidard
Robert Pinkel
Gerald Potter
Mark Powell, CCM
William L. Read
David Robinson
Steven Root, CCM
Lynn K. (Nick) Shay
Roland B. Stull, CCM
Eugene S. Takle, CCM
H. Joe Witte
Marilyn M. Wolfson
Donald J. Wuebbles

President Malay reminded the Council that Cleveland Abbe Award winner Chris Elfring and Stommel Award winner Robert Pinkel were elevated to Fellow in conjunction with receiving these top AMS Awards. Councilors Read and Witte recused themselves from the discussion and vote.

[The Council adjourned for the day at 5:35 P.M. The meeting resumed at 8:00 A.M. on 23 September 2011 with the same voting and ex officio members present.]

7.0 HONORARY MEMBERS.

The Council discussed and voted to approve Wilfried Brutsaert, J. Michael Wallace, and Yoshi K. Sasaki as 2012 Honorary Members.

5.1 (CONTINUED) AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT.

Past-President LeMone continued the discussion from yesterday regarding the Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist, and the Council approved the terms of reference for this new award.

8.0 FELLOWS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS COMMITTEES FOR 2012.

The Council discussed and approved Eileen Shea and Jim Block as members of the Fellows Committee for three-year terms ending January 2015. The Council approved the appointment of Mike Gregg, John Dutton, and Dick Johnson as members of the Awards Nominations Committee for three-year terms ending 2015.

9.0 CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES.

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the process for revising the constitution, bylaws, and organizational procedures of the Society in preparation for the discussion of the following three items.

9.1 MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION [ARTICLE III].

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the proposed constitutional changes for membership criteria that had been developed through extensive discussions over the past year. The Council approved the proposed language subject to review by AMS legal counsel, with the intention of approving in January the amendments prepared for member consideration and vote later in 2012. A related change to the bylaws will be prepared and submitted to each member of the Council at least 30 days in advance of the Council meeting in January

to allow the Council to approve this amendment then.

9.2 ELECTION RULES CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION [ARTICLE VI].

Executive Director Seitter presented the proposed constitutional changes to allow additional flexibility in setting the structure of the Council ballot and to modify the date for closing the election. The Council approved the proposed language subject to review by AMS legal counsel, with the intention of approving in January the amendments prepared for member consideration and vote later in 2012.

9.3 PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION [ARTICLE XII].

Executive Director Seitter presented a minor change, proposed by the Planning Commission, to the professional guidelines of the constitution. The Council approved the proposed language subject to review by AMS legal counsel, with the intention of approving in January the amendments prepared for member consideration and vote later in 2012.

10.1 HISTORY COMMITTEE.

President Malay briefed the Council on the report from the History Committee.

10.2 IIPS COMMITTEE.

President Malay reviewed the report from the IIPS Committee and declared this the final report of the Committee, which now falls under STAC as the Environmental Information Processing Technologies Board. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Committee, especially cochairs Whittaker and Roberts and STAC Commissioner

Cairns, for their hard work in the transition of this Committee.

10.3 LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

President Malay reviewed the Local Chapter Affairs report and applauded all the efforts by the local chapters for the Society.

10.4 INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE.

Executive Director Seitter and Controller Mohan provided information on the Society's investment portfolio.

10.5 ANNUAL MEETING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

President Malay reviewed the report of this Committee and expressed his appreciation for the work it has done.

10.6 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

Executive Director Seitter briefly reviewed the plans being discussed in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the Society.

10.7 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT.

Councilor Carey, chair of the Membership Committee, reviewed ongoing activities of the Committee, including working more closely with local chapters, increasing the participation of young professionals, and reaching out to the geography community.

10.8 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE.

Executive Director Seitter presented the report of this Committee. President Malay stated he will become the EC's liaison to the Committee.

10.9 AD HOC ON DATA STEWARDSHIP COMMIT-

TEE. Executive Director Seitter noted this will be the last report from this Committee given its transition to STAC as the Board on Data Stewardship.

11.0 FIFTH COUNCILOR.

The Council discussed the recommendation from the Planning Commission to appoint a young professional as fifth councilor. The Council agreed on the need for input from younger members in the governance, but after considerable discussion the consensus of the Council was that there had been success in recent years in electing young professionals to the Council, and the Nominating Committee should continue to work toward including such individuals on the ballot. The Council agreed to consider candidates from the following areas: private sector, broadcasters, sustainability, or health. Councilors were asked to provide brief biographies of proposed candidates to the Executive Director by mid-October for further online discussion with the intention of creating a short list for consideration and selection. In addition, the Planning Commission was asked to consider more broadly the issue of engaging early-career individuals in the work of the Society.

12.0 21ST CENTURY CAMPAIGN.

Informational reports were provided to the Council on 21st Century Campaign activities, as well as scholarships, fellowships, and other student programs made possible by external support.

13.1 MEETINGS. Director of Meetings Gorski reported on specialty meetings of the past year and

those currently planned, as well as locations for future annual meetings beyond 2014.

13.2 2012 ANNUAL MEETING. President Malay reviewed plans for the Annual Meeting in New Orleans in January.

13.3 2013 ANNUAL MEETING. President-Elect Uccellini outlined the planning for the Annual Meeting in Austin in January 2013. The Council expressed its pleasure with the plans for both meetings.

[The Council briefly recessed from 10:30 A.M. to 10:40 A.M.]

14.1 PUBLICATIONS. Director of Publications Heideman reviewed his report on publication activities at AMS Headquarters, including the books program.

14.2 K–13 EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES. Director of Education Program Brey described the activities of the program, including new grant support, programs for minority-serving institutions, and the release of the third edi-

tion of the *AMS Ocean Studies* textbook.

14.3 REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP. Executive Director Seitter and Director of Membership Farley presented the report on membership.

14.4 POLICY PROGRAM. Policy Program Director Hooke and Assistant Director and Senior Policy Fellow Higgins reviewed the activities of the Policy Program.

14.5 SCIENCE, SERVICE, AND SOCIETY. Executive Director Seitter reported on efforts to disseminate statements of the Society, as well as activities carried out under the Framework for Government Interactions.

14.6 AMS/SIGMA XI LECTURER. President Malay reported that Rick Anthes will serve as AMS/Sigma Xi Lecturer for 2012–13 and that Franco Einaudi is enjoying his term as Lecturer for 2011–12.

14.7 BOSTON AND DC OFFICE SPACE. Executive Director Seitter updated the Council

on the status of the building at 44 Beacon Street and the plan that it be occupied in the next month. The D.C. staff is planning a move to new space in the AAAS building sometime around March 2012.

15.0 AMS AFFILIATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. Executive Director Seitter reviewed the list of AMS affiliations with other organizations.

5.5 (CONTINUED) WEXLER MEMORIAL LECTURE. Discussion resumed on whether or not to reestablish this dormant award. STAC Commissioner Cairns, with assistance from the AOC and possibly the new Environmental Information Processing Technologies Board, will work on terms of reference that include interaction with the History Committee and the Weather and Climate Enterprise Commission for possible approval at the January meeting so that the Wexler Lectureship can be announced at appropriate venues in New Orleans.

[The Council adjourned at 12:20 P.M.]

LIVING ON THE REAL WORLD

[Editor's Note: The following post is excerpted from William Hooke's blog, Living on the Real World (www.livingontherealworld.org/). Hooke is director of the AMS Policy Program.]

When It Comes to Tornadoes and Other Hazards. . . *[Originally posted on 6 March 2012]*

What kind of world do we want?

The Declaration of Independence pretty much spells it out, doesn't it . . . at least for Americans?

Well worth a (re)read in its entirety. [But you already knew that.] For present purposes, let's focus on this one piece:

"...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator

with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. . . ."

We claim our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—even in the face of a world of hazardous extremes. And we expect our governments to provide no less.

Given that extremes of nature (not just tornadoes, but also hurricanes, cycles of flood and drought,

winter storms, earthquakes volcanic eruptions, and so much more) are recurrent, inescapable realities, what do we realistically seek? Here are some notional suggestions. The hope is they'll inspire you to develop your improved or perhaps entirely different, better list.

The right to life in the face of hazards? This might translate to:

A warning. For weather extremes, since forecasts show skill, this would include forecasts of major hazards such as floods, drought, winter storms, hurricanes, hail storms, lightning . . . and those tornadoes. Watches for places and times of special risk several hours ahead of time. Pinpoint warnings inside a half hour. Warnings that reach those in harm's way, in time for them to take life-saving action. For hazards such as earthquakes, for which forecasts are not yet in prospect, this means good mapping of seismic zones, extending to the smallest possible scales. Along coastlines—vulnerable to winter storms, hurricanes, and seismically triggered tsunamis—this requires special monitoring technologies and an extra measure of vigilance.

Note that all this can give the public no more than a fighting chance. It's up to each of us to be knowledgeable about the hazards around us and those actions that give us and those we care about the best chance of survival.

The pursuit of happiness in the face of hazards? Among other things, perhaps this implies that:

Home ought to be the safest place to be . . . not just a point of embarkation for the family evacuation. This means effective land use and building codes. And given the dependence of every home today on critical infrastructure—hard infrastructure such as electricity, communications, natural gas, water, transportation, sewage disposal, and soft infrastructure such as health care, financial institutions, schools, and much more—that critical infrastructure should survive as well.

A job to return to after the hazard has come and gone. Many families and individuals survive disasters only to find that their community economy has been disrupted in a lasting way. Many small businesses are

destroyed by such events. Others survive initially only to fail over time because their customer base has been hard hit. Very few small businesses which close their doors as a result of disasters ever reopen. Many disaster survivors escape injury entirely only to find that this lack of a job, a sine qua non for normalcy—rather than the immediate disaster as such—is a major contributor to the pain and suffering that survivors experience.

Natural disasters stay natural. All too often, flood waters pass through a town or city only to be transformed into a slurry of animal carcasses, toxic chemicals, and waste. As earthquakes, high winds, and flooding cause structural failure they rupture gas lines and down electrical wiring, starting fires which are often more dangerous than the original events themselves. In the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, the ground shook for 45 seconds; the fires burned for three days and caused most of the death toll. The same would be true of the 1995 Kobe earthquake, nearly a century later. Last year's Great Tohoku earthquake and the resulting tsunami did tremendous damage to Japan in the first hour, but the damage to the Fukushima nuclear reactors threatens to be more costly and enduring. Often, even after small-scale events such as tornadoes, the simple task of waste removal from the site goes on for a year or more.

Again—a chance to survive the immediate danger, a home we can defend, a job that's still there even in the aftermath, and an environment that's whole and unpolluted—this is the happiness we pursue on this hazardous Earth. And these are some of the reasons we institute our federal, state, and local governments.

It's part of the reason we fund NOAA and other Commerce agencies, USGS and other agencies from Interior, the Department of Homeland Security, independent agencies such as NASA, NSF, and yes . . . EPA. And it's part of the reason why

“. . . for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

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