



Minutes of the 108th Meeting of Council of the
Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario
Thursday, September 10, 2015 at Fasken Martineau, 333 Bay Street, Toronto

Present:

Mark Priddle, President
Tony Lotimer, Vice President
David Hunt, Past President
Ben Berger
Doug Cater
Brad Leonard
Peter Diorio, Treasurer
Dorene Weston
John Gartner
Rusty Juma
Robert Linnen
Visha Sukdeo
Zen Keizars
David Leng
Shelly Cuddy

Christine Vaillancourt

Regrets:

Rob Gordon
Don Johnston
Bob Morrison

By Invitation:

Andrew Boddington, Policy Concepts
Gord White, Executive Director Aftab
Khan, Registrar
Avril Hylands, Recording secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The President, acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair asked if any member of Council anticipated a conflict of interest with an item on the Agenda and none so indicated.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS & PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. MEETING AGENDA

The Chair asked Council to review the proposed Agenda and indicate if any changes or additions were required.

Motion 109-1: Doug Cater moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Ben Berger. All in favour. Motion carried.

5. ATTENDANCE REPORT

Council attendance was noted and explained for the benefit of new members.

6. MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2015 MEETING

Minutes of the July 23, 2015 meeting were reviewed and amendments made.

Motion 108-2: David Leng moved to accept the Minutes as amended. Seconded by Visha Sukdeo. All in favour. Motion carried.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Action 104 – 1: Tony Lotimer, referencing object #3, (“Holding lectures, presentations and conferences on geoscience to enhance the knowledge of the general public.”) said the APGO Education Foundation might be the entity to respond to any question raised as to the possibility of including the development of position and discussion papers on geoscience issues to enhance public understanding of geoscience. He suggested that object #3 should reflect this endeavour. Gord White will follow up with the suggestion.

Gord advised that public promotion of geoscience and the role of geoscientists is being considered by Geoscientists Canada (GC). He will follow up with Bill Pearson after their June meeting and will let Council know what was decided. GW spoke with Bill Pearson, who is not able to address the issue until September. Ongoing.

Action 104 – 2: Zen Keizars raised the question of designated donations. To date, there is no information specific to this giving option. Rob Gordon will bring it up with Bill Pearson. Rob advised no decision had yet been made. No change.

Action Item 104 – 3: A task force will be formed to investigate further the possibility of developing a P.Geo. Academic category and to make recommendations to the Council. Bob Linnen expressed interest to be part of the taskforce. David Hunt also volunteered to help after June 2015. Mark Priddle volunteered to contact retired professors.

Action 104 - 4: APGO will continue the work of compiling a more detailed list of faculty members across Ontario to help inform Council’s future decisions on this particular issue. Sources of information will also be included in the documentation. Gord White – also see Action 104 – 3. Marilen does have a list of faculty members and is now checking which of them is/is not a P.Geo. GW believes the group as a whole is now receptive to APGO. Completed.

Action 104 – 5: David Hunt and Gord White will flesh-out the terms of reference for APGO Merit Award. This will be completed over the summer. DH and GW will work on this in August. DH has prepared some material and given to GW, who will review this month and get back to Council at next meeting.

Action 105 – 2: Doug Cater will follow up with the 2015 nominees not elected to express APGO’s appreciation and to keep them on board – he will suggest Committee work etc. Doug has sent emails to them encouraging their participation and will contact them again after today’s discussion to let them know what opportunities might be available. Ongoing.

Action 106 – 2: It was noted that it is the Vice President's responsibility to ensure Committee Chairs receive their Terms of Reference over the summer.

Tony Lotimer – Mark Priddle will send them to Tony today. It was agreed that Committee Terms of Reference be added to the website. GW will do so today. Approved by Council and added to website. Completed.

Action 107 – 1: All Committees' Terms of Reference be added to the website. Gord White. Completed.

Action 107 – 2: Appointment of North West Regional Councillor. David Hunt will provide a list of NW region members to Mark Priddle who will contact them to ascertain their interest in joining Council. He will work with Mark to follow up. Gord White will provide a list of NW members for Council to contact to ascertain their interest in taking up this appointment. Dave Hunt has highlighted some names who may be interested. Will be discussed today.

Action 107 – 3: Possibility of adding a Search tab (by Specialty and/or Geographic area) to the website. Gord White to check cost and report back. Ongoing.

Action 107 – 4: Re email addresses of Council on Website – check and change to a more secure format to eliminate possibility of Spam. Gord White. Every effort made to ensure security. If anyone wishes their name to be removed, let GW know. Completed.

8. STRATEGIC PLAN

Gord White briefly explained the Strategic Plan for the benefit of new members of Council. The implementation schedule was given to Council with the most recent updates highlighted.

9. ISSUES

(a) Introduction of Council Members – completed

(b) Regional Meetings

Ben Berger reported that the proposed Ontario Exploration Geosciences Symposium in November had been cancelled, which he had been planning to build a Regional Meeting around. He may now re-schedule to early November in conjunction with Lakehead University's Short Course. They are looking for partners for this event. Tentatively November 5.

Zen Keizars – has lined up UAV to talk on topography and remote sensing using little drones for the Greater Peterborough Area. Tentative date first half of October. Contact Zen if you would like further information. Trying to get a meeting going in Ottawa at some point.

Doug Cater – South West – student presentations University of Waterloo set for September 21 with Ian Macdonald and himself. SW Regional meetings at Waterloo and then Western typically in November.

Dave Hunt North West – looking at ideas, probably winter/spring 2016, will build in with Ontario Prospectors Spring Symposium.

(c) Replacing Dorene Weston on Executive Committee

Executive Committee made up of Executive Director, President, Past President & Treasurer and 1 non-member and meets in the months Council does not. They usually consist of 90 minute conference calls

the second Wednesday of the month – October, December, February, April. Visha Sukdeo volunteered and was appointed to succeed Dorene.

(d) North West Regional Councillor Search

A list of members from the North West were given to Council. The President asked that suggestions be given to him during the meetings today if they know anyone who may be interested and approached. Dave Hunt has some suggestions and volunteered to coordinate the names. The President emphasised it should be a focus of Council to recruit a member from the NW Region.

Action Item 108 – 1: NW Regional Councillor Search – have a provisional list of members who may be interested at the November Council Meeting. MP, DH – All Councillors

(e) P.Geo. (Academic)

A discussion ensued and the following points were raised:

- Benefits to them – students can use professors as referees when they do work for them
- How many are we hoping to enrol – no target yet set
- APGO wants to make it as easy as possible for professors to join – i.e. no PPE
- Concern is lack of Ethics requirement – professors have similar ethics requirement through their university
- Complaints – oriented towards industry and not academics

The Task Force will be meeting again with the Registration Committee and all points will be discussed. General consensus is APGO will make every effort to get the professors in.

10. POLICY CONCEPTS

Andrew Boddington joined the meeting and gave an overview of the political environment.

APGO's comments on the draft Regulations are being reviewed by legislative council and we are waiting to get them back.

Some comments following questions – Treasury Report expected this fall - Government moving away from tax credits. On the Federal front, question of flow through funding which is essential for resource industry not yet addressed, still early in the campaign – the resource industry situation must be addressed by all parties.

ISSUES CONTINUED

(f) APGO/APEGBC Bi-Lateral Mobility Agreement

Gord White informed Council that this Agreement has been in effect for two years and is up for renewal. He briefly explained the background of the Agreement. Staff has been tracking usage and there have been no problems identified and no financial impact on APGO. APGO is committed to fostering mobility across Canada. The Agreement allows a P.Geo. to work in either Province for a period of 45 days per year with no fee. They must provide a copy of their report to the Registrar. A full review will be in 2018. We do not appear to have a way of tracking use of the program. Concern expressed that if Alberta and Ontario had an agreement, when there is a downturn in Alberta, P.Geo's would come to Ontario. Suggestion made that home regulator be notified if member intends working in another jurisdiction.

Action Item 108 – 2: APGO/APEGBC Bi-Lateral Agreement – Before the 2018 full review of the Agreement, GW to explore ways of tracking P.Geo's making use of it. GW

Motion 108 – 3: Bob Linnen moved to renew the Bi-Lateral Mobility Agreement between APGO and APEGBC. Seconded by David Leng. All in favour. Motion carried unanimously.

11. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Aftab Khan reported the following:

Registration Update: Full Practicing 1973; Temp. 2; Limited 56; Non-practicing 93; GIT 311; Students 794; Total at 3229 (last year 2652).

Applications Received by Month: Total received in September 0; Practicing 0; GIT 1; Temporary 0; Change of Designation 2.

Cs of A and New Members: #198; 9 new members to date - It was noted that it is early in the month – anticipate a record month – payments still coming in.

PPE and Technical Exams: PPE 30 registered; 27 took the exam on July 20. 26 passed. 5 registered for October exam. Technical exam in July – 2 wrote and 2 passed.

Beginning in October tests will be on line through Yardstick. Date of the exam will be flexible – a choice of three dates and choice of location. A preparatory test can be taken - they give you 50 questions. Cost to APGO is slightly more than current system – increase will be passed on to user. Will be cost neutral to APGO

Appeals Update: One appeal hearing scheduled for September 30.

Complaints & Discipline: C114 – ongoing from 2014 – pre-hearing Sept. 28; hearing Oct. 28.

C115 Pre-review panel showed intent to dismiss the complaint; however, complainant has asked for a second review. The complainant had 30 days to protest by sending in a written response asking for further review. Will report back when review has taken place.

C116 – dismissed.

- Annual meeting with Fairness Commissioner (OFC) September 15

- Non-practicing: a lot of people ask for dues relief due to economic conditions and change of designation to non-practising. Those numbers will be shown at the next meeting.

Action Item 108 – 3: Registrar to prepare a chart showing numbers of members requesting change of designation to Non-practicing and relief of dues, due to economic conditions. Report at November Council Meeting. AK

Enforcement & Compliance: 281 active files.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tony Lotimer presented a list of Committees, number of non-members required to sit on each Committee and list of members currently serving. He asked for volunteers to add to their participation. Rusty Juma volunteered to also join the Audit and Governance Committees.

Milan Situm, Chair of Complaints, has requested he be replaced. Zen Keizars indicated an interest in mentoring with him with a view to taking over. He will join the Committee.

Environmental Geoscience Sub Committee – new Chair is Ron Ormson, City of Waterloo. He has the Terms of Reference and his first meeting is being planned.

Dorene Weston will liaise with Tony Lotimer and review all Committee Chairs at the November meeting.

Action Item 108 – 4: Agenda for November 8, 2015 Council Meeting. Dorene Weston to review all Committee Chairs. GW

13. TREASURER'S REPORT

Peter Diorio reviewed the financial statements in some detail. Income is meeting expectations. Advertising revenue is below budget and anticipated to remain low next year. Expenses are under control. Financial situation is in order.

14. REGIONAL COUNCILLORS' AND COUNCILLORS AT LARGE REPORTS

Ben Berger, North East: Mostly negative news. Many layoffs as a result of these closings. The North American Mining Exposition in Sudbury reportedly a huge success; well subscribed. Student presentation planned for September 23 at Laurentian. Of general interest to Council: The Director of Ontario Geological Survey is retiring effective December 31, 2015. He is responsible for many services. There will be a competition to replace him. This affects anyone who deals with MNDM.

David Hunt, North West: Almost no grass roots exploration - only advanced projects going on – Red Lake, Geraldton, Rainy River. Not as many layoffs as Sudbury. Nothing much happening.

Doug Cater, South West: As mentioned earlier, student presentations at Waterloo with Ian Macdonald September 21. Regional Meetings planned at Waterloo and Western later in the fall. Mining Minister's Advisory Committee meeting planned for September 28 in Sudbury to provide a Mineral Strategy Review Update. Meeting also planned for Toronto October 28-29. Porcupine Prospectors Assoc. Meeting October 17-18 – Gold Deposit Structural workshop to be led by David Rhys in Timmins; APGO providing the lunch. 50 attendees targeted. Ben Berger added he believed registration is already filled.

Peter Diorio, Central: UofT Toronto student presentation September 16; Scarborough October 21. Mississauga Campus and MacMaster dates being worked on.

Zen Keizars, South East: Regional meeting as already discussed. He also belongs to an informal discussion group in the Peterborough area, Kawartha Region of Earth Scientists, Engineers and Metallurgists - KREEM - which meets once a month. Is also Education Chair for the Peterborough Chapter of PEO and this year has been asked to do the Education Challenge with High Schools – if anyone can think of a way APGO might want to piggy-back on this, it would be most welcome. University meetings being worked on.

Shelly Cuddy, CaL: Annual Hydrogeology Conference in October. APGO has a booth and she will be happy to help out. Gord suggested she contact Marilen to coordinate.

David Leng, CaL: Will be giving 2 guest lectures at a Collegiate in Brantford to students in higher mathematics – the best of the best students - Grades 9-11 and 11-12 on October 18. Content of talk yet to be finalized but will include how geochemistry can be used as a tool for exploration. This will be good exposure for the industry.

Christine Vaillancourt, CaL: Attended the event in Ottawa in April – very good feedback from participants she spoke to. Is very willing to help out in my area particularly to do with universities and schools. Will contact Zen to assist him.

Bob Morrison, CaL: No report

15. ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING

The Chair asked if there was anything of interest to Council to report, other than the depressed economy in the mineral exploration sector. Bob Linnen asked how things are on the Environmental side and Mark Priddle responded that work has not slowed down – working with green energy – more regulations coming down – so there is more work to be done. Shelly Cuddy added that development work has really picked up. She added that Government funding for projects has almost dried up in the past year. Development is strong and with more Provincial regulations and Policies coming down these all require studies.

Dave Hunt raised the idea of marketing and branding for APGO members. He distributed pins which the Manitoba Association gives to all its members. He believes it is a very good idea and need not be expensive – the Manitoba pin is not expensive. Council agreed the idea is good and several options were put forward.

Action Item 108 – 5: APGO lapel pin – GW to look into possible design and cost – maybe include the Trillium – to be used for handing out at Regional Meetings, training sessions, the AGM, etc.

Zen Keizars added that the children's T-shirts with the APGO logo that were handed out at the Gemboree went down very well.

Tony Lotimer added that in the past some firms used to use the APGO logo on their reports.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

Doug Cater mentioned that he has recently been approached by members enquiring about volunteering. Gord said that all the Committees are pretty well filled but the Mentoring Program is starting to do well and this may be an area to be looked at for more volunteers. He asked that Council be careful when discussing volunteering

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and sponsoring – it would be preferable to refer members to him. Aftab said there were some vacancies on the Registration Committee – checking transcripts etc. Outreach in Universities and schools was discussed, as well as volunteers for APGO booths at Gemborees, etc. There is a Provincial organization – Mining Week – which uses volunteers from industry and ministries to speak at schools to inform students of their work. This mainly covers large towns; in small towns and when a teacher knows of APGO they can request a speaker to come in.

17. CHECK-IN ON TODAY'S MEETING

Dave Hunt explained the reason for this topic is that when self-assessments were completed earlier this year, several respondents stated they were not aware of some issues. This is the time to ask questions if clarity on any issue or action is required.

The Chair thanked Council for its input today, particularly on the topic of P.Geo. Academic.

18. IN CAMERA

A short in camera session followed.

19. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion 108 - 4: David Leng moved to adjourn the meeting at 12.05 p.m. Seconded by Doug Cater. All in favour.



President