

Minutes
2013 AGM for CNC/SCOR
Sunday, May 26, 08:30 – 14:30
Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon, 2nd Floor, Kendal Room

Attending: Paul Myers (Chair), Michel Mitchell (Secretary), Michael Scarratt, Paul Lyon (DFO, for Helen Joseph), Marty Taillefer (part time), Ian Rutherford (part time).

Conference Call: Len Zedel, Paul Snelgrove, Mike Sinclair (for item 10(x))

Regrets: Rob Macdonald, Alfonso Mucci, Ian Perry, Markus Kienast, Céline Guégin, Bjorn Sundby, Blair Greenan, Peter Bartello, Helen Joseph.

1. Welcome, introductions and remarks from the Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order at 0840 and thanked committee members for coming or calling in.

2. Approval of 2013 agenda

The draft agenda was approved.

It was noted that agenda item 4 would be discussed when Ian Rutherford could join the meeting; and item 6 (x) would be discussed by conference call when Mike Sinclair would call.

The Chair indicated that he will be seeking additional appropriate reviewers to complete the review of the Working Group proposals and that no detailed discussion of the proposals would take place today.

3. Approval of 2012 minutes

The 2012 AGM was held in Montreal, 28 May 2012. The draft minutes of this meeting had been distributed to members by email. No issues were raised. The action items identified in the 2012 minutes were reviewed.

A mid-term meeting was held via conference call on 29 November 2012. No issues were raised concerning the minutes. The action items were reviewed.

4. Inter-Relationships Between SCOR and CMOS

(i) Accounting, Secretariat, Web Site, Annual Report

Website support is provided through Bob Jones, the CMOS webmaster. CMOS intends to refresh its website. The private sector committee raised concerns with the look and feel of the web-component on the website and will provide a proposal to CMOS for review. The CNC/SCOR website is somewhat independent, but the committee agreed it would be timely to revise the site and would be agreeable to invest up to \$1.5K to this task. This would allow the design of a professional site that could be maintained by a volunteer. The site should include outreach components such as Twitter and Facebook to attract the younger generation. The new financial agreement with DFO will no

longer permit the \$10K CNC/SCOR scholarship fund: some of these funds could therefore be used to refresh the website.

Action: Paul Myers to seek input from committee members to identify the content that should be included on the web site.

It was noted that some of the DFO funds could also be used to support Canadian participation at international SCOR meetings.

The DFO funding will remain at \$20K/year. There was no funding from DFO in FY2012-13. Ian Rutherford indicated he has concerns about the long-term funding from NRC in light of the shift of NRC priorities more toward applied science. This may impact NRC's interest in supporting SCOR. It will be important to provide a quality report to NRC at year end.

(ii) Congresses

The 2014 CMOS congress will be held in Rimouski, 1-5 June. The 2015 Congress will be hosted by the Vancouver Centre at Whistler.

5. CNC-SCOR Finances

(i) CNC-SCOR revenues and expenses for 2012

The primary source of revenue has been through an agreement with DFO for \$20K/year. Unfortunately, this funding did not materialize in 2012 because of issues in renewing the agreement. The only funding in 2012 was \$5K. Expenditures for the year were \$27K, including \$10K for two scholarships, \$5K for the SCOR general meeting in Halifax, and \$3.1 K for the speaker tour. The account balance at the end of the year was \$18.7K, down from \$40.8K at the end of 2011.

(ii) Agreement with DFO

Paul Lyon indicated that Helen Joseph has discussed the issues with DFO Finance and appears to have resolved the problems such that the paperwork for the new agreement has now gone through DFO Finance, with original proposal going through CMOS. The new Collaboration Agreement is for 3 years. There are no funds for 2012-13. The agreement starts in 2013-14 with \$20K/year.

The Chair is concerned that one of the issues with renewing the agreement may have been that the past chair was a government employee: if so, CNC/SCOR may benefit from having a chair that is from industry or academia. It was noted that the landscape of CMOS membership is changing: it is now about 1/3 each government, academia and industry.

(iii) Agreement with NRC

NRC provides Canada's fee to SCOR international. Each year CNC/SCOR must submit documentation to justify the NRC funding. It will be important to emphasize to NRC that last year, International SCOR funded the two Working Groups that were the top 2 choices of Canada.

Although there is concern that Canada is opting out of international desertification issues, Paul Lyon indicated NRC is indeed restructuring but he is not aware of issues that will affect NRC support of CNC/SCOR.

(iv) Budget scenarios

The DFO agreement issues have tentatively been resolved: this is therefore no longer an issue.

(v) Website

CNC/SCOR pays CMOS for maintaining our website; this arrangement is very satisfactory. There may be some additional costs when we refresh the website.

6. CNC-SCOR Issues and Activities

(i) Committee membership

There are new members on the committee. The committee includes Marty Taillefer, a member from industry. Bob Wilson has completed his term as Secretary and is being replaced by Michel Mitchell. The 2nd term of Alfonso Mucci is coming to an end.

Action: Paul to ask A. Mucci if he is willing to remain on the committee for another term.

(ii) Ocean science theses

Bob Wilson was maintaining a list of thesis; Michel Mitchell will take over and continue to compile the list over the summer.

(iii) Lecture tour – 2012 and 2013

The Chair reported that the tour was well received again this year. Ken Frank travelled West, and Eddy Carmack travelled East. The Committee agreed this is a good initiative to continue supporting.

The Chair indicated that an email discussion to choose speakers for this year already took place and names have been selected. The proposal is for Susan Allan (alternate Roberta Hamme) to tour West to East; and Peter Lawton (Census of marine life) (alternate Anna Metaxas) to tour East to West.

It was reported that it is difficult for small CMOS centers to find the funds to cover the local costs for the tour speaker. The committee agreed that CNC/SCOR will provide financial assistance to the centers that are unable to fund the speaker and this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(iv) Scholarship supplements for 2013

CNC/SCOR has been funding scholarships to a total of \$10K per year. The new DFO financial agreement does not permit DFO funds to be used for scholarship. Options were discussed: CNC/SCOR could consider a marine science award, or encourage industry to contribute funding toward a scholarship. It was felt that CNC/SCOR would

get better recognition if the funding contributed to a “stand-alone” CNC/SCOR award rather than a NSERC supplement.

Action: Paul Myers will draft a proposal outlining options for a Scholarship or award and circulate via email for further discussion.

We are currently committed to one student for this year and for his second year, and also for the 2nd year of current student. Our commitment is therefore \$15K.

Action: Paul Myers will liaise with Ian Rutherford to determine how best to advise NSERC.

(v) **Project Maury**

In 2012 CNC/SCOR partially sponsored one teacher, Thea Black, from the École Puntledge Elementary in New Brunswick, to participate in project Maury. For 2013, we had 5 applicants for the project. The number of applicants shows there is continued interest. Furthermore, the funding provided by CNC/SCOR is much leveraged with other organizations. The committee felt the \$650 funding is a good investment and agreed to continue supporting project Maury.

(vi) **Newsletter**

In 2012, CNC/SCOR published seven issues of the Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter. The newsletter is distributed to over 400 subscribers and is available on the CNC/SCOR website where it is a very popular link. The newsletter aims to highlight articles on ocean sciences and provide updates on ocean sciences programs. It also reports on career milestones of Canadian ocean scientists, provides information on job postings and training opportunities, and provides reports on SCOR workgroups.

It has been a challenge to obtain content for the newsletter. The secretary rarely receives any contributions and has to search for material himself. It was suggested that the tour speakers could provide an article each, and we should approach Marty Taillefer and Dave Fissel on potential input items from industry. It may be useful to the community to include in the newsletter contributions highlighting progress from industry. It was also suggested that students might be interested in publishing the newsletter: this would provide students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the ocean science community.

Action: Paul Myers will investigate potential contributors. He will also consider a program where students might take over the production of the newsletter.

(vii) **Proposal for a Young Oceanographer’s Prize**

Although CMOS already offers several prizes, it was suggested that CNC/SCOR could consider developing a SCOR-specific prize for a young oceanographer where no recognition is currently available. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to focus on promoting a new CNC/SCOR scholarship/award, and possibly explore funding student travel to a major conference.

Action: Paul Myers to draft a proposal for consideration by the committee.

(viii) CMOS Arctic SIG

Marty Taillefer presented this item. The aim of the Arctic Special Interest Group initiative is to put together a national Arctic organization that would cross the many stovepipes that currently shape much of the Arctic research. The Arctic SIG was launched officially 26 May. The group currently has 85 members, well above the 25 required for CMOS to endorse the SIG.

At the CMOS luncheon in Ottawa, Marty Taillefer and Ann MacMillan presented a vision the SIG and received much positive input from luncheon attendees. Although members of the SIG do not have to be CMOS members, the SIG interaction with SCOR and with CMOS are critical to the success of the SIG that aims to become a hub of Arctic science.

Action: Marty Taillefer will provide a brief article of the SIG for inclusion in the Ocean Sciences Newsletter.

(ix) Council of Canadian Academies report

Phase II is mostly complete. The focus is on how well Canada is positioned to address future pressing ocean science questions.

Ian Perry provided input via email: Ian is a member of the Phase II panel convened by the Council of Canadian Academies to assess the Canadian Ocean Sciences and how they are positioned to address the upcoming ‘big’ questions. The panel has finished its in-person panel meetings (last meeting was on 13 May), and has produced a draft report which was sent for invited review. The objective of this last Panel meeting was to discuss these review comments. This draft is now being revised in light of these comments. The release of the report is scheduled for early fall 2013.

The Chair indicated that we will discuss this issue further through email or at the mid-year call.

(x) 100th Anniversary Canadian Fisheries Expedition 1914-1915

Mike Sinclair presented this item by teleconference and provided some background information. The Canadian Fisheries Expedition was a significant event for Ocean Sciences in Canada: papers in 1914 and 1926 were major changes in the science and basically led to the birth of oceanography in Canada; Hunstman participated in the cruise; the program was a precursor to the CALCOFI design; and it was one of the 1st international partnerships.

DFO should celebrate this; the celebration could either be in 2014 or 2015 (most of the work was done in 1915); maybe a Norwegian scientist should be invited and funded to come.

Paul Snelgrove indicated that perhaps the SCOR speaker next year could be a non-Canadian. Eric Mills was also mentioned given his expertise in the history of ocean science.

Paul Myers indicated he would present this issue at the international SCOR meeting. CNC/SCOR could publicize this event through the newsletter, but would not have much funding to support a significant event.

Mike Sinclair had presented this to DFO did not get much response; he will contact DFO again.

Action: Mike Sinclair to prepare a note for the next or following newsletter.

Action: Mike Sinclair to contact DFO.

Action: Paul Myers to present this issue at the international SCOR meeting.

7. SCOR International

(i) 2012 General Meeting, Halifax

The 2012 meeting was held in Halifax. A full report of the meeting has been prepared: the meeting was very successful.

(ii) 2013 Executive Meeting, Wellington, N.Z.

The 2013 meeting will take place on 25-28 November 2013 in Wellington, New Zealand. It is important that a Canadian representative attend. Paul Myers is willing to attend and will apply to NRC for travel funding.

Action: Paul Myers to apply to NRC for travel funding.

(iii) Existing SCOR Working Groups

Ian Perry provided input via email. Ian is a member of the Scientific Committee for the First Open Science meeting of the IGBP-SCOR sponsored core program on Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research ("IMBER"). This meeting is being planned for 23-27 June 2014 in Bergen, Norway. An invitation to submit session proposals has come and gone, and they are now in the process of accepting session proposals, notifying proponents, and finalizing plans for the meeting.

It was noted that proposals for sessions could be included in the newsletter.

(iv) Large Scale Ocean Research Programs; e.g. GEOHAB, etc

Michael Scarratt provided information on SOLAS. The funding for SOLAS has essentially ended. The program will be amalgamated into a new program (not yet funded) called Future Earth. SOLAS, in individual countries, is still ongoing. Maurice Levasseur is Canada's lead and he continues to be active in the field. NETCARE is the next large program coming online and it will include most of the researcher who were involved in the Canadian SOLAS.

The committee discussed whether CNC/SCOR membership should be expanded to include other large organization and programs. For instance, a member from Quebec-Ocean should be included.

Action: Paul to communicate with Quebec-Ocean on potentially adding a committee member from this organization.

Action: Committee members to email to Paul Myers their suggestions for relevant new committee members.

- (v) **SCOR Affiliated Programs; e.g. IMAGES, IOCCG, etc.**
No Discussion.

8. New Working Group Proposal Review

There were 11 proposals submitted this year. The Chair indicated that expertise that is not currently available on the committee may be required to review those proposals and external reviewers should therefore be invited.

Action: Paul Myers to ask for names of external reviewers for each proposal and set a timeline for comments and reviews.

Action: Michel Mitchell to include a paragraph in the newsletter listing proposals and inviting comments from the broader community on the proposals to be sent to Paul Myers by 31 August.

9. Timing and location of next meeting/conference call

The next conference call will be in October and will include discussions of the WG proposals as these will then be sent to SCOR.

10. Other business

None

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.