

**Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting Minutes**  
**AAG 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting,**  
**April 9, 2021**

Minutes provided by Michelle Harris | Reviewed by Jean Ellis

*In Attendance:* Jean Ellis (COMA Chair), Michelle Harris, Richard (Rich) Daniels (COMA Website Editor), Zach Hilgendorf, Pei Zhang, Thomas Bilintoh, C. Patrick Heidkamp, Quentin Stubbs, Halle Jefferies

*Meeting called to order at 6:15 PST*

The COMA Chair Jean Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting. The 2020 Business Meeting minutes were approved. *Note:* There was not an AAG Chairs meeting in 2020 during the Virtual AAG Meeting.

*Report of the AAG Chair's Meeting:*

The chair notified attendants that the 2020 Current Board of Directors decided to extend each board member's tenure for one year. Vacant positions include the Vice-Chair, one Board Member, and the Student Board Member. Elections for these positions will take place by the close of today's meeting.

The chair provided statistics from the 2021 AAG meeting (as of Wednesday at 12:00 PST): 963 sessions, 2933 abstracts, 5019 attendees. There is a command center in Seattle where the AAG staff is based. The AAG Council agreed to extend membership support and the COVID-19 rapid relief fund. Revisions were made to support Specialty Groups. The AAG will take an active role to support 'Specialty Group Health,' the details of which are being discussed. The AAG is hoping to encourage communication between Specialty Groups and the AAG. Other items of mention:

- Specialty group health will be assessed more stringently – the metrics to determine this will be quantified later.
- The sentiment is that the AAG wants more of an open dialogue between the SG and the AAG.
- A minimum of 100 members was floated – not sure if that will stick. Other things that were mentioned – having SG-sponsored activities, sponsoring special sessions, submitting annual reports. Showing you are 'active.' The word 'active' kept coming up. They told us that we 'should not be worried.'
- Associated with all this – AAG members will be allowed to join more than 6 SG (previously, 6 was the cap).

The chair will contact COMA members through the Knowledge Community when additional details are made available about these potential changes within the AAG.

The chair presented that AAG Council approved a new statement of AAG ethics that will be released in a few months. The AAG is adopting a new IT database system to increase efficiency for staff and members. A new web portal and website will be launched in a few months. The

web portal will also allow the AAG to monitor and connect with departments to monitor communication, health and will also enhance Specialty Group activities. Digital advertisement opportunities are being encouraged to increase sponsorship. A new hire within AAG will be focused on this topic. The AAG also wants to provide funding to Specialty Groups to bring in high-profile speakers.

*Membership:*

The chair presented membership statistics from the early 2000s to 2020. As of 12/31/2020 (the most current data), there were 179 COMA members. The slight decrease in membership may be caused by COVID-19, but ideas to increase membership and communication are suggested.

*COMA Presence at AAG 2021:*

There were five COMA-sponsored sessions comprising 23 speakers and two invited speakers (Irene Delgado-Fernandez and Nick Webb). One of the five sessions was the Psuty award.

*Budget:*

COMA Budget as of 3/31/2021: 2,371.00

The chair presented the total Specialty Group Budget from FY 2004-FY 2020 and subdivided it according to dues collected, donations, awards, websites, Business Meeting concessions. The most significant expenditure has been award funds.

*2020 Expenditures:*

Awards: \$350.00. The budget increased from last year because the awards were low. The awards for 2021 will be \$350. A recommendation to explore sponsorships, donations, increased dues, and/or membership recruitment is suggested if COMA continues distributing awards.

Website: ~100.00/yearly

No other expenditures are expected for this year. Rich Daniels explained that the downward trend in the budget was to be expected. Increased membership dues have mitigated this over time.

*COMA Awards*

Norbert P. Psuty – Pei Zhang, University of Alabama, “*An algorithm for objective analysis of grainflow morphology.*”

H. Jesse Walker – No nominations

R.J. Russell – No nominations

M.F. Maury – No nominations

*Website Editor Report (Rich Daniels):*

The website will be updated over the next few weeks. Because of last year’s cancellation, we had less visitation than in 2018. But the website is still being maintained and updated. Please submit symposiums, sessions, or other information to highlight (typically done once per quarter).

### *Elections:*

The chair extended her thanks to the board members and acknowledged the work of prior board members. She extended her thanks to Vice Chair Christy Swann for organizing the Psuty Award and to the student competition judges (Christy Swann, Patrick Barrineau, Michelle Harris). The chair solicited nominations for the three board positions (Vice-Chair, Board Member, Student Board Member).

After nominations and an online anonymous virtual poll, the following members were elected to the Board:

*Vice-Chair:* Patrick Heidkamp

*Board Member:* Quentin Stubbs

*Student Board Member:* Pei Zhang

### *New Business:*

#### *Upcoming Coastal and Marine-Related Events:*

- There will be a Coastal Dynamics Hybrid Workshop focused on Dunes in the Netherlands this summer. It will be free for students or 200 EU. Irene Delgado-Fernandez is working on planning this workshop and welcomes any questions.
- Christy Swann is organizing an AGU session on Coastal and Mars Aeolian topics. Please contact her if interested. AGU will be in New Orleans, LA this December.
- Planning for the 2022 AAG Meeting in NY
  - A recommendation for a COMA-related gathering was made for the next AAG meeting. A field opportunity was suggested for the start or the end of the conference. Newly-elected Vice Chair Patrick Heidkamp will work to plan this as an outreach component for Southern Connecticut University. A recommendation to connect this with the UN Decade for Ocean Science was made and will be explored further.
- Increasing COMA communications and activity
  - A recommendation was made to solicit for COMA awards (e.g., R.J. Russell award, student awards) earlier in the year. This would also include a more robust solicitation process. The Vice-Chair will be leading this initiative with the Board's support. Suggestions were made for adding a session in honor of the R.J. Russell winner.
  - A recommendation was made for additional mentoring or connection opportunities that can engage with various audiences. Board members will further explore this recommendation.
  - After discussion, a proposition was made by the Chair to add the following article to the Bylaws: Ad hoc committees of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group can be formulated by the majority of the voting membership present at the Annual Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Business Meeting. There will be at least one board member on the committee. A motion was made to approve this

proposition, and it was seconded. Agreements to modify the by-laws were agreed to by a unanimous vote. A motion to renumber the by-laws (Articles 6 and 7) sequentially to include the new by-law (Ad hoc Committees; article 6) was proposed by Rich Daniels, seconded, and voted (unanimously).

- The chair made a motion for the first Ad hoc Committee to be formulated to address social media outlets (e.g., Twitter, Facebook). Members of this Committee will report to the chair. Zach Hilgendorf is serving as the student lead for this committee. A majority vote approved this motion.

*Looking ahead*

AAG 2022 – New York, NY, February 25-March 1, 2022 (Changed to Virtual Conference)

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PST.