

**COMA Special Interest Group
Annual Business Meeting
Held at AAG Annual Meeting
Denver, Colorado
Saturday, March 25, 2023
6:00 PM MST**

Attendees: Jack Gonzales, Clinton Stipek, Youngjae Kim, Jinsu Bae, Scott Graves, Phillip Schmutz, Michelle Harris, Mary Strickland, Barbara Quimby, Jean Ellis, Jennifer Cook, Doug Sherman, Quentin Stubbs, Patrick Heidkamp (virtually) (*Appendix A*)

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by Jean Ellis.

Agenda:

- I. Approval of the 2022 Meeting Minutes
- II. Report from Specialty Group Chair's Meeting
- III. COMA at AAG 2023
- IV. Website Update
- V. Membership and Budget
- VI. Awards
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Board Nominations and Elections
- IX. For the Good of the Order

I. Approval of the 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Minutes presented by Jean Ellis
- Michelle Harris moved to approve the minutes
- All approved

II. Report from Specialty Group Chair's Meeting

- AAG chairs meet quarterly
- COMA thanked for annual report
- No annual report=potential removal as a specialty group
- There are eight groups that have met all of AAG requests/wants. These are larger groups that have more members
 - Some groups need extra support and will be contacted (COMA has not been communicated with yet)
 - JEDI leadership is in attendance at conference and have a booth—please visit
 - Restructuring of AAG committees members is coming. There is also discussion that there might be a consolidation of specialty groups.
 - Next annual report is due in September
 - AAG has moved buildings and currently in a leased building. The move was due to a high maintenance needs, and there was also a large number of remote workers.
 - AAG Council members interviewed for annual editorial report → look for new PG position coming
 - Big topic—Hawai'i meeting. There are concerns about tourism, climate, cost, etc. They are thinking about allowing more hybrid options. Hawai'i tourism said that they

want the meeting to continue if (1) hire indigenous person, (2) speaker to honor Indigenous people, and (3) Indigenous get in free to the conference. Feel that this is a move in the positive light and looking for ways to engage with the community and respect our "meeting footprint". Hawai'i contract was signed in 2016. In 2020, AAG looked to cancel the contract but would cost \$1.2 million to Hilton.

-Denver conference has ~6000 registered and ~1300 sessions. Approximately eighty percent of participants are in person and 20% of the sessions are hybrid.

-Barbara Quimby offered ways to connect with community in Hawai'i—fisheries, etc.

-Suggestion for COMA group to be very prevalent in the Hawai'i meeting.

-AAG also has six scholars who are working with AAG to plan the Hawai'i meeting.

III. COMA at AAG 2023

-Had nine sessions that we cosponsored, plus business meeting (*Appendix B*)

IV. Website Update

-11,406 visits since inception, 400 hits/year, cost \$99/year

-Jennifer Cook suggested looking at moving to a free platform to save cost

V. Membership and Budget

-Currently have \$2879 and 192 members (geomorphology has 206) (*Appendix C*)

-Budget is divided into dues collected, donations, awards, website, "receptions"

-This term: \$99 taken out for website to reimburse Richard Daniels, \$250 for Psuty Award and another \$250 for other awards (Service and Russell)

-Phillip Schmutz asked for the reason of the increase in funds. Jean Ellis explained the incentive awards and Walker award changed, increased dues (especially with faculty), and receptions stopped. Walker award hadn't been awarded in some time and have money to give paper, poster awards, etc.---potentially \$1000. This year was the most expensive in previous years.

-COMA has solicited posters and have no one wanting to compete. Some students are reluctant to do it school does not pay to have them created.

VI. Awards

-Norbert Psuty Student Paper Award

-Given to Emily Melvin, a PhD student from University of Southern Mississippi

-Paper on: Blue possibilities: Reading for Diversity within Grand Bahama's Blue Economy

-Distinguished Service Award

-Richard Daniels

-Jean Ellis read the notification of his award to the group

-R.J. Russell Award

-Jean Ellis for excellence in research, teaching, and service to coastal and marine geography

VII. New Business

-By-law changes (*Appendix D*)

-Discussion:

-Article 4 Officers, E. Awards Committee

6:38 PM

- Reading of the by-law change
- Why? To streamline by laws. Every award had duplicated language
- Vote all changes in a block; Barbara Quimby moved; Phillip Schmutz seconded.

-Article 5: Description of Awards

- Proposed Suspended on 3/2023
- Suspension for participation of Walker
- Why? To align with changes made last year (suspension of Psuty incentive)
- Student put \$50 in and received recognition via ribbon
- Phillip Schmutz described how this incentivized student to do poster and went around it last year.
- Also an option: unsuspend Psuty and have both be the same.
- Asked student opinion—Mary Strickland felt that rewarding at the end is better.
- Jean Ellis offered the thought of whether there should be a second place.
- Phillip Schmutz offered for it to be per academic level
- Jean Ellis explained that the Psuty gave description of how money can be split.
- Asked if language for Psuty language was the same. Jean Ellis explained that the language was the same and Psuty already suspended incentive.
- Patrick Heidkamp offered to add money or two awards.
- Barbara Quimby offered thought that they had \$50 to give students and it would money in their pocket to go to the conference.
- There have only been 4 applicants each year, so they have already been given. Psuty award would give student who won an additional \$150. Would be ~\$400 a year for awards.
- Dog things that we should have incentive awards for both awards.
- Verbiage update: Replace with unsuspending Psuty incentive

-Distinguished Service Award

- Proposed to make permanent
- Established 3/2023
- Read language of new by-law addition.
- Phillip Schmutz pointed out criteria #4—look at industry where writing is not a part of what they have to do
- Explanation that is has to be on criteria #1 and two of the other three criteria.
- Thought to remove criteria #4 and have to do criteria #1 and either #2 or #3.
- Doug Sherman thought that the criteria listed is possible and complement each other.
- Jean Ellis asked for verbiage in nomination criteria. Verbiage was updated to meet the wants of the group and strike out criteria #4.

-Article 4 Officers

- Chair can remove unresponsive individuals who have not

- communicated for 6 months.
- Added "Board of Directors with a majority vote" for consideration.
- Doug Sherman suggested to change the "terms of service." Added "against time served in office."
- Vote for by-law changes
 - Jean Ellis made a motion to approve; Quinton Stubbs seconded; group agreed.

7:07 PM

VIII. Board Nominations and Elections

- Email sent out on March 6 by Jean Ellis
- COMA needs chair, vice chair, two board members, one student board member
- Group agreed to do nominations and then vote in block
- Nominations:
 - Chair
 - Patrick Heidkamp is currently vice chair and would move to chair
 - Patrick Heidkamp accepted the nomination

7:09 PM

- Vice Chair
 - Quinton Stubbs self-nominated. Works at NOAA and is currently a board member.
- Board Members
 - Phillip Schmutz self-nominated
 - Melva Trevino-Pena sent email to Jean Ellis for self-nomination.
- Doug Sherman was nominated by Phillip Schmutz but declined
- Student Board Member
 - Mary Strickland self-nominated
- Nominations were closed by Jean Ellis; Barbara Quimby moved to accept the nominations; Doug Sherman seconded; all members agreed
- Jean Ellis moved to accept Patrick Heidkamp, Quinton Stubbs, Phillip Schmutz, Melva Trevino Pena, and Mary Strickland for their nominated positions. Quinton Stubbs seconded the motion, and all agreed.

7:16 PM

IX. For the Good of the Order

- Jean Ellis called for any other business for the good of the group. No additions.
- Jean Ellis reminded the group about the hurricane sessions on Sunday that are sponsored by COMA.

Jean Ellis moved to close the meeting.
Phillip Schmutz seconded; all agreed.

Meeting called at 7:21 PM.

Appendix A Information for Attendees

Name	Affiliation	Email
Jack Gonzales	Oak Ridge National Lab	gonzalesjj@ornl.gov
Clinton Stipek	Oak Ridge National Lab	stipekw@ornl.gov
Youngjae Kim	University of South Carolina	yk4@email.sc.edu
Jinsu Bae	University of Alabama	jbae12@crimson.ua.edu
Scott Graves	Southern Connecticut State University	graves1@southernct.edu
Phillip Schmutz	University of West Florida	pschmutz@uwf.edu
Michelle Harris	University of South Carolina	mh28@email.sc.edu
Mary Strickland	Purdue University	mstrick@purdue.edu
Barbara Quimby	Hawai'i Pacific University	bquimby@hpu.edu
Jean Ellis	University of South Carolina	jellis@seoe.sc.edu
Jennifer Cook	Louisiana Sea Grant/ Louisiana State University	jcook67@lsu.edu
Doug Sherman	University of Alabama	sherman@ua.edu
Quentin Stubbs	NOAA	qustubbs@umd.edu
Patrick Heidkamp	Southern Connecticut State University	Heidkampc1@southernct.edu

Appendix B COMA sponsored events at 2023 AAG

[Small-scale fisheries, food systems & food sovereignty](#)

Type: Paper Theme: Toward More Just Geographies Primary Organizer: Barbara Quimby, Hawai'i Pacific University Date: 3/23/2023 Time: 8:30 AM - 9:50 AM MT Room: Mineral Hall C, Hyatt Regency, Third Floor

This session will be streamed, recorded, and archived on the site until June 25th, 2023

[Blue Economy](#)

Type: Paper Primary Organizer: C Patrick Heidkamp, Southern Connecticut State University Date: 3/24/2023 Time: 10:20 AM - 11:40 AM MT Room: Tower Court A, Sheraton, I.M. Pei Tower, Second Level

[Coastal and Aeolian System Science 1](#)

Type: Paper Primary Organizer: Jean Ellis, Date: 3/24/2023 Time: 12:50 PM - 2:10 PM MT Room: Tower Court A, Sheraton, I.M. Pei Tower, Second Level

[Coastal and Aeolian System Science 2](#)

Type: Paper Primary Organizer: Jean Ellis, Date: 3/24/2023 Time: 2:40 PM - 4:00 PM MT Room: Tower Court A, Sheraton, I.M. Pei Tower, Second Level

[The Geography of Ports and Shipping](#)

Type: Paper Primary Organizer: C Patrick Heidkamp, Southern Connecticut State University Date: 3/24/2023 Time: 4:30 PM - 5:50 PM MT Room: Tower Court A, Sheraton, I.M. Pei Tower, Second Level

[Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Business Meeting](#)

Type: Panel, Primary Organizer: Jean Ellis, Date: 3/25/2023 Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MT Room: Granite A, Hyatt Regency, Third Floor

[COMA R.J. Russell Award Lecture](#)

Type: Paper Primary Organizer: C. Patrick Heidkamp, Southern Connecticut State University Date: 3/25/2023 Time: 2:40 PM - 4:00 PM MT Room: Granite A, Hyatt Regency, Third Floor

This session will be streamed, recorded, and archived on the site until June 25th, 2023

[Hurricanes 1](#)

Type: Paper Primary Organizer: Kam-biu Liu, Louisiana State University Date: 3/26/2023 Time: 8:30 AM - 9:50 AM MT Room: Windows, Sheraton, I.M. Pei Tower, Second Level

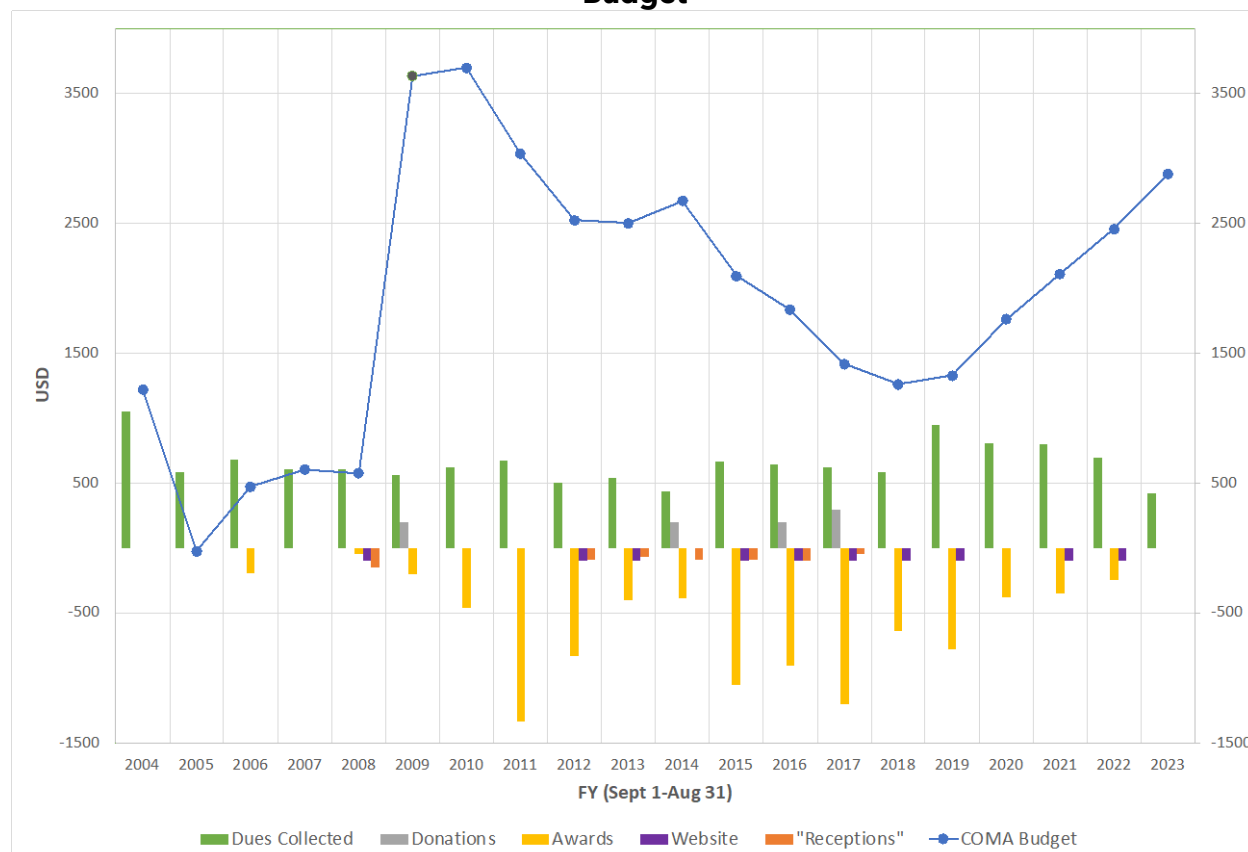
[Hurricanes 2](#)

Type: Paper Primary Organizer: Harry Williams, Date: 3/26/2023 Time: 10:20 AM - 11:40 AM MT Room: Windows, Sheraton, I.M. Pei Tower, Second Level

[Hurricanes 3](#)

Type: Paper Primary Organizer: Harry Williams, Date: 3/26/2023 Time: 12:50 PM - 2:10 PM MT Room: Windows, Sheraton, I.M. Pei Tower, Second Level

Appendix C Budget



Appendix D Proposed By Law Changes

New Additions Deleted Text

Change #1:

Article 4. Officers

(Added 4/2011) Any COMA specialty group member in good standing may run for an available officer position (with the exception of the student board member). All expiring or vacant positions will be announced to the membership at least one month prior to the annual COMA business meeting. Members may self-nominate or nominate another member (ensuring the nominated member is willing to serve if elected).

Vote will be by simple majority of those members present, and will be by open polling unless a secret ballot is requested by a member. The current Chair will not vote, except to cast a deciding vote in the case of a tie. All candidates must be members in good standing of the COMA specialty group at the time of election.

If there are no candidates for a position, the current board may elect to appoint a volunteer to fill the position until the next business meeting. If the appointed officer is not a COMA member at the time of appointment, they must become a member within two weeks of the business meeting. *If an officer is not performing their duties and is unresponsive to communication for six months, the Chair or Board of Directors with a majority vote can remove them from their elected position with written notice. If the absentee officer is the*

Chair, the Vice Chair has the authority to remove the Chair. The Chair or Vice Chair will appoint an interim COMA officer. Time served as the interim does not count against as time served in office.

Change #2

D. Executive Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consist of ~~three~~ four individuals. Each shall function as a judge for the Student Paper Merit Award, serving on that committee under the direction of the vice chair. ~~Members of the board shall also evaluate nominees and select a recipient for the R.J. Russell Award.~~ Three members of the Board of Directors will serve two year terms, determined according to the timing of AAG annual meetings. (Rev 4/2011) The fourth position will be filled by a specialty group member who is currently pursuing their doctoral degree. This position will be the student representative on the board, serve a one year term determined according to the timing of the AAG annual meeting, and will have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular Board Member.

Change #3

E. Awards Committee. The Award Committee shall be chaired by the Vice Chair of the Specialty Group, with the Board of Directors serving as the other three committee members. At least three individuals should be on the selection committee, and if conflicts arise, the vice chair should appoint from the specialty group membership to meet this quota. A person shall not serve on the selection committee if they have nominated a candidate being considered, or if their student is competing in the competition.

Change #4

F. Officer Elections

(Added 4/2011) Any COMA specialty group member in good standing may run for an available officer position (with the exception of the student board member). All expiring or vacant positions will be announced to the membership at least one month prior to the annual COMA business meeting. Members may self-nominate or nominate another member (ensuring the nominated member is willing to serve if elected).

Vote will be by simple majority of those members present and will be by open polling unless a secret ballot is requested by a member. The current Chair will not vote, except to cast a deciding vote in the case of a tie. All candidates must be members in good standing of the COMA specialty group at the time of election.

If there are no candidates for a position, the current board may elect to appoint a volunteer to fill the position until the next business meeting. If the appointed officer is not a COMA member at the time of appointment, they must become a member within two weeks of the business meeting. If an officer is unable, unwilling, or does not execute their duties, the Chair can remove them from their elected position with written notice. If the absentee officer is the Chair, the Vice Chair has the authority to remove the Chair. The Chair or Vice Chair will appoint an interim COMA officer. Time served as the interim does not count as time served.

Change #5

Article 5

A. The Norbert P. Psuty Student Paper Merit Award (Renamed 3/8/2006)

Procedures. The vice chair solicits and organizes the session. An application for the student paper award and a copy of the abstract of the paper must be received by the vice chair, who is also chair of the Student Paper Merit Award Committee, no later than one week before abstracts are due at the AAG. This will enable the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group to organize and sponsor or co-sponsor one or more sessions that include these papers. Once the application is submitted, the award committee will determine if the content of the paper is sufficiently coastal or marine in nature to be considered.

Selection. The award will be selected by the Awards Committee

Student Merit Award Committee: Selection. The award will be selected by the Awards Committee. This award committee will be chaired by the vice chair of the specialty group, with the Board of Directors serving as the committee members. If both cultural-human and physical geography papers are competing when the award committee consists of only physical or only cultural-human geographers, a geographer from the unrepresented field should be appointed to the committee. If committee members cannot attend the annual meeting or the student paper sessions, they should inform the committee chair so that a proxy can be appointed. Members of the student awards committee should not judge papers given by their current or former students, but they may participate in discussions during which final selections are made. At the discretion of the committee may award up to two awards may be given each year (e.g., undergraduate/Masters and PhD level, or best physical and best human paper).

Change #6

Participation Incentive (Rev. 4/2015; Suspended 3/2022; Reinstated 3/2023). The incentive stipend is designed to encourage the early submission of papers for the Student Paper Merit Award competition and is \$50. Each year the COMA Board of Directors will decide whether or not an incentive stipend will be offered the following year and the amount and number of stipends (currently \$50 for the first five four accepted applicants). This incentive will be used to defray AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership fees and travel expenses to the AAG annual meeting.

Change #7

B. The H. Jesse Walker Student Guided Poster Merit Award (Added 4/2000; Renamed 4/1/2016 & 4/2019)

Student Merit Award Committee: Selection. The award will be selected by the Awards Committee. This award committee will be chaired by the vice chair of the specialty group, with the Board of Directors serving as the committee members. If both cultural-human and physical geography papers are competing when the award committee consists of only physical or only cultural-human geographers, a geographer from the unrepresented field should be appointed to the committee. If committee members cannot attend the annual meeting or the student illustrated paper sessions, they should inform the committee chair so that a proxy can be appointed. Members of the student awards committee should not judge papers given by their current or former students, but they may participate in discussions during which final selections are made.

Change #8

Participation Incentive (Added 4/2019). The incentive stipend is designed to encourage the early submission of abstracts to the Student Guided Poster competition and is \$50. Each year the COMA Board of Directors will decide whether or not an incentive stipend will be offered the following year and the amount and number of stipends (currently \$50 for the first

four accepted applicants). This incentive will be used to defray AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership fees and travel expenses to the AAG annual meeting:

Change #9

C. The R.J. Russell Award.

Selection Committee. The award will be selected by the Awards Committee. The R.J. Russell Award Committee shall be chaired by the vice chair of the specialty group with the Board of Directors serving as the other three members of the committee. A person shall not serve on the selection committee if they have nominated a candidate being considered for that year's award. At least three individuals should be on the selection committee, and, if conflicts arise, the vice chair should appoint from the specialty group membership to meet this quota.

Change #10

E. Distinguished Service Award (Established 3/2023)

Eligibility. Any person contributing significantly to advancing coastal and marine geography by supporting the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group for 10 or more years may be nominated. Nominations may come from any member of the American Association of Geographers.

Nomination and Selection. The nomination will consist of a letter of recommendation addressing the criteria for the award. The nomination should be made by August 15th of the year preceding the award year and should be voted on by the Awards Committee. Nominations received after that date will be considered but may be awarded the following year.

Criteria for Evaluation of Nominees. To receive the award, nominees should meet the following three criteria:

1. The Service Award is given for service to the organization greater than ten years in duration where the recipient has a proven record of dependability and has displayed ethical behavior throughout the award period,
2. held and served honorably in two or more leadership positions in the organization, and
3. taken on a leadership role in organizing two or more major activities (e.g., publications, awards) or events (e.g., special sessions, field trips) of the organization.

Award. The Service Award will consist of a plaque or trophy and recognition in the newsletters of the specialty group and the AAG and at the COMA annual business meeting. Awardees will be notified before the registration deadline for the meeting so they may accept the award during a COMA sponsored session or at the annual business meeting; if this is not possible, the award will be presented at the following AAG annual meeting.