

The Geochemical Society

Minutes of the 1999 Board of Directors Annual Meeting

The meeting was convened at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA on August 22, 1999 and came to order at 10:20 AM

Present: Mike Drake (President), Mike Hochella (Vice President), Don Elthon (Treasurer), Dave Wesolowski (Secretary), Ross Taylor (International Secretary), Scott Wood (Special Publications Editor), Mike Lewan (OGD Chair), Steve Macko (OGD Secretary) Al Hofmann (Director), Lynn Walter (Director), Keith O’Nions (Director), Alexandra Navrotsky (Director), Vala Ragnarsdottir (Director), Neil Sturchio (Newsletter Editor), Mark Bloom (Website Coordinator), Lee Mobley (Business Manager), Mabel Peterson (GCA Manuscript Manager), Karl Turekian (GCA Executive Editor), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor-elect), Stein Jacobsen (representing 9th V.M. Goldschmidt Conference Organizing Committee), Hubert Staudigel and Charles Langmuir (representing GERM electronic journal), Giulio Ottonello (Geochemical Society of Italy), and Yukihiro Matsuhisa (Geochemical Society of Japan).

Treasurer’s Report: Don Elthon reported that the liquid assets of the Society, as of 12/31/98 were \$492K, and that there has been a steady growth in assets over the last five years. In addition to the traditional investment of reserves in certificates of deposit, an account was opened in 1998 with Solomon Smith Barney, with a balance of \$258K as of 6/27/99, invested in conservative stocks, bonds and money market vehicles. Elthon estimates our year 2000 expenditures at approximately \$144K, and income of \$111K from dues, GCA royalties, interest, thus projecting a modest budget deficit. Recent significant increases in expenditures include the Business Office operation, student travel support for the Goldschmidt Conferences, the Newsletter, website development, and support of GS-sponsored meetings other than Goldschmidt.

Current and Future Goldschmidt Conferences: Stein Jacobsen reported that 660 abstracts had been received for the 1999 conference in Boston, and that approximately 600 registrants were expected. At this level of attendance, the conference budget was expected to achieve close

balance between expenditures and registration fee receipts. Keith O’Nions reported that planning was well underway for the 10th conference in Oxford, U.K., Sept. 3-8, 2000. They are planning for a maximum attendance of 1200, and are hoping to identify substantial lodging at Oxford Colleges at reasonable rates. Mike Hochella, reported that initial planning is also well along for the 11th conference in Roanoke, Virginia, USA, in late May of 2001. The site of the meeting will be the Roanoke Hotel and Conference Center, owned and operated by Virginia Tech University, which has lodging and facilities for 500 to 1500 participants in up to 13 parallel sessions. This conference will be co-sponsored by the Mineralogical Society of America, in addition to GS and EAG. Al Hofmann reported that the EAG Council has approved a proposal, by Alex Halliday and Rainer Wieler of ETH Zürich and Jan Kramers of the University of Bern, for the 2002 conference to be held in Davos, Switzerland.

International Secretary’s Report: Ross Taylor reported that he is serving as GS representative to the IGC meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 6-17, 2000, and that GS will co-sponsor 5 special and 9 general symposia. The Board then heard presentations by Giulio Ottonello of the newly-formed Geochemical Society of Italy and Yukihiro Matsuhisa of the long-established Geochemical Society of Japan (1150 members), which included suggested interactions with GS and EAG, and the possibilities of these countries hosting future Goldschmidt Conferences. The Board approved a motion requesting a proposal for a Goldschmidt Conference in Japan in the near future. The Board also discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring a smaller, topical symposium or workshop jointly with the Geochemical Society of Italy.

Geochemical News: GS newsletter Editor Neil Sturchio discussed the expenses associated with production and mailing of the newsletter, suggesting that perhaps biennial publication would be more cost effective. The Board, however, expressed strong support for continuing quarterly production, praising Sturchio for the many improvements in the newsletter, including substantive articles, interviews with prominent scientists, and revenues from paid advertisements. Sturchio reported that the newly established board of Associate Editors are contributing significantly to the newsletter. There was some discussion of

the possibility of EAG co-sponsoring the newsletter.

Special Publications and RIM&G: Editor Scott Wood reported that SP#6, dedicated to Joe Boyd, is now in print, and that manuscripts are due at the end of September for SP#7 in memory of David Crerar, reporting that Princeton University is contributing \$2,000 to the production cost. Mike Hochella reported that planning was well under way for a future issue of the newly established Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry Series (joint with MSA, and a follow on to MSA's Reviews in Mineralogy series) devoted to surface chemistry. Scott Wood presented a proposal by Randy Cygan of Sandia National Laboratory, USA and Jim Kubicki of Penn State University, USA, for a workshop and RIM&G volume related to molecular modeling theory and applications in the geosciences, with the workshop to be held in conjunction with the 2001 Goldschmidt Conference. Wood also presented a proposal for a new Special Publication dedicated to Werner Giggenbach. Decisions were deferred on these proposals, pending more detailed budget information and the establishment of a clear policy for the future of the Special Publication series, which has heretofore not sold well.

GS Business Office: Business Manager Lee Mobley discussed the demographics of the Society Membership and offered suggestions for increasing membership, which is holding steady at around 1500 worldwide, and improving member services. As a result, a letter is being sent to geoscience departments worldwide, encouraging increased student membership. Students are currently offered heavily GS-subsidized membership (\$5) and GCA subscription (\$45) rates, relative to the professional rates (\$25 and \$122, respectively). Establishment of an institutional membership category was discussed but no decisions were made. The Board voted to set 2000 membership dues and GCA subscription costs for professional and student members at the same rate as 1999. Mobley then informed the Board that she would not submit a proposal for the continuation of the Business Office in Columbus, Ohio, USA. The Board then voted to authorize funding for the Geochemical Society business activities to be moved to St. Louis, Missouri, USA, and to be managed by Frank Podosek in conjunction with the GCA Editorial Office at Washington University.

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta Karl Turekian and Mabel Peterson reported that the journal remains healthy and the quality of papers remains high, and that GCA has approximately the same rejection rate and time from manuscript receipt to acceptance as other high quality scientific journals. Turekian reported that indexes for the 1997 and 1998 volumes have now been published, and the index for the 1999 volume will appear in the last issue of the volume, as in previous years. Two special issues, in honor of Werner Stumm and Claude Allègre, will appear in the 1999 volume, with the Stumm issue appearing in two parts due to the large number of excellent papers received. Turekian suggested that due to the increasing quality and coverage of the GS newsletter, some items might be transferred from GCA to this vehicle, such as citations and responses, memorials and book reviews. Finally, Turekian indicated that after October 1, 1999, new manuscripts will be handled by Frank Podosek, who assumes the Executive Editorship officially on January 1, 2000. Podosek then reported that negotiations were underway with Elsevier regarding staffing of the new Editorial Office at Washington University, that the current seven-member Editorial Advisory Board will be dissolved on December 31, and that a panel of up to 50 Associate Editors will be used to distribute manuscripts to expert reviewers in their respective areas and to make publication recommendations to the Executive Editor. Podosek has established a website URL, gca.wustl.edu, containing information for contributors, and will encourage electronic submission, review and editing of future manuscripts. Podosek then discussed the desirability of offering back-issues of GCA to GS member/subscribers on CD-rom, and a motion was approved empowering him to pursue this further.

Geochemical Society Website: Mark Bloom reviewed the current capabilities of the GS website, as well as the technical aspects of the server, software and internet connection, which is currently shared with the Mineralogical Society of America. The Board voted to approve the relocation of the website responsibilities to Washington University, to be managed by Frank Podosek as part of the GS business activities.

Electronic Publications: Charles Langmuir and Hubert Staudigel reported on the status of the new all-electronic publication, G^3 (which stands for

Geophysics, Geochemistry, and Geosystems) which is co-sponsored by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and GS, although GS has not provided financial support for the development of this new journal. Langmuir indicated that nine papers are currently in review and that 250 to 300 papers per year are anticipated. Langmuir reported that the all-electronic journal will feature rapid publication, low cost, and the ability to publish large data sets that are directly accessible, video and three dimensional material, color figures with rotation and animation, and direct electronic links to future addenda, comments and replies. Langmuir invited the Society to consider providing financial support for start-up costs and/or becoming co-publishers of the journal, but no decisions were made at the meeting. Scott Wood then briefly discussed another electronic journal, *Geochemical Transactions*, which is sponsored by the Geochemistry Division of the American Chemical Society and will be published by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The GS is supporting the development of this journal by appointing a GS member to the Editorial Board, currently Scott Wood.

Miscellaneous Items: The possibility of publishing abstracts of future Goldschmidt Conferences in GCA was discussed, but no decision was reached. The Board approved a motion to establish an Executive Committee of the GS, composed of the current President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer and Secretary, which is empowered to make business decisions and to authorize non-recurring expenditures between meetings of the full Board of Directors. Finally, the Board voted to approach EAG with the suggestion that the chair of the GS Goldschmidt Award Committee serve as an ad hoc member of the EAG Urey Medal Committee, and similarly that the chair of the GS Clarke Award Committee serve on the EAG Houtermans Medal Committee, and finally that the chairs of the respective EAG committees would serve as ad hoc members of the GS committees.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

These minutes were prepared by David J. Wesolowski, Secretary, The Geochemical Society.