



*ATLANTIC GEOSCIENCE SOCIETY
LA SOCIÉTÉ GÉOSCIENTIFIQUE DE L'ATLANTIQUE*

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 8 February, 2014, 12.00 noon – 1.45 p.m.
The Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Minutes of Meeting

- 1) Approval of Agenda – G Wach called the meeting to order at 12.25 p.m. E Kusters moved, J Payne seconded, that the agenda be approved. No objections.
- 2) Approval of minutes of 2 February, 2013, Annual General Meeting, Dartmouth, NS – C Stanley moved, P Ryall seconded, that the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. No objections.
- 3) Matters Arising from the Minutes – None
- 4) Presentation of the Financial Report – C Campbell and N Koziel provided financial statements (appended) and noted that GICs are being rolled over as required, with some funds being extracted for the purchase of a batch of Gesner Medals. C Campbell noted that the Society is retaining funds in excess of that recommended by Revenue Canada. G Williams moved, C Stanley seconded, that the report be accepted. No objections.
- 5) Appointment of Financial Reviewers for 2014 – M Lewis and I Spooner were nominated to review the books for 2014-15.
- 6) Annual Reports of the 2013-14 Executive and Committees – written copies of these reports were provided in the program; additional items are noted below.
 - Report from the President (G Wach)
 - Report from the Education Committee (J Bates)
 - Report from the EdGeo Workshop Committee (J Bates)
 - Report from the Video Committee (G Williams)
 - Report from the Products Committee (D Keighley – noted that two submissions were considered by the Council at the 7 February meeting of Council, with approval of \$1000 toward the Geology of Nova Scotia guidebook, and \$3000 toward the UNESCO Conference on Global Geoparks. Furthermore, Council received and approved a request from the GAC-MAC 2015 LOC to support the cost of poster boards to the value of \$4500.
 - Report from Publications Committee – S Barr reported that the committee has been initiated. At its inaugural meeting on 7 February S Barr was appointed as chair, and members recognised an overlap between the responsibilities of the Publications Committee and Products Committee that needs to be resolved.
 - Report from Atlantic Geology editors (S Barr)
 - Report from Awards Committee (C Stanley)
 - Report from Membership Committee (R Raeside for A Miller)
 - Report from Science Atlantic (Earth Science) Committee (M Graves)

Report from Publicity Coordinator (E Kosters) – M Parsons suggested that AGS be active on Facebook and volunteered to contact Grant Ferguson to re-initiate the Facebook account.
Report on conference registration – the Society moved to online registration with EventRebels last year, and added online payment through PayPal this year. PayPal will be used now for subscriptions, purchases, and *Atlantic Geology* renewals.
Report from Webmaster (J MacIntosh)
Report from Public Talks committee (Travelling Road Show: M Grey)
Report on Colloquium registration (E Kosters) – report attached.

D Piper moved, A Ruffman seconded, that all the reports be accepted as provided. No objections.

- 7) GAC-MAC conference, co-hosted by AGS in Fredericton, 2014 – J Walker reported on the finalization of the program, that abstract submission deadline is 10 February, although that date will be extended, and encouraged AGS members to attend the conference in May.
- 8) Motion: That two prizes be awarded for best posters at the AGS Colloquium: the Graham Williams Award for the best poster by a graduate student and a new “Rob Raeside Award” for the best poster by an undergraduate student. Moved by C Stanley, seconded by E Kosters. Carried.
- 9) Election of Incoming Executive & Councillors: Past President E Kosters presented a slate of candidates for office:

President	Cliff Stanley, Acadia
Past President	Grant Wach, Dalhousie
Vice-President	_____
Treasurer	Calvin Campbell, Nelly Koziel, GSC (Atlantic)
Secretary	Rob Raeside, Acadia
Councillor	John Calder, NS DNR (new member, Gesner Inst. Soc. rep)
Councillor	Mark Deptuck, Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
Councillor	Melissa Grey, Joggins Fossil Centre
Councillor	Jacob Hanley, St. Mary’s (Speaker Tour coordinator)
Councillor	Chris McFarlane, UNB-F
Councillor	Andrew McRae, St. Mary’s
Councillor	Ann Miller, Wolfville
Councillor	Randy Miller, NB Museum
Councillor	Hamish Sandeman, NL DNR
Councillor	Kay Thorne, NB DEM, Fredericton
Councillor	Deanne van Rooyen, CBU (new member)
Councillor	Jim Walker, NB DEM
Councillor	Sheila Watters, Apohaqui, NB (new member)
Councillor	Chris White, NS DNR
Councillor	Mike Young, Dalhousie
Councillor	Renee Delisle, Acadia – graduate student
Councillor	_____, UNB – undergraduate student (to be determined by UNB)

C Stanley moved, P Ryall seconded, that the slate be approved. Carried. A Ruffman moved a motion of thanks to those councillors who are stepping down, seconded by D Piper. Carried.

- 10) Other Business Arising from Meeting
J Calder reminded members of the Geoheritage Sites process, with a vetting session to be held later in the meeting.
- 11) Adjournment at 1.30 p.m. on a motion from C. Stanley.

Report on Colloquium online registration and payment system AGS goes 21st century!

The Local Organizing Committee of the 2013 AGS Colloquium consisted of myself (then president), Grant Wach (then president-elect) and Bob Ryan. We realized that the pool of AGS volunteers is not likely to increase in the near future. Thus, anything that can save precious volunteer time should be of benefit to the society. We researched the market for companies that provide conference registration services and found an American company, Event Rebels (www.eventrebels.com) that appeared to be able to provide us with the required service for a very reasonable fee. We hired them to provide the online registration system for the 2013 Colloquium. The expense was CAD\$600.00. The registration system they provided was tailor-made, simple and fast. In addition, their help and support was excellent. AGS has a dedicated account manager who has never taken more than 2 hours to answer a question. The system spits out any (bookkeeping) report in seconds. It also generates name tags and receipts and automated registration replies etc. Volunteer-time reduced to manageable for anyone.

This year we decided to add online payment. The reason for doing so is twofold:

1. it's safer. Last year I personally handled Nelly the unlocked cash box with ca. \$3000 in cash and more in cheques and she had to walk across a parking lot in Dartmouth. I didn't feel that it was right to expose Nelly to the risk of getting robbed and possibly injured because of AGS's antiquated business manners.
2. last year we had about 7 American registrants and 2 or 3 from Calgary. These people expect to register and pay online. The Americans didn't have Canadian cheques and had to hunt for a cash machine for cash. Not very 21st century. Doesn't look professional.
3. Some long-time AGS attendants had developed a tendency to show up with 10 students in tow without having registered ahead of time. This makes predicting number of attendants hard and you get endless discussions about whether someone qualifies for the early bird cut-off date, etc.

Event Rebels provides service for online registration and payment as well, for an additional \$250. In order to establish online payment for the colloquium, AGS had to create a PayPal business account. The PayPal business account is linked to the AGS bank account and gives AGS the opportunity to put buttons on the website for all other products that we sell: *Atlantic Geology*, geologic highway map, Last Billion Years, DVDs, field trips, etc. It costs AGS \$30/mo to have this account. Especially the AG editors were very much in favour of setting this up. It took a while to set up the Pay Pal account, but it's now running smoothly. The Canadian Pay Pal customer agents are incredibly helpful and accessible. Event Rebels can also build in abstract submission. This costs an additional \$800. We decided not to go there this year because Rob Raeside said he could handle the abstracts easily. It's something to keep in mind for subsequent years, depending on the Local Organizing Committee.

In conclusion: this experience has been extremely positive to date and very affordable in addition.

Elisabeth Kusters