

AAPG Astrogeology Committee Annual Business Meeting

June 8, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (MST)
Denver, CO

Location: Hyatt Regency Convention Center Hotel
Room: Mineral Hall E

Minutes

Prepared by William A. Ambrose, Jim Reilly, and Doug Peters

Present (in alphabetical order, with e-mail address):

Bill Ambrose (william.ambrose@beg.utexas.edu) – Astrogeology Committee Co-Chair

Michael D. Campbell (mdc@mdcampbell.com) – Astrogeology Committee member, EMD
President-Elect and EMD Uranium Commodity Chair

Chuck Caughey (chuck.caughey@conocophillips.com) – Astrogeology Committee Manager

Don Clarke (labasindon@gmail.com) – Astrogeology Committee member

Cynthia Clarke (cclarke2@ca.rr.com) – AAPG member

David Criswell (drcriswell@comcast.net; dcriswell@uh.edu) – Author, Special Publication

Ron Hart (rhart@aapg.org) – AAPG Staff Liaison

Brandon Johnson (Brandon.johnson@beg.utexas.edu) – proposed new member, Astrogeology
Committee

Dante Lauretta (lauretta@lpl.arizona.edu) – University of Arizona, Lunar and Planetary
Laboratory

Prasanta Mukhopadhyay (muki@global-geoenergy.com) – Astrogeology Committee member

Seiichi Nagihara (seiichi.nagihara@ttu.edu) – Texas Tech University, Associate Professor of
Geosciences

Doug Peters (petersdc@petersgeo.com) – Astrogeology Committee Vice Chair for 2009 Annual
AAPG Meeting, Denver and new co-vice chair, 2009-2011

Dan Ruscitto (druscitto@uoregon.edu) – Student visitor

Harrison H. Schmitt (hhschmitt@earthlink.net) – Astrogeology Co-Chair

Bill Ambrose called the meeting to order at 1:16, followed by introductions from those attending.

Bill Ambrose proposed two changes to the agenda. These changes included (1) a brief presentation by Mike Campbell of his report, "The Role of Nuclear Power in Space Exploration and the Associated Environmental Issues: an Overview" to the Astrogeology Committee, and (2) comments from Harrison Schmitt on how the Astrogeology Committee may wish to be involved with other AAPG committees on climate-change issues. These changes to the agenda were approved unanimously by those present.

Mike Campbell formally presented his report to the Astrogeology Committee. Chuck Caughey took a couple of photographs of Mike presenting the report to Bill Ambrose. Harrison Schmitt made a motion for a note of appreciation to Mike Campbell for preparing this report. This motion was approved unanimously by those present.

Harrison Schmitt suggested that the Astrogeology Committee look at the AAPG statement on climate change. Doug Peters mentioned that AAPG already has a committee devoted to climate change (AAPG Global Climate Change Committee) and Harrison Schmitt suggested that we contact Lee Gerhard to provide our perspective on these issues for the AAPG Global Climate Change Committee. Chuck Caughey asked if there were any planetary geology issues pertinent to the discussion of climate change. Harrison noted that Mars appears to be going through a warming trend, although Dante Lauretta mentioned that this could not be confirmed from available data.

The minutes from the 2008 annual meeting of the Astrogeology Committee (April 21, 2008, San Antonio, TX), were approved unanimously by those present.

Goals

Bill Ambrose reviewed the three committee goals for the 2008-2009 business year. He stated that the committee has made great progress on the primary goal and the second goal, but much work needs to be done on the third goal, consisting of meeting and working with the National Science Teacher Association. These three goals are listed below, together with comments made by members of the committee in this meeting:

Primary Goal: Promote and prepare AAPG Special publication "Energy Resources for Human Settlement in the Solar System and Earth's Future in Space".

Bill Ambrose reviewed the status of the special publication, mentioning that we currently have commitments from authors for nine articles. He also mentioned that the deadline for first drafts is August 15. EMD has pledged \$5K in support of

publication costs; in addition, Bill, Jim Reilly, and Doug Peters will be sending a proposal to the AAPG Foundation for \$10K of support before July 1, the beginning of the new AAPG business year. Dante Laurretta also mentioned the possibility of getting publication support from aerospace companies.

Second Goal: Arrange an annual program of symposia or poster sessions at the Annual and International AAPG Conventions that emphasizes all aspects of astrogeology and its direct and indirect application to the exploration for energy (or other) resources, including their evaluation and production.

Bill mentioned that the committee has been reasonably successful in meeting this goal (for details, see the following sections “Current Meetings” and Future Meetings”. However, there is still the potential for the Astrogeology Committee to coordinate and co-sponsor technical events with other professional societies, a point that both Jim Reilly and Dante Laurretta stressed.

Third Goal: Meet with the National Science Teachers Association leaders to develop a plan for both teacher and student education and materials development.

Jim Reilly said that he could contact the Space Foundation at Colorado Springs.

Chuck Caughey mentioned that he could coordinate our efforts with the AAPG Youth Education Committee.

Current Meetings

2009 Annual AAPG Convention in Denver (June 7-10)

Vice Chair Doug Peters summarized committee-sponsored activities at the meeting, which consist of the following oral sessions “Energy Minerals in the Solar System: Resources for the 21st Century” and “The Impact of Impacts”. He also mentioned the poster session “Lunar Field Exploration Equipment and Sample Documentation” and his post-convention field trip “Remote Sensing, Climate Change and Planetary Science Facilities Tour”. The field trip only had one vacancy at the time of this committee meeting. Doug also mentioned that attendance at astrogeology sessions at last year’s AAPG convention helped him in getting this year’s sessions on the program.

Jack mentioned that at least two dozen attendees at his poster session and that Art Snoke recruited a new member for his FEAT team.

Future Meetings

2010 Annual AAPG Convention in New Orleans

Bill Ambrose mentioned that Tom Klekamp is serving as the Vice Chair for the New Orleans meeting. The Astrogeology Committee is sponsoring one oral session titled “The Impact of Cosmic Collisions on Earth’s History and the Occurrence of Hydrocarbon and Mineral Resources” (Bill Ambrose and Tom Klekamp, co-chairs). Harrison Schmitt suggested that we try to arrange Walter Alvarez as a speaker for the session. Prasanta Mukhopadhyay thought that we should invite a speaker to talk about impacts and hydrocarbon resources. Dante Lauretta pointed out the importance of ore deposits at Sudbury relative to impact structures. Don Clarke talked about bring a speaker to give a talk on the 12,900-BP impact in North America. Prasanta Mukhopadhyay stressed that Tom Klekamp should try to get media coverage for the session.

Other Meetings

The Astrogeology Committee also discussed the possibility of joint sessions with other professional organizations. In particular, Jim Reilly mentioned that he already had discussions with Rick Fritz about joint activities with SEG. Harrison Schmitt said that a great session would be one that we could hold with LPI on the reworking and reinterpretation of old data, such as Apollo ALSEP data, orbital detection of magnetic anomalies, seismic, and gravity data. Dante Lauretta mentioned the Grail Mission launch in 2011 and the need to write a proposal to reinterpret old lunar gravity data.

Committee Officers

Bill Ambrose mentioned that Doug Peters agreed to serve as the new Co-Vice Chair from 2009 to 2011. A second co-vice chair will be appointed to serve a staggered term from 2010 to 2012.

Website

Bill Ambrose mentioned that many committee members still need to provide biographical information for the Astrogeology Committee web site (<http://www.aapg.org/committees/astrogeology/index.cfm>). Bill invited everybody to send material to post on the website, including biographical sketches, personal photograph, contact information, and material for the ‘Outreach’ section—these include PowerPoint slide sets from recent and upcoming talks in AAPG sessions. Doug Peters suggested that instead of directly sending in PowerPoint slide to Janet Brister, the

designated person at AAPG who maintains and updates the web site, presenters can simply provide a link from SEARCH AND DISCOVERY, where session presentations are posted.

Adjournment

Bill Ambrose asked if there was any old and new business to discuss; there being none, he adjourned the meeting at 1:40.