

AAPG Astrogeology Committee
Annual Business Meeting
April 12, 2010, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (CST)
New Orleans, LA
Location: New Orleans Marriott Hotel
Room: Balcony L

Minutes
Prepared by William A. Ambrose

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

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

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

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

Thomas Klekamp (klekamp@bellsouth.net) – Astrogeology Committee Vice-Chair for the 2010 AAPG Annual Convention in New Orleans

Beverly Molyneux (molyneux@aapg.org) – AAPG Publications Liaison

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

Brian Pitts (bpitts@bak.rr.com) – Astrogeology Committee member and former Astrogeology Committee Co Chair

Dave Rensink (drensink@att.net) – AAPG President-Elect

Harrison H. Schmitt (hhschmitt@earthlink.net) – Astrogeology Committee member and former Chair

Note: Dave Campbell was present in a meeting nearby and was unable to attend. However, he was present after the meeting was adjourned.

Call to Order

Bill Ambrose called the meeting to order at 1:55, followed by introductions from present. The meeting began late to allow time for members to arrive after attending the AAPG all-convention luncheon across town.

Non-Quorum

Brian Pitts informed the committee that a quorum was not present, and therefore motions could not be introduced or voted on. However, he said that motions could be voted on via e-mails after the meeting was recessed.

Minutes from Last Year's Business Meeting

Bill asked if anybody wanted to discuss the minutes from the 2009 annual meeting of the Astrogeology Committee (June 8, 2009, Denver, CO). There were no requests for discussion. No vote was taken to approve the minutes because the committee did not have a quorum.

New Members

Harrison Schmitt (Jack) suggested that the Astrogeology Committee needed new members, particularly students, for the committee to achieve its goals and to be a dynamic force in AAPG. Tom Klekamp mentioned the difficulty of students getting involved in AAPG. Jack pointed out that we should recruit Mark Helper, co-chair of FEAT (Field Exploration and Analysis Team). Bill agreed and said that we would ask Mark to join AAPG and the Astrogeology Committee. Bill also mentioned that Mark sponsors an undergraduate group of students at the University of Texas Geology Department who are interested in planetary geology. Their group is known as POSSE (UT Planetary Organization for Space Sciences and Exploration) and Bill said that he had given them a presentation earlier this year on lunar hydrogen and water-ice resources. Prasanta Mukhopadhyay (Muki) said that Lesli Wood and her students who are interested in astrogeology should also join. Bill said that he would talk to them after returning to Austin. Bill also pledged to bring in at least six new members in the upcoming business year.

As a way of enticing new members next year, Jack suggested that a box be printed on the advertisement for the field trip to NASA at the 2011 AAPG Annual convention in Houston. Those interested in joining the committee could check this box; furthermore, we could send e-mails to those who sign up for the field trip. Jack also asked how AAPG members can contact fellow members (particularly geophysicists) and Dave Rensink mentioned this could be done via the AAPG members-only directory. Beverly Molyneux identified Linda Sternbach as the chair of the Geophysics Committee. Muki said that he had a membership list of the Geochemical Society in the Houston area and that he could send a list to Bill.

Goals

Bill reviewed the three Astrogeology Committee goals for the 2009-2010 business year and asked if anybody had any comments or questions concerning them. The goals are listed below, together with comments made those present at the 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 reviewed the status of the special publication, mentioning that we currently have commitments for nine articles. We are still waiting on first drafts of manuscripts from three authors. The other six papers are very close to completion. The AAPG Foundation has granted \$10K and EMD has pledged \$5K in support of publication costs; Bill expressed appreciation to Dave Rensink for support from the AAPG Foundation and EMD.

Beverly reviewed three possible formats for the special volume, consisting of (1) book with full articles and figures, (2) CD only, or (3) a hybrid format, composed of a scaled-down book with extended abstracts printed, plus the CD. Don expressed concerns that a digital-only format would be useful and could be easily misplaced. Most of those present at the meeting expressed a preference for paper publications but no consensus was reached on the final format for the volume. Bill mentioned that he would provide an estimate of page length and number of figures for all the papers for Beverly, and then she could estimate costs for each format. We also discussed a possible release date for the special volume; it was acknowledged that it would be unlikely that the volume will be ready for release at the 2011 Annual AAPG convention in Houston, but that the committee could have flyers distributed for the meeting that announce the special publication.

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 reminded those present at the meeting about the program for the 2010 Annual AAPG convention in New Orleans (April 11-14). This included both an oral and poster session titled “Impact of Collisions on Earth’s History and the Occurrence of Hydrocarbons and Mineral Resources”, co-chaired by Thomas Klekamp and Bill Ambrose.

Bill reviewed the committee’s plans for the 2011 Annual AAPG convention in Houston (April 10-13). These include (1) the Technical Session “The Best of LPI for AAPG”* (co-chairs TBA), (2) an all-Convention luncheon and reception discussion commemorating the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s speech committing the US to go to the Moon, and (3) a field trip to NASA (co-chairs Charles and Linda Sternbach), a Saturday tour of NASA with a 55-person bus to visit the rocket park, mission control, and to attend several talks by scientists on lunar and planetary geology during lunch.

***Session renamed “Destination Moon or Mars?”**

Dave Rensink said that the venue for the 2011 International AAPG Conference (ICE) will be in Milan, Italy. He also said that no general chair for the convention has been determined, but that this would be announced by July 1. Dave also said that the 2013 Annual AAPG Convention (ACE) will be in Pittsburgh.

Don announced that the 2012 Annual AAPG Convention (ACE) will be in Long Beach. Both Brian and Don said that they would be glad to serve as Co-Vice Chairs for the convention and discussed the possibility of a field trip to JPL.

Jack indicated that the 2011 Annual GSA convention will be held in Minneapolis, October 9 to 12. Bill mentioned that he could talk to Dave Williams at ASU to arrange a session jointly hosted by GSA and the Astrogeology Committee. Jack expressed some concern about the lateness of the year and a venue that is so far north.

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

Bill reviewed the list of activities that the Astrogeology Committee coordinating with NSTA. These activities were initially suggested during a teleconference with Chuck Caughey, Bill Ambrose, and NSTA representatives Larry Rzepka and Zipporah Miller on June 18, 2009. The activities are:

- Regularly schedule teleconferences with NSTA representatives (Larry, Zipporah, and others) and the Astrogeology Committee;
- Invite NSTA representatives (Larry, Zipporah, and others) to meetings of the Astrogeology Committee, perhaps via teleconferences or net meetings;
- Have members of the Astrogeology Committee give lectures and conduct field trips for K-12 students;
- Have the Astrogeology Committee participate in regional and national conferences of the NSTA by scheduling technical sessions;
- Develop a series of 2-3 hour learning modules for K-12 students on planetary geology for NSTA; adding to current NSTA modules on Earth and Space Science
<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/search.aspx?action=browse&text=&price=0&product=0&subject=38&topic=411&gradelevel=0>;
- Develop curricula for teachers to actively engage K-12 students in thinking and learning about geology, especially planetary geology and energy resources in space;

- Prepare competitions on planetary geology and energy resources for students. (NSTA has experience administering K-12 competitions).

Muki pointed out that AGI (American Geological Institute) is working on educational activities and mentioned that Skip Hobbs is with AGI and that we could start by contacting him.

Co Chairs

Bill said that his term as co chair expires June 30 and that the committee needs to appoint a new co chair to serve with Jim Reilly, whose term as co chair continues for another year. Bill mentioned Drew Feustel as a possible appointee; Jack suggested we contact Jim to determine if Drew might be interested in serving as co chair.

Co Vice Chairs

Although Bill will be stepping down as co-chair, he suggested that he might be appointed to a two-year term as co vice chair with an overlapping term with Doug Peters, the other co vice chair. Dave Rensink said that this could be arranged.

Website

Bill requested that everybody update their personal profile on the web site. Ron Hart mentioned that committee chairs can go to an AAPG link to manage content on the web site. Muki said that he has an SPIE presentation that could be posted on the web site.

Adjournment

Bill Ambrose asked if there was any old and new business to discuss; there being none, the meeting was recessed at 3:30.