

Canadian Association for Underwater Science
Annual General Meeting
October 10, 2019
0900 - 1200
Cominco Policy Room 1415, Simon Fraser University (Harbour Centre)
Vancouver, British Columbia
(In conjunction with joint AAUS-CAUS Diving for Science Symposium, Oct 7-11 2019)



Minutes

1. Opening of the 2019 CAUS AGM.

Meeting opened at: 09:08

In attendance (Executive Committee members in **bold**):

In person:

Victoria Burdett-Coutts (UBC, UVic, Creoccean)

Isabelle Côté (SFU)

Sherri Ferguson (CSA Liaison, non-voting)

Siobhan Gray (BMSC)

Bruce Hatcher (CBU)

Jeremy Heywood (Ocean Wise Vancouver Aquarium)

John Lindley (Dalhousie)

Gary Saunders (UNB)

Non-voting Guests:

Bruce Gray (Environment Climate Change Canada)

Kevin Swoboda (Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre)

Torben Brydges

Remote via Zoom):

Paul Boissionot (Aquarium du Québec, Musée du Fjord)

Marc Brandson – Assiniboine Park Zoo (Assiniboine Park Zoo)

Claire Goodwin (Huntsman Marine Science Centre)

Wayne Jacob (Tula Foundation - Hakai Institute)

Katie MacGregor (Université Laval)

Katy Macpherson (Petty Harbour Mini Aquarium)

Rich Moccia (University of Guelph)

2. Verification of quorum (25% of current members required = 7 of 26).

Number of voting members present: 17

Quorum verified: yes

3. Jeremy Heywood will act as Chair for the 2019 CAUS AGM.

4. Executive Committee Preface to the Agenda: Due to circumstances beyond the control of CAUS, the minutes of the 2018 CAUS AGM, which took place by teleconference on December 4, 2018, have been lost and are unrecoverable. Therefore, the CAUS Executive Committee **unanimously agreed** on September 17, 2019, that the 2019 CAUS AGM Agenda (this document) will serve to revisit items on the 2018 CAUS AGM Agenda and address any new business that has arisen since then.

5. Motion: Adoption of the Agenda.

Motion by: Saunders

Seconded by: Côté

In favour: all Not in favour:

6. Introduction of the Executive Committee

Executive Committee members and terms:

Member	Office	Elected	Term Expires (Terms are three years)
Mark Bailey	President	2017 online	Stepped down October 2019
Alisa Preston	Secretary	2015 online	2018 – did not stand for reappointment
Jeremy Heywood	President	2019 AGM (see below)	2022 AGM
Jeremy Heywood	Treasurer	2017 online	2020 AGM
Paul Boissionot	Executive in Charge of French Translation	2019 AGM (see below)	2022 AGM
Isabelle Côté	Executive-at-Large	2019 AGM (see below)	2022 AGM
Rich Moccia	Executive-at-Large	2019 AGM (see below)	2022 AGM
Richard Savignac	Executive-at-Large	2017 online	2020 AGM
Victoria Burdett-Coutts	Secretary (elected by online poll April 16, 2019)	2019 online	2022 AGM
Katie McGregor	Executive-at-Large	2017 online	2020 AGM
Bruce Hatcher	Executive-at-Large	2019 AGM (see below)	2022 AGM
Sherri Ferguson	CSA Liaison (non-voting)	2019 AGM (see below)	2022 AGM

Motion: Invite Paul Boissionot to continue as Executive in Charge of French Translation

Motion by: Boissionot

Seconded by: Saunders

In favour: all Not in favour:

Motion: Invite Isabelle Côté to continue as Executive-at-Large

Motion by: Saunders

Seconded by: Ferguson

In favour: all Not in favour:

Motion: Invite Rich Moccia to continue as Executive-at-Large

Motion by: Ferguson

Seconded by: S. Gray

In favour: all Not in favour:

Motion CAUS Executive shall ensure that CAUS is always represented at relevant CSA diving committees meetings by an appointed liaison, who also sits on the Executive Committee as a non-voting member. Sherri Ferguson is invited to continue to fill this CSA Liaison role. (Note: this motion happened near the end of the AGM, but is moved here for clarity.)

Motion by: Hatcher

Seconded by: Lindley

In favour: all Not in favour:

Motion: Invite Bruce Hatcher to act as Executive-at-Large (to represent East Coast of Canada). (Note: this motion happened near the end of the AGM, but is moved here for clarity.)

Motion by: Hatcher

Seconded by: Lindley

In favour: all Not in favour:

Motion: Invite Jeremy Heywood to act as President. (Note: this motion happened near the end of the AGM, but is moved here for clarity.)

Motion by: Boissionot

Seconded by: Côté

In favour: all Not in favour:

7. Welcome new CAUS members: Enviro-Mer, Huntsman Marine Science Centre, Institut de Recherche en Histoire Maritime et Archéologie Subaquatique, Musée du Fjord. (These members joined in 2018.)

No new members in 2019, but two are pending Executive Committee review – Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre, Gibsons, BC, and Carleton University, Ottawa, ON)

8. Motion: Adoption of the minutes of the CAUS AGM, which took place on May 16, 2017, by teleconference. (Minutes attached.)

Motion by: S. Gray

Seconded by: Côté

In favour: all Not in favour:

9. Heywood – Financial Summary as of October 2019. CAUS 2018 Financial Report and 2019 to-date summary to be circulated for review and attached to AGM meeting minutes.

Motion: Adoption of the 2018 Financial Report.

Motion by: Hatcher

Seconded by: Côté

In favour: all Not in favour:

Discussion:

Moccia – Have we cash flowed any money for the 2018 scholarship?

Heywood – No, but money is available.

Heywood – Dalhousie and Memorial have not paid their dues for 2018. [Nov 2019 UPDATE – both have now paid.]

Hatcher – Observed main expenses for CAUS are due to travel, mostly for executive members. Is there value in the cost of travel for the output?

General consensus – Yes, value in attendance at conferences such as the AAUS meeting.

Hatcher – Requested that an output (e.g. report) be shared.

Heywood – There has traditionally been a report of some sort generated but delivery of it has slipped in the past few years

Action – Heywood to develop a mechanism where a report is posted to the CAUS website.

10. President's Report: Heywood announced that Mark Bailey has resigned as President and will hopefully re-join the executive later.

11. Old Business:

- (a) Heywood – The 'unified standard' update. The idea of a unified Canadian standard has been set aside for now. However, Heywood working with Derek Smith (AAUS) Crispin Middleton (NEWA, NZ), Simon Mitchell (U Tasmania, Australia) and the European Scientific Diving Panel on the development of a set of minimum scientific diving standards as part of the mandate of the fledgling World Scientific Diving Training Council (similar to WRSTC).

B Gray – Parks Canada and ECCC had an interdepartmental committee, but Parks has severed the ties, so ECCC is examining their options for establishing a new program. There could be the opportunity to engage further.

Bridges (who works for DFO) – There may be the opportunity to engage federal agencies one at a time.

Ferguson – Has been asked to develop a scientific diving program for u/w archaeologists being initiated by Dr. John Welsh, but has suggested that they instead join CAUS. Ferguson will report back.

Hatcher – Suggested there may be conflict in activity by archaeologists – social science versus natural science – e.g. suction dredging.

Action – Heywood to lead engagement with other entities to see if there is a path forward.

- (b) Savignac – CAUS Training Scholarship update. Savignac did not attend meeting, however Boissinot indicates Savignac is still interested in chairing the Scholarship sub-committee.

Motion: Refer scholarship issues back to Scholarship sub-committee

Motion by: Hatcher

Seconded by: Ferguson

In favour: all Not in favour:

Discussion:

Heywood – There has been no scholarship for 2019.

Moccia – There were a number of discussion on the scoring matrix and a variety of opinions on how to evaluate applicants, weighting aspects of their training/background (e.g. weighting of diving versus science). Project is 90% complete, just need to finalize assessment criteria and promote amongst members.

Hatcher – How is the category of the scholarship best used. Should there be more money, larger or more of scholarships? Interested in assisting the sub-committee.

Hatcher – Suggested two equal-sized scholarships be offered. General agreement. Sub-committee to discuss and implement.

The sub-committee was given a deadline of January 15, 2020 to implement scholarship for the remainder of 2020.

- (c) Should the Standard be changed to require that a DSO be a diving instructor?

Motion: Cease discussion around requiring DSO to be a dive instructor.

Motion by: Saunders

Seconded by: Côté

In favour: all Not in favour:

Discussion:

Macpherson (provided via email prior to AGM) – I don't think it is necessary for a DSO to have an instructor rating. The difference between a divemaster and an instructor rating is the delivery of material rather than the actual skill set. Making the requirement of the DSO to be a diving instructor is exclusionary of DSOs that have achieved dive supervisor competence through other avenues of training. Updating this standard would cause complications and incur additional work pressures and costs to many existing members. Particularly if you were to require the instructor to be in 'teaching status' which with some organisations would incur annual fees. If you were to decide to make it necessary for a DSO to be an instructor then I suggest that you have a 'time split standard' aka "any DSO appointed after 2019 must be a trained recreational diving instructor or have a commercial diver certificate."

Alternatively, if the motivation of changing the standard is to standardise the level of DSO competence and training then I suggest that you create and release a DSO training and resource pack. This would be a more beneficial way to reach the goal.

Boissinot – Noted it is required to be an instructor in Quebec.

Hatcher – Noted in the AAUS standard, DSO is required to be an instructor.

Jacob – Uses a third-party instructor for in-water training.

Goodwin - If doing in water dive operations, DSO should be a DM or instructor to complete the evaluations.

Ferguson – The DCB can pick up the topic of what the experience is required. Don't be too prescriptive on defining what someone needs to have as considered to be 'qualified.'

General consensus was to cease discussion regarding this topic and leave Standard as-is.

(d) Requirements for dive supervisors.

Action – Ferguson will develop a protocol and report back to members.

(e) Definition of "incident" and incident reporting feedback from members was discussed at 2016.

Action – Burdett-Coutts will develop a framework for reporting near-misses.

Action – Burdett-Coutts will strike a subcommittee with S Gray and B Gray.

(f) Moccia – Call for updates from provinces/regions regarding collateral legislation affecting scientific diving.
Ferguson – Reported that new person at Ontario Ministry of Labour is amenable to confirm how to get science diving going on Ontario.

(g) Moccia – Discussion regarding continuing education and training initiatives by member institutions.
No discussion.

(h) Heywood – In process of sorting historical CAUS paperwork.
Heywood – Still in progress. Send any materials to Heywood.

12. New Business

(a) Ferguson – To present verbal report on AAUS Symposium and AGM in September 2016, in Alpena, Michigan in September 2017 that she attended on behalf of CAUS.

(b) Savignac and Burdett-Coutts – To present verbal report on AAUS Symposium and AGM in September 2018, in Lake Tahoe, California, in September 2018 that they attended on behalf of CAUS.

Ferguson and Burdett-Coutts provided summaries the 2017 (Alpena, Michigan) and 2018 (Lake Tahoe, California) AAUS conferences.

Action – refer to action item in Item 9, above, regarding setting up mechanism to post future reports to CAUS website.

(c) Ferguson – overview of CSA Standard revision discussions.

Ferguson – Took-up two big topics with the CSA in regard to how to address current discussion regarding mandatory full face mask and the 4-person dive team. She presented the position paper prepared by Heywood based on CAUS member input to CSA Committees. In the end, mandatory FFM use was rejected by CSA, but 4-person crew was accepted with some provisos. Member institutions that do not have the scientific exemption in their jurisdiction should follow-up with Ferguson for details.

CSA Z275.2 Standard sub-committee meets 2 x annually (typically May/November). CAUS supports travel to one of those meeting for Ferguson (her employer supports the other). CAUS (via Ferguson) has a voting seat on the sub-committee.

(d) Hatcher/Lindley – Advice sought on how to maintain/retain scientific diving in Canadian Universities.
Burdett-Coutts – Opportunities with the model of UBC or SFU with a part time position or role taken by professor (SFU).

(e) Burdett-Coutts - Finalization of CAUS 2 exam.

Action – Burdett-Coutts to re-activate the CAUS 2 exam sub-committee.

(f) Burdett-Coutts - Getting going on a technical dive program for CAUS.

Action – Burdett-Coutts to establish a sub-committee to address the matter. Swoboda interested in participating on sub-committee.

- (g) Burdett-Coutts - Outreach package the Canadian universities / institutions to draw their attention to the benefit/safety requirements for diving under CAUS.
Heywood – Has a slide deck that was developed a few years ago to help promote opportunity for membership.

Action – Heywood will put it on the website.

- (h) Burdett-Coutts – Network for collaboration/awareness on Arctic programs – shared resources?

Action – Heywood will create Dropbox folder to initiate collaboration

Heywood – Pay attention to Nunavut regulations (or those of wherever you are going), e.g. diving in the Nunavut requires bail-out.

- (i) Burdett-Coutts – Can CAUS streamline process for diver stats collection – can we use a shared Google document?

Action – Burdett-Coutts/Heywood will confirm status of 2018 statistics for what we do and do not have.

Côté – Need to consider privacy if we are putting data on a public domain.

Burdett-Coutts - There are no personal details provided so this may not be an issue.

13. Review of CAUS Member dive statistics.

Action – Please send your stats in to Burdett-Coutts if not done so already.

Action – Burdett-Coutts/Heywood to coordinate on stats that have been submitted.

14. Date and location for 2020 to be discussed.

Both Quebec Aquarium Quebec, QC and Canada Centre for Inland Waters (Burlington, ON) are possibilities.

Action – Heywood to follow-up with both.

15. Motion: Adjournment of the 2019 CAUS AGM.

Motion by: Burdett-Coutts

Seconded by: Côté

In favour: all Not in favour:

Meeting adjourned at: 12:00

CAUS 2019 AGM participants will join the international Diving Safety Officer meeting in the Fletcher Challenge Theatre at the conclusion of the CAUS 2019 AGM.