



Canadian Federation  
of Earth Sciences

Fédération canadienne  
des Sciences de la terre

**(120th CGC) 5<sup>th</sup> CFES Meeting  
Banff Center, Banff**

09:00 - 17:00; Sunday, October 19, 2008;  
08:30 - 12:00; Monday, October 20, 2008

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**Minutes**

**Attendees**

**Barrett, Catherine** CFES  
**Beaudoin, Alwynne** Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada  
**Bogstie, Doug** CSEG  
**Downton, Jon** CSEG  
**Griffith, Lisa** CSPG  
**Haidl, Fran** CGEN  
**Holysh, Steve** CNC-IAH  
**Kosters, Elisabeth** CFES  
**Levson, Vic** CANQUA  
**Moore, Richard** PDAC  
**Mercer, Bill** CFES  
**Nolan, Godfrey** IYPE  
**Ollerhead, Jeff** CAG  
**Parks, Kevin** NGSC  
**Relf, Carolyn** GAC  
**Smith, Paul** CCCESD  
**Vavrek, Jean** CIM  
**Young, Ian** CFES

**Regrets**

**Ollie Bonham** – CCPG  
**Peter Bobrowsky** – CFES and IUGS  
**Peter Wu** – CGS  
**David Boerner** - GSC  
**Tracy Ross** – CASC

## ***Sunday October 19***

- 1) Welcome & Introductions – *Ian Young* 8.00-8.30  
Ian Young opened the meeting at 8:00 am.

- 2) a) Approval of Agenda – *Ian Young*

A motion was made to add the proposal for a new Treasurer to the agenda.

**Motion 1:** The proposal was moved by Jean Vavrek and seconded by Lisa Griffith. The motion was approved unanimously.

The agenda previously circulated was discussed and confirmed.

**Motion 2:** A motion to approve the agenda, with the added item, was proposed by Paul Smith and seconded by Jeff Ollerhead. The Agenda was approved unanimously

- b) Approval of Minutes of the 119th CFES Meeting, Halifax, June 14-15, 2008

<http://www.geoscience.ca/minutes.html> - *Ian Young*

**Motion 3:** A motion to approve the minutes of the 119<sup>th</sup> Council meeting as circulated on <http://www.geoscience.ca/minutes.html> was made by Doug Bogstie and seconded by Jeff Ollerhead. The 118<sup>th</sup> CFES Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

See <http://www.geoscience.ca/minutes.html>

- c) Presidency change-over from Ian Young to Bill Mercer

Ian thanked the member organization for their willingness and dedication to working together.

Elisabeth and Bill presented Ian with parting gifts.

Bill took over chairing the meeting.

Additional Item:

James Burns has asked to be relieved of his duties as Treasurer. Elisabeth has found a replacement, Patrick Ryall, whose resume was circulated to the group prior to this meeting. Patrick has an extensive geo-science background as well as experience in treasury positions for other groups. Additionally, he works at Dalhousie which allows for easy access and communication with Elisabeth.

**Motion 4:** Lisa moved that Patrick Ryall be elected Treasurer. Jean Vavrek seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- 3) Funding – *Bill Mercer* 8.30 – 9.30

- a) CanGeoRef – *Peter Bobrowsky, James Burns, Elisabeth Kusters*

See attached documents: “3.a Appendix I Serials Canadian”, “3.a Bibliographic Record Agreement”  
“3.a CanGeoRef rolling account”

Elisabeth gave an overview of GeoRef ending with the assessment from Australia that they have been very pleased with their working relationship with AGI. AGI has approached CFES to develop CanGeoRef but in the event CFES is not interested it will go ahead regardless.

At this meeting, it was to be decided whether to continue and how to do so.

Discussion included the following: CFES would be paid \$3.50 per entry, \$4.50 with abstract. We would be required to enter 2000 references per year. Bill and others think there is a huge backlog, but the real number is elusive. AGI is also interested in Assessment Reports being entered. All kinds of details need to be explored: the contract with AGI, method of payment for person doing the work, licensing, size of subscriber base, amount of work for supervisor to check accuracy of entries, whether the business model is undermined by 80-90% of the references already being available for free (e.g. Google scholar), people's willingness to pay for the convenience, how to approach the provinces and territories for data, how to transfer the data (copy/paste vs database mapping), the need to ensure the delivery mechanism is defined, and to recognize the Surveys' need for tracking the orders of their maps/documents. There is to be an effort to get contacts within NGSC regarding the web based access to assessment reports and other provincial publications across the country.

**Motion 5:** Jeff Ollerhead made a motion that CFES supports the creation of CanGeoRef in principle without the document delivery option, it authorizes its executive to negotiate this with AGI and it is willing to risk losses of \$10,000 or less over the next 2 years to make this happen. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Relf. Passed unanimously.

**Action Item** – a committee is to be formed addressing the above motion. The committee is to include Bill Mercer, Elisabeth Kusters, Peter Bobrowsky, Pat Ryall, and Kevin Parks as a representative from NGSC.

b) Business Plan – *Bill Mercer*

Bill Mercer reviewed 2006/2007 audited numbers and gave estimates for subsequent and future years (CFES is presently undergoing an audit so final figures are not yet available).

It was noted that CFES will need other sources of funds as costs are expected to increase, primarily through the undertaking of special projects.

Bill Mercer suggested all future projects should provide simple income statements to better anticipate the project's financial requirements.

Bill Mercer suggested that the Finance Committee will notify all of audited 2007/2008 financial statements and will look for alternative financing options for special projects.

Bill noted we need to have clear financial statements and budgets developed.

c) NRCan funding- *Ian Young*

Ian Young reminded everyone that NRCAN had been approached for \$20,000 and that NRCAN had suggested an additional \$5,000 (total \$25,000) instead of NRCAN providing newsletter editing services. The request is expected to be approved but no final word has been received yet.

d) Discussion and Action Items – *All*

- 4) Workforce issues 9.30-10.15
- a) HQP Survey [http://www.geoscience.ca/CFES\\_HR\\_requirements\\_Canadian\\_earth\\_sciences.pdf](http://www.geoscience.ca/CFES_HR_requirements_Canadian_earth_sciences.pdf)  
final report and follow-up (media releases, Mines Ministers Conference, Journalist) *Bill Mercer, Catherine Barrett, Elisabeth Kusters*. The CMIC strategic report 2008 is FYI

Ian Young thanked Lisa Griffith and Elisabeth Kusters for their work editing the final document. It has been sent to all participating organizations and to CFES member organizations.

Ian presented material from the report at the CGS meeting in Edmonton and at a CSPG luncheon for 800+ people in Calgary. It is also posted on the CSPG website as well as being prominently featured on the CFES website.

In consultation with Susan Eaton, a journalist and geophysicist, it was concluded that, instead of publishing the report, that it be taken to notable experts for comment and those comments become the basis for journalistic articles. David Boerner, Paul Smith (academic) and Jean Vavrek (mining), Lisa Griffith (petroleum) have agreed to provide comments from their respective disciplines.

The journalism articles are anticipated to be published in various earth science journals. A separate summary is to be published in the AAPG Explorer

Ian Young informed that he would be happy to do presentations on the findings for member organisations, perhaps at the next GAC/MAC meeting.

**Action Item** – Catherine Barrett and Elisabeth Kusters to gather approximate cost estimates of administering and finalizing the report to date.

**Action Item** – Catherine Barrett to distribute or post powerpoints from the report for all member organisations.

**Action Item** - Catherine Barrett to research whether participating organisations can be listed in an Appendix in order to both recognise and thank them, and to add legitimacy to the report's findings by showing the breadth of participation.

b) Discussion and Action Items - *All*

**BREAK**

**10.15-10.30**

- 5) Outreach 10.30-11.15
- a) [www.earthsciencescanada.ca](http://www.earthsciencescanada.ca) overview – *Godfrey Nowlan*

See attached document: “5.b Nowlan2008GC-IYPE”

Godfrey outlined the site’s contents. The site will be inherited by CFES after IYPE expires, most likely in late 2009.

i) Careers in Earth Science website – *Fran Haidl*

The Careers website has made great progress and is expected to be functioning within 10 days.

ii) IYPE – *Godfrey Nowlan,*

See attached powerpoint: “Nowlan CFES Report 2008”

Completed projects include:

- Co-sponsorship of CBC’s *A Geologic Journey* ([www.cbc.ca/geologic](http://www.cbc.ca/geologic)),
- a series of 32 fact sheets in both French and English on mineral and energy resources [www.gac.ca/populargeoscience](http://www.gac.ca/populargeoscience)
- launching of the WHERE Challenge
- launching of a Careers in Geo-science site
- a poster on the mineral and energy resources required to build and run a snowmobile [www.pdac.ca/miningmatters/teachers/resources.html](http://www.pdac.ca/miningmatters/teachers/resources.html)
- a northern BC Geological Landscapes Highway map
- GeoTime Trail prototype in Waterloo
- Participation in various workshops and conferences; big presence at ACFAS in Quebec.

Projects currently underway include:

- Completion of the legacy website
- Walcott Conference in Banff, 2009
- Celebration of the Darwin Year: 200 yrs since his birth and 150 yrs since the publication of ‘the origin of species’)
- Interpretative signs in Alberta
- Four Billion Years and Counting book

\$380,000 has been donated to date, with a target of \$1.3 million.

iii) WHERE Challenge – *Godfrey Nowlan, Ian Young*

See attached powerpoint: “Nowlan CFES Report 2008”

The WHERE Challenge is presently launching across Canada and is viewable on [www.earthsciencescanada.ca](http://www.earthsciencescanada.ca) including a commercial featuring disappearing metal and plastic products. Godfrey asked for assistance from member organisations in spreading the word as advertising budgets are limited. He can forward posters, cards and information to those interested.

**Action Item** – CFES member organisations to examine how they can help promote the WHERE Challenge through their organisation’s activities and as individual citizens (eg, to teachers, school boards etc).

**Action Item** – Godfrey Nowlan will provide text for an email to be forwarded from member societies to teachers and other appropriate recipients.

b) Four Billion Years Book – *Godfrey Nowlan, Elisabeth Kusters*

See attached powerpoint: “Nowlan CFES Report 2008”

Currently, all text has been received. Part 1 (Foundations) has been reviewed and is undergoing revision. Part 2 (Time Slices) is almost ready for review. Part 3 (Health and Wealth) is in various stages of review. It is planned that the manuscript be completed over the winter with layout following in the spring. Publication is expected at its earliest in the fall of 2009.

Funding is presently at \$133,000. A French version will follow once appropriate funding has been raised. Further work needs to be done to attract such funding. The book will be published by CFES.

Godfrey noted that thought needs to be given to what additionally can be done with the book’s content (mainly graphics) after the book’s publication.

**Action Item** – Elisabeth Kusters to contact University of Athabasca Press which is presently looking for book candidates to publish digitally and which can also produce hard copy versions.

c) CGEN and CGEN outreach liaison – *Fran Haidl, Ian Young*

Conference calls have been organized 4 times a year to provide a forum for discussing groups’ activities across the country and to provide opportunities to leverage workflows etc. The group is open to and encourages new members. Participants are all very enthusiastic about this initiative

d) Discussion and action items – *all*

6) CFES Awards –

11.15-11.45

a) Mentorship award – *Elisabeth Kusters*

See attached document: “6.a Sept 2008 CFES mentorship award proposal”

The award was originally suggested to GAC by Shoufa Lin, structural geology professor at Western University. GAC asked CFES if they would adopt it and CFES agreed. It is anticipated that the award will bring exposure to CFES for celebrating its community’s accomplishments.

Feedback on the document included: Paul Smith noted it should not overly emphasise the numbers over quality of nominations as those with numerous students and research funds will garner more nominations; that the description of mentoring be extended to undergrads and advisors; in addition it was noted that the annual deadline be moved from April 1 as it is a very busy time of year in academia (perhaps May 1?); that the original award was to be named in honor of Paul Williams(emeritus structural geology professor at UNB) ; that CFES could award up to 3 mentorship awards annually based on suitable numbers of quality nominations and workload; that process ideas be considered such as using a first step, simple screening form followed by a longer form or interview for shortlist candidates; that the criteria for nomination be measurable but left suitably loose in order not to unduly tie the award committee's hands. It was proposed that Shoufa Lin be the Chair of the committee and that the committee be asked to tighten up the criteria and set in motion a process so that the first award can be given at the GAC MAC (called 'Joint Annual Convention') in 2009 in Toronto. GAC will offer another volunteer (to be proposed by Carolyn Relf) and Paul Smith volunteered as well.

**Motion 6:** CFES supports the development of a mentorship award and endorse the formation of an awards committee to set up the framework for the award. Motion put forward by Vic Levson and seconded by Jon Downton. Unanimously carried.

**Action Item** – the Executive to establish if Shoufa Lin is willing to Chair and set up the Mentorship Award committee. Details will be reported back.

b) Teacher award – *Fran Haidl*

To be tabled until the next meeting.

7) GeoCanada 2010 – *Ian Young* 11.45-12.00  
a) Discussion and Action Items – *All*

See attached document: “GeoCanada 2010 10.09.08”

Ian discussed the structure of the organisation: Ian McIlreath is General Chair. There is broad membership on the steering committee and non-sponsoring organisations. Would like to include PDAC in the organisation. A list of organizing committees has been prepared and objectives have been set for 2008.

CFES financial commitment has not yet been decided as a budget has not yet been prepared.

**LUNCH** 12.00-1.00

8) Communications 1.00-2.00

- a) Media Releases Past and Future *Elisabeth Kusters* — no written report. Media releases can be found on <http://www.geoscience.ca/pospapers.html> and on <http://www.geoscience.ca/news.html> (scroll down)

There appears to have been limited exposure gained by the media releases to date, and there are concerns regarding ongoing communication with The Newswire.com.

Ian Young reported that he was contacted by at least 3 media outlets after his talk at a CSPG luncheon attended by approximately 800 geologists, as well as a 2 page write up in the Daily Oil Bulletin.

**Action Item:** Ian Young is to talk with TheNewswire.com about improving the value CFES is getting from its 1 year payment for services.

- b) Position papers (<http://www.geoscience.ca/pospapers.html>) - *Elisabeth Kusters*

Elisabeth reiterated the availability of the papers on the site. No media reactions have been received.

- c) Open letter to the Prime Minister – [www.geoscience.ca](http://www.geoscience.ca) - reactions and discussion

The letter recognizes the government funding for geoscience mapping of the North for Energy and Mineral purposes. The letter has been cc'd to member organizations and has been published by Geolog, CIM Magazine and will be published by The Reservoir. CSEG will revisit publishing it for its members now that the federal election is over.

Carolyn Relf noted that publishing the letter in such places as Geolog is preaching to the converted. Have we considered the Hill Times? The letter should clearly indicate that it represents the views of the energy industry as well as others, not just mining. The Hill Times is used by PDAC and is reputed to be respected and well read by MPs.

**Action Item:** Elisabeth Kusters to investigate publishing the letter in The Hill Times

**Action Item:** Elisabeth Kusters to look into future media releases having a standard footnote listing member organizations of CFES.

- d) Transition to new government document – *Elisabeth Kusters*

See attached document: “8.d.1 to the new Government” and “8.d.2 Transition to new government”

Inspired by a document published by AGI, Peter B suggested we do something similar. The proposed document was discussed including:

- it could be a tool to engage the advocacy panel (ESAAP) by providing panelists grist for discussion, feedback and advocacy;

- the Canadian government is more aware of these issues than the US government because geoscience industries comprise a larger part of our GDP therefore we might not want to use a document too basic as it could talk below its intended audience
- this would be used as a document for long term, not just for this particular government transition.
- the title is somewhat misleading and will be changed.
- we should ask AGI if we can use their document as a template
- IYPE may also have good material to use for developing it.
- costs have not yet been determined.
- include how contributes to First Nations development which is not in AGI version\
- ensure the audience (gov't) can project their agenda into your text, eg arctic sovereignty

**Motion 7:** A motion to continue to develop a high-level advisory document was made by Lisa Griffith and seconded by Richard Moore. All were in favour.

**Action Item:** Elisabeth to coordinate and obtain input by member organizations. Document to be finalized by next meeting.

Bill suggested we look to organizations for ideas as to possible recommendations and topics, eg PDAC. Ideas were brain stormed and collected by Elisabeth Kusters.

Input to be sought from member organizations and GSC on natural hazards, waste disposal, water issues, climate change and adaptation to climate change, ocean health, industry-academia research collaborations, geo-heritage.

e) Newsletter – *Steve Holysh, Ian Young*

Ian Young advised that CFES has lost the support from NRCAN to edit and print the newsletter (lack of resources) but they have promised \$5000 to pay to have it done otherwise. An alternative under consideration is to send out a brief email with a few sentences about each item and a link to the website where the article is held. This could attract traffic to CFES website. Some formatting would be required as well as a few introductory sentences written about each.

**Action Item** - Godfrey Nolan to forward sample of an email described above to Elisabeth for circulation.

CSPG is currently looking into it but the group was asked to consider if there were other societies who could assist. Doug Bogstie said CSEG might be able to assist. Jean Vavrek said CIM could look at a newsletter to assess the work required.

Bill Mercer suggested Infomine might be willing to do this for free and in partnership as a way to attract more traffic to their website. However it was agreed there may be issues with this not being seen as sector neutral.

**Action Item** – all, notably Lisa Griffith, Doug Bogstie and Jean Vavrek, and PDAC to approach their organizations regarding editing the newsletter. Elisabeth to coordinate.

f) Website – *Elisabeth Kusters*

CFES’s old webmaster had to resign for health reasons. Elisabeth has found a new webmaster and shared preliminary results he had gathered of the number of hits to the website. He has also suggested a new font and other initiatives for modernizing the site, creating proper letterhead, and other ideas, all with the intention of staying within the existing monthly rate.

g) Communications Strategy, discussion and Action Items– *All*

9) Student Chapters 2.00-2.15

a) Update – *Elisabeth Kusters*

There has been much effort in to merging various student chapters. Funding differences between CSPG (which budgets annually) and GAC (which has money held in trust) need to be resolved. However all organizations are supportive of success and are confident differences will be sorted out.

b) Discussion and Action Items – *All*

10) Advocacy: Earth Science Advocacy and Advisory Panel – *Ian Young, Bill Mercer* 2.15-2.45

The intent is to approach 5 people with a soliciting letter signed by 12 organizations; the letter has taken some time to come together. There was a confidential discussion about the remaining candidates and a game plan to follow up was developed.

**Action Item:** Steve Holysh to research and advise Ian and Bill of a suitable candidate for the environmental/ geotechnical sector.

BREAK 2.45-3.00

11) Global Change and Global Issues 3.00-3.45

a) Media Series – *Jeff Packard*

Postponed due to Jeff Packard’s absence.

b) Next topic for focus – *Steve Holysh*

Following on the heels of CFES’s choice of climate change for its first topic (resulting in a position paper, media release, and conference) the group considered a new topic for 2010. Steve Holysh suggested water to general agreement by all, however, Ian Young noted that in the CFES survey that

groundwater was not of central interest but handed off to consultants. On a government level, water belongs to so many departments/ministeries etc that it doesn't belong to any one. A session could be developed to appeal to the public as well as geoscientists, and be broad to include such topics as geothermal. Alwynne Beaudoin suggested Dave Schindler as a speaker for a possible conference.

**Action Item:** Steve Holysh to develop ideas including a theme session for 2010 for presentation and discussion in the next meeting. Also to prepare a discussion based on the soon to be released study by the Canadian Council of Academies' groundwater study.

c) Discussion and Action Items – *All*

12) Jeff Packard's Banff 3.45-4.00

Presentation delayed due to Jeff's absence, and was sorely missed.

13) Shared services: Insurance – *Elisabeth Kusters* 4.00-4.30

CFES has been investigating how to extend insurance packages at group rates as developed by PDAC. Elisabeth has been told verbally that this has been approved and is awaiting written confirmation. A draft of a group plan should be ready by early next year.

*Adjourn for today*

**Monday October 20**

BREAKFAST from 7.30 onwards in the Banff Center restaurant

14) International Issues 8.00-9.00

a) International Report – IUGS, IGCP, IGC – *Peter Bobrowsky*

Update delayed due to Peter Bobrowsky's absence.

b) Discussion and Action Items – *All*

c) Sub-Committee International Status Canadian Earth Science Research – *Peter Bobrowsky, Elisabeth Kusters*

See attached document: “14.c ToR International Affairs Subcommittee”

Elisabeth outlined a perceived threat to status of Canadian earth science. Many of the international memberships used to be paid by NRCAN, which no longer pays them. As a result, many of the costs were hidden and have not been picked up by another department. Several examples were given of Canada’s lessening position on the international geoscience stage although opinions varied. If true, is Canada’s gradual movement away from collaboration on international front endangering our competitiveness?

**Motion 8:** Motion by Steve to form a subcommittee, as per the attachment, to assess the international status of Canadian earth science in a relatively informal manner and return with recommendations to CFES. The motion was seconded by Lisa. All agreed.

Committee members suggested were Steve Scott, Ken Howard from UofT, one of the marine geoscientists who contributed to the 1997 report to NSERC (David Piper or Chris Beaumont) in addition to Peter Bobrowsky (chair), to be complemented by members from PDAC and/or CSPG where appropriate.

#### **Reports from Member and Observer Organizations**

9.00-11.30

15) CCCESD – Council of Chairs of Canadian Earth Science Departments *Paul Smith*

Organization has recently undergone revitalization. Goal of being more inclusive, plug into government, continue with assessment of student and teaching numbers. Research funding and HQP will be the 2 themes for next meeting. Up to 7 NSERC people will be attending the meeting and discussing research funding, grants etc. A committee chaired by Barry Warner is looking at HQP. They will be using CFES HQP report as jumping off point. Issues include too many students in some universities and too few in others, as well as quality of students. Paul used UBC as an example. Presently stats show 6000 students taking classes up from 3000, grad students at 175 from 110 5 years ago. All in a third year of budget cuts. Driving issues behind increased enrolments include price of oil and minerals and rising interest in environmental issues. Paul anticipates enrolments will suffer with market downturn.

16) CIM – *Jean Vavrek*

See attached document “16. CIM update CFES Fall 2008”

**Action Item** – Jean Vavrek will send a report to all describing webinars.

17) NGSC – National Geological Surveys Committee – *Kevin Parks*

Comprises provincial and territorial surveys, plus GSC. Presently developing leadership model for NGSC. Meet twice per year and conference calls at least once between meetings. Meeting purpose is to

link, learn and lead. Currently working on lessening fragmentation between groups, sharing ways of broadening mandates of survey groups, acting as technical advisory to GSC on GEM program.

#### 18) PDAC – *Richard Moore*

- PDAC has excess funds due to conference success so is expanding through increased staff, and a newer and bigger premises.
- A partnership between government surveys, NRCAN and mining industry was formed, initially because of concern re foreign takeovers. Developed 4 basic areas of focus, one of which is hiring qualified people – a workshop on this topic has been scheduled. Another issue was the image of the industry and finding ways to improve it. Also, commercializing Canadian services to groups overseas. Lastly, a focus on directive research will include deep mining, water and the environment, deep exploration, and decreasing energy use.
- PDAC has developed guidelines for the exploration industry regarding safety and social license to operate. Richard also reported on the CIMC strategic document, which was distributed during the meeting

Ian noted that CGU and KEGS, both mining geophysicist groups, are missing from CFES membership. Also for consideration are: CSUG, CWRA, Canadian Heavy Oil Society and CMOS.

**Action Item** – Bill Mercer to create a list of all organizations to be approached about CFES membership. Bill to make overtures to CGU and KEGS. Elisabeth to approach CMOS.

#### 19) CSPG – *Lisa Griffith*

- Memberships have remained stable for about 20 years.
- CSPG webcasts their lunch talks; attendance is typically 500+ people, plus webcast attendants.
- Reservoir magazine doing very well. Bulletin (technical journal), in contrast, is doing poorly; looking at why that is the case. Competition with AAPG?
- Views strategic alliances as becoming increasingly important: CWLS, CSEG will be co hosting conferences with CSPG. AAPG has asked to locate a Canadian office in their offices and Lisa will recommend it be granted.
- After each annual conference there has been a core conference with associated talks. The core talks have become very popular and so they are now prerecording them and running them in a continuous loop in order to enable better access; now considering doing as webcast.
- Award process – finding that original intention of awards are no longer being followed and presently trying to realign awards with original intent and CSPG strategic goals.
- Presently going through a strategic planning process. Discussed poor public image of geologists and thought it better handled at CFES level than at CSPG level. Feel it filters through to education choices, research funding etc.
- Nuna-Gussow conference has not done well. 54 registrants very poor. CSPG/GAC/CFES needed to be more on top of this and need to review what went wrong.

**Action Item** – Lisa Griffith, Andrew Miall, Elisabeth Kusters to conduct a postmortem on the Nuna-Gussow conference, assessing in particular the poor attendance.

**Action Item** – all - Are there other opportunities that can be salvaged from the Nuna-Gussow conference eg webinars, speaker series, special publications?

Ian described core available at Encana if any institutions have use for it.

## 20) GAC – *Carolyn Relf*

Has been facing several challenges, mostly financial. Have suffered 30% decline in membership, some to retirements, many to students (suspect because of lack of relevance but notes that not much \$ attached to their memberships), and graduating students who join provincial or industry groups instead of GAC.

- Last year decided instead of doing annual plan to move to a 5 year plan which focused on income, annual meetings, publications and short courses.
- Developing plans to increase membership by appealing to broader range of people, and retaining graduating students.
- Have developed risk management policy to deal with such issues as insurance.
- Examining organizational structure including not being as reliant on volunteers.
- 5 year plans lays out goals.
- Attempting to tap into better market for short courses by making them directly applicable and timely, taking them on the road, engaging provincial organization members and developing partnerships with other organizations. Have approached NRCAN for seed money. Pleased with evolution of relevance to membership.

Further discussion on retaining and tracking young professionals included: aiming Geoscience conferences, mentorship, networking and training at young professionals. Track young professionals through facebook, soft surveys (asking 5 year employees what their cohorts are doing) as formal surveys very difficult to do due to issues including privacy legislation. Mike Dogget has tracked students and has much data, for students entering the mining sector.

**Action item** - explore retention and tracking of young professionals (under 30) and report back to group. Committee to be comprised of Ian Young, and members from GAC, CSPG,

A US study by Chris Keane has examined 'leakage' in the US. Study is on CFES site.

## 21) CAG / CGRG – *Jeff Ollerhead*

- 30 paying members in CGRG, but stable. It doesn't exist on its own but is related to other groups. Linkage has strengths but is creating problems, eg insurance payments, that will be resolved in time.
- CAG paying the bills, increasing membership, (80% human geographers, 20% physical geographers) but suspects physical geography membership is not growing. Believes CAG

should be members of CFES but need to provide more direction and involvement. The Where Challenge, insurance initiatives may be of interest to them.

BREAK

10.00-10.15

22) Canqua – *Vic Levson*

Hold meetings every other year. The interdisciplinary group consists primarily of academic, government and consultants. Activities vary from year to year. Supplies delegates to INQUA. Next bi-annual meeting is this spring in Vancouver.

23) CSEG – *Doug Bogstie / Jon Downton*

2200 members, suspects gradually increasing. Student memberships are sponsored and therefore free to students. Charitable foundation has been established (\$60k) which funds scholarships, distinguished lecture program, and may absorb outreach committee as their activities can be charitable and can raise charitable donations.

Working on website, including moving much administrative work on to it.

Doodle train very popular, comprises large portion of income (second to conferences).

Hold monthly luncheons for about 500 people.

Canceled technical journal some time ago but looking at peer review articles again.

Conventions successful.

24) CCPG – Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists, *Ollie Bonham*

Not present.

25) NSERC – *Vincent Marcotte*

Not present.

26) ACNHM: Alliance of Canadian Natural History Museums

[http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/About\\_RBCM/anhmc.aspx](http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/About_RBCM/anhmc.aspx) , *Alwynne Beaudoin*

First time anyone from museums community has been in attendance at CFES

Alliance has 12 members including most major museums with natural history collections. Has existed for 6-7 years; loose organization; directors and sr managers meet, next in March in Toronto.

Organization set-up in order to discuss issues around maintaining collections, budget issues and ideas, advocacy, public outreach and maximizing benefit of exhibits and programs. Alliance has not focused

much attention on earth science collections to date, CFES attention welcomed as a result. Finds that geological and mineral exhibits are very popular, perhaps because teachers often unable to adequately teach these sections. Teach many classes and extended programs to younger students.

Sees many shared issues: staffing, image, public outreach. Drew attention to exhibits as a mode of public outreach having the advantage of longevity, designed and built collaboratively with input from many, and has exposure to many more people than an article or course, for example. eg one recent 3 month exhibit was witnessed by 57,000 people. Additionally, exhibits often 'travel', therefore increasing exposure.

If member organizations have an idea for an exhibit, should approach museum, may be asked to develop one page vision of exhibit which would go before a committee who will look for visitor appeal.

**Action Item** – Jean Vavrek to forward information re Digital Wall earth science sponsored by Tech Cominco and opening in ROM.

27) CASC: Canadian Association of Science Centers – *Tracy Ross or replacement*

Not present.

28. IAH CGS - *Steve Holysh*

Both in good shape financially and for membership.

Successful short course on Pumping Tests.

Won the bid to host 2012 International Congress

IAH is linked to CGS for conferences and just had another successful conference in Edmonton. Next is in Halifax, but unsure after that as CGS hosting conferences with other bodies.

Starting search for new President.

Shifted to electronic renewal of memberships and lost a large number in the process. Following up on this issue.

28) Discussion arising from Organization reports, *all*

29) Confirmation of sub-committees and Chairs

11.30-11.45

Elisabeth Kusters: Managing Director

Bill Mercer: President

Ian Young: Past President

Finance Director/Treasurer: Pat Ryall

Peter Brobowski: International Director

Outreach Director: Fran Haidl

Communications Director: Jeff Packard

Director: Steve Holysh

### **Awards**

Paul Smith, Shoufa Lin (chair), someone from GAC, Elisabeth (e.o.) –

### **International subcommittee**

Peter Bobrowsky (chair), Steve Scott, Elisabeth Kusters (ex officio)

### **Funding:**

Bill Mercer (Chair), Lisa Griffith, Elisabeth Kusters (ex officio), Pat Ryall, Jon Downton

### **Communications: / newsletter**

Jeff Packard (Chair), Steve Holysh, Jeff Ollerhead, Elisabeth Kusters (ex officio)

**Outreach Committee:** = CGEN Fran Haidl, chair

**Liason committee:** Fran Haidl (Co-Chair), *Bill/Ian (Co-Chair)*, Ollie Bonham, Elisabeth Kusters (ex officio) and outside members)

### **Jobs and recruitment:**

#### **Temporary ‘under 30’ follow up**

Ian-Young, Bill Mercer, GAC tbd, Steve Holysh / someone from CGS? Ollie Bonham, CSPG tbd, Elisabeth Kusters (ex officio), someone from CSEG tbd. Get tbd's before end November, then pick chairs

### **IYPE**

Bill Mercer, Ian Young, Fran Haidl, Elisabeth (e.o.)

### **Advocacy:**

Ian Young (Chair), Bill Mercer, Richard Moore, Elisabeth Kusters (ex officio)

**GeoCanada 2010 Steering committee:** Jeff Packard

**GeoCanada 2010 Technical Committee:** Elisabeth Kusters

### **Working groups**

Shared services / defragmentation – both of these tasks are working groups without a real chair. Elisabeth facilitates, calls meetings and sends minutes around

- Insurance
- Student chapters

30) Date and venue of next meeting

11.45-12.00

- Montreal, April 25, 26 2009. Hosted by Jean Vavrek
- October 3, 4 2009, Regina. Initial research for suitability to be done by Fran Haidl.

Action item: Fran Haidl to explore Regina as viable location of fall meeting.

*Adjourn*

**12.00**

**Lunch – is still offered as part of the meeting**