

Canadian Geoscience Education Network
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., January 30, 2009
Association for Mineral Exploration BC
Suite 800, 889 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.

Present: Megan Archibald, Diane Baldwin, Ollie Bonham, John Clague, Tania Demchuk, Brett Gilley, Fran Haidl, Kendra Johnston, Erin Lane, Bill Mercer, Annette Milbradt, Pierre Rhéaume, Sheila Stenzel, Eileen Van der Flier-Keller, Christy Vodden, Miriam Vos-Guenther, Erica Williams, Jane Wynne.

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS & ACTIONS

1. Voted a big thanks to Sheila Stenzel for arranging catering for the meeting and to the Association for Mineral Exploration BC for letting us use their boardroom.
2. Approved minutes of the annual general meeting (Québec, May 29, 2008):
<http://cgen.bio.ns.ca/cgenagm08.pdf>.
3. Agreed that CGEN website should include each member's location, in addition to his/her email address. This will be a valuable aid to regional groups. Action: Christy Vodden to review options with Jennifer Smith for limiting spam potential of having email addresses on CGEN website.
4. Agreed that CGEN will discontinue a formal winter meeting in Vancouver, with the commitment that a regional meeting will be held in conjunction with the Cordilleran Roundup and that the CGEN Executive and all members will still be invited to attend.
5. Action: Fran Haidl will set up fundraising committee to look at securing long-term funding in support of paid staff for CGEN. Anyone interested in working on this committee should contact Fran (Fran.Haidl@gov.sk.ca).
6. Action: Fran and Christy are to rework the CGEN Terms of Reference to incorporate points discussed at meeting and re-circulate to all CGEN membership for approval.
7. Agreed that the new regional/provincial/territorial chapters are an excellent idea, and that they should follow the guiding principles of CGEN to keep activities informal and flexible while working toward enhanced impact of activities through common goals and networking. Even though the mandate for regional chapters is an addition to the Terms of Reference, which still require minor revision and approval, interested groups can start setting up meetings immediately. Format, timing and geographic scope will be left to the organizers. Catering support (up to a maximum of \$200/year) will be provided by the CGEN Executive. All national activities (annual general meeting, email notices, etc.) will continue unchanged. The President Elect, to join the Executive in May 2009, will be

the liaison between the regional chapters and the Executive.

8. Action: In the meantime, anyone wishing to set up a regional meeting should advise Christy of the date and location so that she can pass the invitation on to the entire membership. Requests for financial support should be sent to her as well. News from regional meetings can be also be forwarded for distribution to all CGEN if desired.

9. Action: Members should continue to identify potential new members and send them to Christy (cvodden@sympatico.ca). All that's needed is full name, affiliation, location and email address.

10. Action: In light of no response to the call for nominations or volunteers for the next CGEN President and President Elect positions, Fran and Christy will take on the task of head-hunting and negotiating.

11. Action: The Careers in Earth Science website is posted in English at (<http://www.earthsciencescanada.com/>) and CGEN members are urged to use and promote it. The French is underway and should be posted before the May meeting. Once the French site is online, a multi-pronged marketing campaign, now in the planning stages, will go ahead.

12. Action: Anyone doing projects or activities to celebrate International Year of Planet Earth should send a notice to Godfrey Nowlan (Godfrey.Nowlan@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca) as a full report of Canada's participation is being compiled. Note: IYPE runs until the end of 2009.

13. Action: Eileen Van der Flier-Keller will send a draft letter in support of CRYSTAL (Centre for Research in Youth, Science Teaching and Learning) to Bill Mercer to send to NSERC on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences in support for the renewal of CRYSTAL. NSERC will decide in March whether to renew this five-year program, which is in its final year. Note: Eileen advises that NSERC has already taken the decision not to renew funding for this program, but that she will keep us informed at to efforts to "seek alternative funding sources for these important initiatives after March 2010."

NEXT MEETING: The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, following the Joint Assembly in Toronto, hosted by the UofT Geology Department.

Note: Full reports for all CGEN core projects and for groups reporting at the winter meeting will be recorded in the minutes of the annual general meeting in May.

Christy Vodden
Secretary-Treasurer,
Canadian Geoscience Education Network

February 23, 2009

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Continuing the tradition of incorporating hands-on education activities into our meetings, we carried out a diamond mine development and reclamation activity from Mining Matters' "Discovering Diamonds," which is an excellent resource for secondary schools. All details and other PDAC resources can be found at: <http://www.pdac.ca/miningmatters/educators/secondary-kits.html>.

Other resources flagged to our attention were:

The Association of Engineers and Geoscientists of BC's careers video "Engineering and Geoscience: Shaping Our World" is at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/students/index.html>.

The Geological Society of America's global citizen science program, Earth Trek is at: <http://www.goearthtrek.com/aboutus.html>. The Geological Association of Canada has become a member of this program.

The Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists has a wealth of student/career information at: <http://www.cseg.ca/students/career-info.cfm>.

The Mineral Resources Education Program of BC is continually being updated with education resources: <http://www.bcminerals.ca/>.

Ditto for PDAC's Mining Matters program: <http://www.pdac.ca/miningmatters/>.

The Burgess Shale Virtual Museum Canada is an exciting new initiative in the planning stages. Their test site is at: http://burgess.niasol.com/burgess_shale_011309/accueil_home_eng.html.

The Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative at UBC is trailblazing "effective, evidence-based science education" at the university level. Lots of resources at: <http://www.cwsei.ubc.ca/>.

Finally, for those interested in connecting with educators, don't overlook the home schoolers and their provincial/territorial associations. A good starting point is <http://www.flora.org/homeschool-ca/>.