

Canadian Geoscience Council Meeting
Gabriola Room, Hotel Vancouver
Vancouver, B. C.

January 27, 2000

MINUTES

Attendees:

Paul Robinson, Dalhousie University, President CGEN
Dileep Athaide, Capilano Collage, Vancouver
Godfrey Nowlan, GSC, Calgary
Fran Haidl, SEM, Regina
Jon Dudley, Earth Works
Maureen Lipkevich, Mining Association of BC, Vancouver
Sheila Stenzel, Mining Association of BC, Vancouver
Alan Morgan, University of Waterloo, Waterloo

Regrets:

Christy Vodden
David Rudkin
Jennifer Bates

Caveat:

Because Christy Vodden, our Secretary-Treasurer, was unable to attend this meeting I took the minutes. By necessity they are abbreviated and less complete than the ones normally produced by Christy. Please send me any comments or corrections - Paul

1. Introductions. Introductions were made and all attendees provided their current e-mail addresses. It was pointed out that some addresses currently on the CGEN distribution list are incorrect and that not everyone is receiving e-mail. If you know of anyone not receiving regular reports please contact me at robinso@is.dal.ca and give me an updated address.
2. EdGeo Report – Fran Haidl. 1999 was a good year for EdGeo with 16 workshops completed. These workshops reached 375 teachers.

The EdGeo website is up and running at www.edgeo.org – check it out! Fran inquired about funding from GAC for 1999 – PTR will contact GAC as a follow-up to the letter of request sent last summer.

Alan Morgan raised the possibility of developing graduate courses in Geoscience Outreach to be offered at universities. The idea met with considerable enthusiasm and Godfrey pointed out that there is currently an undergraduate course in outreach activities being offered by the Biology Department at U of A. He will send information on his program to Alan. Maureen pointed out that there are also credit courses in Mining Minerals for teachers being offered in B. C. It was suggested that this might be an area in which EdGeo could become involved.

3. EarthNet Report – Jennifer Bates. Unfortunately, Jennifer was unable to attend this meeting to provide a report. However, several members of CGEN commented that there appeared to be little activity at EarthNet lately and they were concerned about the future of the program. PTR will contact Jennifer for an update and pass the information along to CGEN members.
4. Scoping Paper on Geoscience Education in Canada. PTR was asked by CGC to prepare a scoping paper outlining the problems involved in Geoscience Education in Canada and their causes, suggesting possible actions that could be taken, and outlining an appropriate role for CGC and CGEN in this area. The paper was prepared with input and comments from many members of CGEN and was presented to the Board at this meeting prior to being delivered to CGC. Maureen pointed out that we should be sure to involve teachers directly in any proposed activities, particularly those directed toward producing educational materials for use in the schools. Godfrey pointed out that there will be a major geoscience component in the Grade 7 PanCanadian curriculum and suggested that this would be a good area on which to focus. In particular, materials are needed that connect to different parts of the curriculum. There was also discussion of developing desired learning outcomes for the national syllabus. It was decided that the best way to approach this problem was in preparation for the GeoSciEd IV conference to be held in 2003. We will start by trying to identify appropriate teachers in each province that could be involved and then promote the sharing of resources. These teachers will then hopefully participate in GeoSciEd IV and provide input to a cooperative program for development of teaching resources.
It was proposed by Godfrey that a condensed version of the scoping paper be produced in a colorful, eye-catching format and sent to all CGC member societies – PTR will add a chart produced by Alan outlining the outreach activities of the societies as they are currently known and send out the report.
5. GeoSciEd III – Alan Morgan and Paul Robinson. GeoSciEd III was held in Sydney Australia January 16-20, 2000. Five Canadians attended the conference – Alan Morgan, Eileen Van de Flier-Keller, Kathleen Kemp and Paul Robinson. Eileen presented a paper co-authored with Fran Haidl on EdGeo and Alan presented a paper on the educational activities of CGC.

There were 180 participants, considerably fewer than the previous two meetings.

6. GeoSciEd IV, CGEN will host GeoSciEd IV in Calgary in 2003. We will organize a national committee co-chaired by Alan Morgan and Godfrey Nowlan and a local committee chaired by Godfrey. The plan is to organize local committees on a provincial or regional basis, which will then nominate individuals for the national committee. The local groups will also have the responsibility of identifying teachers from their province or region who will be invited to participate in the conference. The local committees will also be expected to carry out fund-raising to support teacher participation. In order to get things underway, participants in the meeting were asked to begin organizing local groups in their areas – Dileep and Maureen for B. C., Godfrey and Jon for Alberta, Fran and Chris for Saskatchewan, Alan, Peter Russell and David Rudkin for Ontario and Paul for Nova Scotia and the Maritimes. Paul will contact Pierrette for suggestions of who might organize a local committee in Quebec.

Alan discussed the general goals and plans for the conference. The theme of the conference will be to share communication – teacher to teacher, teachers and Canadian educators, and teachers and international educators. We expect a maximum of 450 and a minimum of 300 participants. The conference will be held at the University of Calgary and will include field trips, workshops and sessions. There will be plenary, technical and poster sessions on various themes.

Godfrey discussed some ideas for the local organization. He will set up a local organizing committee of 6-8 people to handle field trips, the technical program, workshops, liaison with local teachers, publicity and other topics as needed. Hopefully, the University can handle registration and local facilitation. The fee for the Australian meeting was \$320 Aus for pre-meeting registration and we believe that we can have a similar or even lower fee. Ideas or suggestions for the meeting should be directed to Alan or Godfrey and anyone interested in participating in the organization should contact the individuals listed above for each province or region.

7. GeoCan 2000 – Jon gave a rundown of the educational and outreach programs planned for GeoCan 2000 which will be held May 29-June 2, 2000 in Calgary. This will be a combined GAC, MAC, CSPG, CWLS, CGU and CSEG meeting and will be the largest ever meeting of Canadian geoscience societies.

For the public there will be an evening lecture by Roberta Bondar, a geological treasures exposition, and a technical session entitled Geoscience and Society. Educators from across Canada will be invited to attend the technical session entitled Communicating Critical Geoscience Issues to Canadian communities and they will also have a tour of the Treasures Exposition. Special field trips for educators will hopefully include a visit to a dinosaur dig and to other areas of geologic interest.

The Public Outreach program of the Calgary Science Network will provide selected high school students from Calgary an opportunity to spend a day at the conference. Conference guides will host the students at a variety of sessions and activities.

8. Earth Science Week – Alan discussed the activities that he had organized for Earth Science week last year and asked CGEN what, if anything, should be done for 2000. The general consensus was that we could spend our time and effort more effectively on year-round programs and special events such as GeoCan 2000.
9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with GeoCan 2000. Paul will confer with members before the meeting to find the best time and locate a meeting room. Members will be advised by e-mail of the time, location and agenda of the meeting.

Paul Robinson