



12th Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Broadcast Meteorology

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 4th of September 2006, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in the Cankarjev dom Conference Centre, during the Sixth European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC) and also the Third EMS Annual Meeting.

In Attendance: Tomas Molina, Gerald Fleming, Inge Niedek, Francis Wilson, Ivan Cacic, Jay Trobec

1. Apologies for absence, and notification of postal votes.

Written Apologies were received from: Albert Barniol, Monica Lopez, Gemma Puig, Jofre Janue, Enric Agud, Francesc Mauri, John Teather, Bill Giles, Claire Martin, Paul Gross, Tammy Garrisson, Michael Walsh, Evelyn Cusack, Dieter Walch, All of the above provided proxy votes.

We have not heard anything regarding the AGM from the African Members or our Japanese colleagues.

2. Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting held in Washington, DC, USA on the 3rd of August 2005.

Adoption of the minutes were proposed by Thomas Molina, seconded by Gerald Fleming and approved by the members.

3. Any matters arising from the previous meeting.

Monterrey – Commitment of the Organization that this event will take part from 26th of November to 2nd December 2007 (training session and conference). Due to political issues in Mexico (where there has been a very close result in national elections and a consequent stalemate in decision-making while an election winner remains to be decided definitively) the situation is not entirely clear and matters are proceeding more slowly than we would like. However it is the regional government, rather than the national government, which is committed to the event so there is no reason to anticipate any eventual difficulties. However we must be prepared for a very late confirmation and exchange of contracts relating to the Conference. We should go ahead with organizing the training course and lining up the speakers.

We need to establish contact with people/organisations who will help with the logistics. The budget will be 200,000 Euro, the greatest proportion of which will be used for transportation, transmission and organisation of sponsored broadcasts from Monterrey (recorded or live), and the necessary secretariat organisation itself. There will be no costs for the use of the conference rooms, as in Barcelona.

4. Report of the outgoing Chairman, Tomas Molina.

In his report, Tomas concentrated on the following points:

The announcement of the World Broadcast conference to WMO; The commitment of WMO to participate the same manner as with Barcelona. That he, Tomas is working with the Barcelona committee to make progress towards signing the final contract with the Mexico organizers.

That the Video Gallery has elicited no great response so far;

That concerning the Up Front magazine – John has done a great job, but the costs have increased due to the higher quality printing and the increase in circulation. Up Front is now sent to all PRs with WMO on a routine basis.

5. Report of the outgoing Honorary Secretary, John Teather.

As John was unable to attend, it was reported in his absence that the Association still suffers from a chronic lack of funding which make the organisation difficult to administrate. It had been difficult in the last year for the committee to meet often enough – but there was nothing new in that. However, despite all these continuing problems it was still a vibrant and respected organisation.

6. Report of the outgoing Treasurer, Gerald Fleming.

Carried Forward from 2004				€5,019
Income				
Interest earned	11			
EU / Science Foundation grant	781			
Subscriptions	5,951		6,743	€11,762
Expenditure				
<i>Up Front - Printing and mailing</i>	2,733	2,733		
<i>Mailing and Stationary</i>	314	314		
<i>Website</i>				
<i>Registration Fees / Maintenance</i>	484	484		
<i>Editorial (9 months)</i>	3,350	3,350		
<i>Meetings and Conferences</i>				
<i>Geneva – Committee meeting</i>	945			
<i>Committee Conference Call</i>	91			
<i>Attendance at AMS Washington</i>	3,019	4,055	11,001	€11,001
Excess of expenditure over income			4,258	
In account, Jan 1 st 2006				€761
Made up as follows:				
Current Account (€49)				49
Deposit Account (US\$388)				315
UK Account (£266)				397

N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates: €1.00 = US\$1.233 = £0.6716

Notes to the accounts:

The accounts are shown in Euro with the appropriate conversion rates to US Dollars and Pounds Sterling. The IABM holds two bank accounts in the Republic of Ireland; one denominated in Euro and the other in US Dollars. It also has a further account in Pounds Sterling in the UK. This is to facilitate the collection of fees through the PayPal system.

The opening amount shown for the year has been adjusted to allow for the variation in exchange rates from 2004 to 2005. This amount is shown as €4,925 in the 2004 accounts, but carries forward as €5,019. We had been holding the equivalent of €3,290 in US Dollars, and we profited by about €96 from a weakening of the US Dollar vis-à-vis the Euro.

Subscription income increased by about €300 over the previous year.

We received a grant of €781 from the COST / European Science Foundation in support of the attendance of Mr John Teather and Mr Bill Giles at the EMS conference in Nice in September 2004. This grant helped to mitigate costs as shown in the 2004 accounts.

Mr John Teather is paid a monthly honorarium of £250 for editing the website and Up Front.

The major items of expenditure were connected to the production of the newsletter, Up Front; the maintenance of the website, and attendance at the AMS Broadcast Conference in Washington in June 2005, where we also held our AGM.

During 2005 we commenced the practice of sending all the Permanent Representatives of countries with WMO (effectively the Directors of the world's Met Services) complimentary copies of Up Front. We feel that this has been a very effective tool in raising the profile of broadcasters within the meteorological community. As in 2004 we took in about €6,000 in subscription income but spent about €11,000 on our day-to-day activities. Obviously we need to increase our membership significantly, and recover the annual subscription fees more effectively from our existing membership. Alternatively we need to identify another source of funding. We have an aspiration to produce four editions of Up Front each year, as well as to represent the membership effectively at all the relevant international fora. In my view, we would need an annual income of circa €20,000 in order to discharge these responsibilities effectively.

Adoption of the financial report was proposed by Tomas Molina and seconded by Francis Wilson.

7. Election of Directors and Officers

The following committee members were elected, Tomas Molina was proposed by Gerald Fleming seconded by Ivan Cacic. Other members were elected by Tomas Molina and seconded by Francis Wilson

Chairman	Tomas Molina
Secretary	John Teather
Treasurer	Gerald Fleming
Vice-Chairman	Claire Martin
Membership Secretary	Inge Niedek
Publications Secretary	Bill Giles
Ordinary Directors	Dieter Walch, Paul Gross
Non-Director Committee members	Gemma Puig, Tammy Garrison, Stephen Quoa, and Yoshikazu Idesako

8. Resolutions.

There were no resolutions.

9. Any other business.

Ivan Cacic commented that there was significant interest among the NMHS's of south-eastern Europe in developing a better strategy towards working with media and having some training, advice, and guidance in matters concerning the use of weather graphics.

Status of corporations being members of IABM – difficult subject for TV-stations. At our present level of organisation it was difficult to offer concrete benefits of membership to large broadcast corporations. Broadcast members include RTE of Ireland and CNN.

An account was provided of contributions by IABM at representative meetings of WMO, which had encompassed meetings of Executive Council as well as many meetings of constituent Expert Teams with Public Weather Services. In many cases these contributions were made at no cost to the IABM, owing to the presence of IABM members at these meetings in their own right.