

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
International Association of Broadcast Meteorology
Coronado Springs Hotel, Disney World, Orlando Florida, United States
of America, Tuesday 22 June 1999**

Present

Inge Niedek (Chairman)
Bill Giles (Secretary)
Gerald Fleming (Treasurer)
Dieter Walch (Vice Chairman)
John Teather (Vice Chairman)
Ed Gross
Paul Gross
Joe Witte
David Knott
Jan Pavlik
Jude Ortansa

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting .

The minutes of the last AGM have been posted to all members and is available on the web site. Paul Gross proposed and John Teather seconded they be adopted which they were unanimously.

1. Chairman's report

Inge Niedek presented her report:

A very "warm" welcome to all of you who are attending this meeting, at this fantastic summer recreation place here in Orlando. And I hope you will enjoy Mickey Mouse too.

I am looking back to my first year being chair of IABM and first of all I want to express my warmest thanks to all my colleges in the committee for their encouragement and active support, also many thanks to all the other people who have been contributing to another successful year of IABM. A very special thank to Gerald Fleming, my predecessor, who always has an ear to questions I may have.

Indeed we have achieved a lot, but still there are even more things to do.

We all have been working on different political levels in the weather-world to propagate the targets of IABM and to make us more known around the globe, but also to get the entry to higher levels of weather-politics to start the communication about the problems weather-broadcasters worldwide face in their profession.

And I think we have been quite successful in starting this dialogue. A big step further is this occasion here in Orlando, the generosity and the openness of AMS to have us participate and contribute to this excellent and unique conference.

Lets now turn to the period from taking over chairmanship from Gerald.

1. Observer-status

After some years of effort and a very positive support of leading members of WMO, last summer we have been granted observer-status to WMO. This offers plenty of possibilities for continuous communication to the Met Services and at highest levels of Meteorology and it simplifies the communication-process between the weather and the TV world.

2. Paris Meeting

The IABM was represented last May 98 by John Teather, Bill Giles, Thomas Molina, Dieter Walch and myself at a Paris Meeting on Global Data exchange. The two philosophies of data-exchange (and resolution 40 of WMO in this context) have brought this forum together. The philosophies are:

- Data, once paid for by the public purse, are public property for which it would be improper to levy charges; or alternatively
- It is improper for those who make use of publicly collected data not to make a contribution to the cost of their collection.
(Dr. John Zillmann, president of WMO, at his inauguration speech for the new WMO-building, on May 4th 1999)

Nothing really has moved so far on the data-issue, and it was quite obviously that upon the eve of privatization of parts of the Met Services there was not much willingness to discuss the data issue further. My feeling is that there is not much understanding about the needs of the media especially in terms of quality.

The data issue is still existing. With privatization of parts of the Met Services and ECOMET-pricing structure, freely available meteorological data has been significantly reduced and instead it is being sold with a high-price-philosophy and a confusing pricing strategy which nobody understands, and which is not suitable and justified for the different needs of TV broadcasting.

So we have to think how we can get into discussions about this problem with the relevant people in ECOMET or in the European Commission. Because in the long run this politics might not only reduce the quality of TV weather-reports but also the credibility of the whole industry.

3. WMO Commission for Basic Systems - Karlsruhe

Gerald and myself represented the IABM at a WMO meeting in Karlsruhe (Commission for Basic Systems, Public Weather Services Program, an interface between the NMHS's and the Media). From discussions in Karlsruhe it was quite obvious: the relations between Met Services and Media are not easy, very often because of lack of satisfying understanding. There seems to be reasonable communication deficits between Met Services and Media and that is not only a problem in developing countries.

The problem of Global Broadcasters has been addressed and propagation of warnings. IABM voted that warnings should be only broadcasted when they are "official" warnings of the NMHS's in question.

Gerald is taking part in this program of Public Weather Services – a workshop is taking place under his chairmanship parallel to this conference – and he will of course well represent also the basic thoughts of the IABM.

The basic problem of our profession is, that the met-people are not trained at all to be a journalist and a journalist not to be a weather-man. There is a wide field of training-needs.

4. Dallas Task Force

In the name of IABM I have been participating in working group on International cooperation, an initiative of the Weather Service of the United States of America. A great idea to bring the relevant people of the highest levels of the weather-world, whether they were private, academia or TV together.

All problems of the existing weather world have been touched and priorities have been chosen as the key problems to work on.

The main 4 points are:

- *National needs for weather and climate services, especially for extreme events.*
- *Roles of Met Services vis-a-vis other service providers*
- *International responsibilities and obligations*
- *Adequate government support/funding for NMHS's*

More information you may find in our last newspaper.

I am now representing IABM in a taskforce – a small group of people from the original group to carry on the ideas of the workshop.

The task force has presented a paper to the WMO Congress which recently had taken place in Geneva. The purpose is to speed up the communication between the different parties and to a regular exchange of views, which should improve understanding and create hopefully a better level-playing-field for all participants.

5. WMO CONGRESS GENEVA 1999

IABM was also well represented at the WMO congress, and we took the chance to talk to a lot of important people who had been gathered there. For us it was a good occasion to strengthen the relations to the WMO and to gather some first ideas for Geneva 2000, where our next AGM takes place.

6. TRAINING – CERTIFICATE

If you have attended the international part of the conference you are quite aware of the training-initiatives IABM is working on. And we finally - thanks to the help of Bill Giles and Dieter Walch - who both have very much experience in meteorological training we are having a basic paper to work on, and modify for special national needs; which would have to be worked out by people from the country in question. Finally we want to come up with a suitable proposal for a kind of training certificate which will find the support of the WMO, the Met Services and "hopefully" the TV industry.

7. DIFFERENT ASPECTS

check our Internet page – it has improved quite a bit – many thanks to Jeremy Hall from the BBC who works for us, I think he is doing a wonderful job, but now we have to fill in the blanks. We want to improve our Internet service especially with reliable weather pages but for that we need the support from you.

We need more members and more funding to work on our targets, and during the next year we have to work hard to get at least some TV-stations involved in our discussions.

The next AGM will take place on the 23rd of March in Geneva, when WMO celebrates it's 50th anniversary. Right here we will work on possible solutions to celebrate that day there and also make it attractive to attend. We plan to work together with the AMS in this portion and may be also with the Paris Festival?

I think we as TV-broadcasters all have to work together instead of separately because only that may give us the basic platform for a strong position and the targets of our profession.

Inge then thanked everyone for their support especially as most of it was in their own time. She continued that there was still a lot to do to achieve the targets of communications to all members. It was a big step for the Association to participate at the AMS conference in Orlando and she will write a letter of thanks to the organising committee.

Action: The Chairman

The Chairman discussed the remarks made by Jack Kelly (USA PR at WMO) in his talk to the AMS Conference when he said it was a shame that the place reserved for IABM as an observer at the recent WMO Congress was not occupied for most of the time. Chairman to write to WMO pointing out that it is very difficult for one of our members to be present for the

whole of the four week congress and that we have to pay for the visits out of our own pockets. Ed. Gross to look over the draft before the letter is sent.

Action : The Chairman

Inge read read some extracts from WMO's report on the role and operations of National Meteorological and Hydrological services concerned with Partnership and Co-operation:

“ Congress was informed of recent for a and a workshop that were held since Cg-X11, in an effort to provide a venue for the media, private sector and academia and NMHSs to exchange views on Resolution 40 (Cg-X11) and issues facing the meteorological and hydrological communities. Congress expressed thanks to the Members who were instrumental in organising these events: it encouraged the holding of similar events in the future. Congress discussed the changing situation most NMHSs face in relation to the future of national Meteorological and Hydrological Services, including changes in technology and methods of operation. Congress expressed concern about dwindling public resources during times of increased demand for more services and the need for all members of the meteorological and hydrological community (public and private sectors) to collectively address priority issues. Congress noted the trend for many governments to recover costs for weather services , and noted the this trend will continue. Congress recognised that there was a wide variety of models for operating NMHSs and working with academic, media and private sectors and ultimately each Member was responsible for defining its own policy on the matter and the NMHS was responsible for developing its own method of operation dependant on its legislative and government mandates.

Congress noted that many of the matters and issues of concern to NMHSs also directly affect the media and the private meteorological and hydrological sectors including the need to understand the entire spectrum of needs for the meteorological / hydrological information and services for proper attribution of data and product source , to maintain the funding of the main weather service functions and for more research of the costs , benefits and value of all weather services. Congress requested the Secretary-General to take action to encourage further studies of costs / benefits of core and value added weather services in order to inform and build advocacy for NMHSs by public and private decision makers.

Congress considered the need for a possible mechanism for co-operation between NMHSs, the media private sector and academia on various issues of mutual interest. This mechanism should include methods for collaboration and ways to address international issues involving the media, the private sector and NMHSs. Congress asked the Executive Council, with some urgency, to consider this topic of partnership and co-operation further so as to ensure complementarily with the role of NMHSs and to suggest mechanisms by which Members could more actively involve the media, the private sector and academia in the work of the WMO and the NMHSs. The Executive Council should also suggest ways of enhancing co-operation with international representatives of the various sectors , respecting the principles of the Organisation , including Article 26 of the WMO Convention.

Congress agreed that some of the issues could be resolved more easily if there was a means to develop standard definitions for certain terms to include : privatisation commercialisation ,user, partnership, attribution, level playing field, single official voice, mitigation, “core” or basic functions, value-added or specialised services and related data. It requested the Executive Council to address the problem of definitions of commonly used terms as they related to a number of major issues being addressed by WMO. “

Finally the Chairman stated that the IABM need to try and get the AMS interested in Geneva 2000-perhaps someone to talk on the problems broadcasters face in the USA

2. Secretary's Report

Bill Giles stated that there was little say since the Chairman has covered the ground very comprehensively.

There had been 3 committee meetings this last year with an additional attendance at WMO Congress.

The Association had written and sent 5 Newsletters edited by Richard Chapman and had been very well received.

The Secretary expressed his thanks to Ed Gross and Paul Gross for the hard work and enthusiasm they had put in for the Association in the last year.

3. Treasurer's Report

Income / Expenditure for 1998 (In U.S. Dollars)

Carried Forward from 1997			1103		
Income					
Interest		27			
Corporate (4 x \$500, 1 x \$225)		2225			
Individual (45 x \$75, 1 x \$50)		3425		5677	6780
Expenditure					
<i>IABM News (3 Editions)</i>					
Editorial		1296			
Printing		562			
Mailing		256		2114	
<i>Website</i>					
Set-up / Registration		320			
Set-up / NT Server, Members Area		200			
Set-up / International Registration		73			
Webmaster / 6 Months		836		1429	
Participation in Fest. Int. de Meteo		850			
Travel / Geneva		291			
Credit card commission		123			
Bank charges		59	1323	4866	4866
Excess of income over expenditure					811
In account, Dec 31st 1998					1914
Made up as follows:					
Current Account (IR£106.45)					150
Deposit Account (in US\$)					1764

*N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates:
US\$1.45 = IR£1.00*

Notes:

- 1. Three members pre-paid 1998 subs in 1997.**
- 2. To date, 47 subscriptions have been received for 1999, realising approx US\$5225.**
- 3. The cost of printing brochures was approx US\$1050**

It was noted that the line Excess of expenditure over income should read excess of income over expenditure.
 With the Amendment the Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously after being proposed by Paul Gross and Seconded by John Teather.

4. Election of Officers for 1999-2000

The meeting appointed the following persons to serve as Officers for the ensuing year:

Chairman	Inge Niedek	Proposed John Teather	Seconded Paul Gross
Secretary	John Teather	Proposed Bill Giles	Seconded Inge Niedek
Treasurer	Gerald Fleming	Proposed Inge Niedek	Seconded Paul Gross
Vice-Chairman	Bill Giles	Proposed John Teather	Seconded Inge Niedek
Vice-Chairman	Dieter Walch	Proposed Inge Niedek	Seconded John Teather
Committee	Paul Gross	Proposed Inge Niedek	Seconded John Teather
	Tomas Molina	Proposed Paul Gross	Seconded Gerry Fleming

5. Any other Business

Paul Gross said he was meeting with Jack Kelly in two weeks time . Chairman to e-mail Paul to discuss any points IABM wish to make through Paul.

Action: Inge Niedek

Gerald Fleming asked was it possible to reduce fees for potential members from Emerging Countries. It was decided to ask WMO for their list of countries they considered under this category and that we should only charge \$25 to these applicants.

Ed. Gross asked if we needed the two referees to endorse the application forms as he thought it put off a lot of potential members. It was decided that the applicants should send in their forms and we would support them centrally.

An addendum should be placed in the brochure incorporating the two proposals above Gerald Fleming was to look into the possibility of translating our brochure in Spanish.

Action: Gerald Fleming

There being no other business to transact the meeting was closed in peace and harmony