North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature (NACSN)
79th Annual Meeting

Monday, 23 September 2024 (1:00-5:00 pm, Pacific Daylight Time)

Hybrid meeting held in conjunction with Geological Society of America Annual Meeting (GSA Connects 2024) Anaheim, California, U.S.A.

Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Suite 312

Minutes

1. Call to Order of the 79th Annual Meeting (Chair Richard Denne)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Denne at 1:02 PM PDT. Nine commissioners were present in the room at the beginning of the meeting; 20 commissioners were present online; also, online were five commissioners-in-waiting, one commissioner whose term will begin at the end of the meeting, and seven guests (five online). Chair Denne noted that the meeting will follow the GSA code of conduct.

2. Roll Call (Denne)

For the **American Association of Petroleum Geologists** (3)
Katherine A. Giles [2022-2025] *absent*
Doug Sprinkel [2023-2026] *present*
Richard Denne [2021-2024] **Chair, 2023-2024** *present*

For the **Association of American State Geologists** (3)
Clint Kromhout [2023-2025] *present*
David Dockery [2021-2024] *present*
R.M. (Matt Joeckel) [2021-2024] **Past Chair 2023-2024** *present*

For the **Geological Society of America** (3)
Frank Ettensohn [2022-2025] *present*
Jim Lehane [2021-2024] *present*
Ralph Haugerud [2023-2026] *present*

For the **U.S. Geological Survey** (3)
Lucy Edwards [2022-2025] *present*
Nancy Stamm [2021-2024] *present*
Jeremy Workman [2023-2026] *present*

For the **Geological Survey of Canada** (3)
Lynn Dafoe [2022-2025] *present*
Jim Haggart [2021-2024] *absent*
Alex Zagorevski [2023-2026] *present*

For the **Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists** (2)
John-Paul Zonneveld [2020-2024] *present*

Brian R. Pratt [2021-2024] *absent*

For the **Geological Association of Canada** (2)
Frank Brunton [2022-2025] *absent*
John W. Johnstone [2023-2026] *present*

For the **SEPM/Society for Sedimentary Geology** (2)
Howard Harper [2022-2025] *present*
Marie-Pierre Aubry [2021-2024] *present*

For the **Servicio Geológico Mexicano (**1)
Rosario Isabel López-Palomino [2021-2024] *present*
Juan Carlos Salinas Prieto [2022-2025] *absent*

For the **Asociación Mexicana de Geólogos Petroleros** (1)
Martin Martinez Medrano [2022-2025] *absent*

For the **Sociedad Geológica Mexicana** (1)
Ruben Alfonso López Doncel [2022-2025] *present*

For the **Instituto de Geología de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico** (1)
Fernando Núñez Useche [2022-2025] *present*

Commissioners-in-Waiting (need to amend Articles to integrate new Commissioners)

For the **Instituto de Geología y Paleontología/Servicio Geológico de Cuba (Cuba)**
Luis Ramón Bernal Rodríguez [2022-2025] *absent*

For the **Colegio de Geólogos (Bolivia)**
Wilfredo Ramos Collorana [2022-2025] *present*

For the **Asociación Colombiana de Geólogos y Geofísicos del Petróleo (Colombia)**
Luis Ignacio Quiroz [2022-2025] *present*

For the **Colegio de Geólogos de Costa Rica (Costa Rican Association of Geologists)**
Gerardo Soto Bonilla [2022-2025] *absent*

For the **Sociedad Geológica del Perú (Peru)**
Gerardo Pozo Calle [2022-2025] *absent*

For the **La Asociación de Geólogos del Paraguay (Paraguay)**
Nestor Salinas Franco [2022-2025] *absent*
Monica Quintana [alternate] *present*

For the **Sociedad Uruguaya de Geología (Uruguay)**
Valeria Mesa [2022-2025] *present*

Commissioners-at-Large (10)

Carlton E. Brett [2022-2025] *present*
Mike Easton [2021-2024] *present*

Ismael Ferrusquía-Villafranca [2022-2025] *absent*
Richard H. Fluegeman [2022-2025] *present*
Ed Landing [2021-2024] *absent*
Stéphanie Larmagnat [2023-2026] *present*
Norman P. Lasca [2021-2024] *absent*
Randall C. Orndorff [2021-2024] **Vice Chair 2023-2024** *present*
Janet L. Slate [2023-2026] *present*
Jon J. Smith [2023-2025] *present*

Guests

Antun Husinec (St Lawrence Univ)
Brad Cramer (Univ of Iowa)
Ian Hillenbrand (USGS)
Sean Gaynor (USGS)
Leah Morgan (USGS)
Phil Frederick (USGS)
Marianto Castro Mora (Venezuela)

3. Approval of the Agenda

One item was added to the agenda item 7 recognizing Commissioner Brett as fellow to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A motion to approve agenda as amended was put forth by Commissioner Harper and seconded by Commissioner Haugerud; agenda approved unanimously.

4. Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests

Chair Denne introduced new Commissioner Autun Husinec who will become GSA representative [2024-2027] beginning with the 80th Annual Meeting, and other guests listed above. Also, the commissioners-in-waiting from Central and Southern America were introduced.

5. Approval of Minutes of the 78th Annual Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the 78th Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, 16 October 2023 was put forth by Commissioner Brett and seconded by Commissioner Haugerud; minutes were approved unanimously.

6. In Memoriam of Past Commissioners

Chair Denne announced the passing of former Commissioner Donald E. Owen, 30 December 2023, in Beaumont, Texas. Don was emeritus professor at Lamar University and served many years on the NACSN starting in 1978 and served as Chair of the Commission in 1992-1993. Vice Chair Orndorff and Commissioner Fluegeman recognized his mentorship to them and the many students and colleagues he touched over the years. A moment of silence in his honor was held.

7. Recognition of Awards Received by Commissioners

Chair Denne recognized the following commissioners for awards received since the last annual meeting:

Ed Landing, New York State Paleontologist, emeritus, was awarded the John M. Clarke Medal by the

State Museum at a function of the Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists Association. The medal acknowledges contributions to understanding the geology of New York State linking the work of the third State Paleontologist (Clarke) with the seventh (Landing).

Gerardo Soto was awarded 2022 Dr. César Dóndoli Burgazzi National Geological Award by the CGCR Board of Directors.

Frank Ettensohn received AAPG Honorary Membership, an award presented to those who have distinguished themselves by their service and devotion to AAPG, as well as the science and profession, and the recipient of the Eastern Section of AAPG John T. Galey Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Section recognizing distinguished geoscientists whose outstanding accomplishments, contributions and applications have been directed toward the betterment of society – the select genre of geoscientists epitomized by John T. Galey.

Carlton Brett was recognized as fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

8. Report of the Chair (Richard Denne)

Chair Denne attended two virtual AGI Leadership Forums and the joint AGI/GSA Societies meeting (9/23/24), and Vice Chair Orndorff attended the virtual spring meeting of the AGI Society Council on April 24, 2024.

Chair Denne announced the Spanish translation of the Code was published in Boletín de la Sociedad Geológica Mexicana vol. 76, no. 1 on 28 February 2024 (available online at http://dx.doi.org/10.18268/BSGM2024v76n1a240124). Congratulations and thanks to authors Fernando Núñez-Useche, Luis Ramón Bernal Rodríguez, Marianto Castro Mora, Rubén Alfonso López-Donce, Isabel López-Palomino, Valeria Mesa, Wilfredo Ramos Collorana.

Report 16, Revision of Articles 7 and 20 of the North American Stratigraphic Code to Address Culturally Offensive or Inappropriate Unit Names and to Encourage the Use of Indigenous Place Names: After Note 72 (*Stratigraphy*, vol. 19, no. 3, p. 187-200, available online 15 September 2022 at https://www.micropress.org/microaccess/stratigraphy/issue-384/article-2299) on this topic was adopted by the Commission at the 78th annual meeting. Report 16 was published in *Stratigraphy* (Vol. 21, no.2, p. 169-177, available online at https://www.micropress.org/microaccess/stratigraphy/issue-400/article-2373) on 15 June 2024. Congratulations and thanks to authors Robert MacNaughton, Lynn Dafoe, and Jim Haggart.

Records of the Stratigraphic Commission 2018-2020: Commissioner Jim Haggart (Chair 2019- 2020) is actively working on the manuscript summarizing NACSN activities from 2018-2020. Past Chair Johnstone was asked to contact Commissioner Haggart requesting addition of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Chair Denne led a discussion on how to handle future annual meetings (in person, virtual or hybrid) and expenses. He reported that his organization (Texas Christian University) has graciously paid the more than $1200 to cover this year's meeting, including audio visual connections, internet access, and other items; GSA does cover the in-person venue. Chair Denne proposed going virtual for our future business meetings and have a social event at the GSA Connects Meetings. Commissioner Fluegeman asked if there were any issues with going virtual contained in the bylaws. Commissioner Dafoe would check and we would discuss under the bylaws item on this year's agenda. Commissioner Joeckel proposed in-person meetings (with virtual option) every three years in conjunction with the Annual GSA Meeting in Denver, CO with the in between meetings held virtually. How to handle ballots for votes, quorums, etc. should be investigated and the bylaws consulted or updated when needed on this subject. No decisions

were made.

9. Report of the Vice Chair (Randall Orndorff)

Vice Chair Orndorff gave a short summary of the recent International Geological Congress and Commission on the Geological Map of the World General Assembly held in Busan, South Korea in August 2024.

Vice Chair Orndorff announced the upcoming SE GSA meeting session titled The Early Paleozoic of Eastern North America to be held in March 2025 with the NACSN as cosponsor.

10. Report of the NACSN Website Committee (Commissioners Jon Smith, Jim Lehane, Doug Sprinkel)

Commissioner Smith reported that they are having trouble reaching Chis Keane of AGI to make corrections to the website found after it was set up last year. He will continue to contact AGI on this subject, understanding that NACSN would request updates twice per year.

11. Update on French Translation of North American Stratigraphic Code (Commissioners Marie-Pierre Aubry, Stephanie Larmagnat (translators), and ad hoc committee Lucy Edwards, Brian Pratt)

A copy of the most recent translation was shared with commissioners several weeks prior to the meeting. Commissioner Aubry reported on the effort and time consumption of this work and the Chair, along with the entire Commission thanked the ad hoc committee on their efforts with hardy congratulations. The previous French translation was done in 1986. The current efforts have translated the 2021 published Code with the exception of the figures and tables. Commissioner Edwards offered to help translate these and provide them for the release of the translation. The discussion included the possibility of adding recent changes to the Code, per Reports 15 and 16. Commissioner Edwards reported that Report 15 requires a new table to include chemostratigraphy (will be requested from authors or Stratigraphy by Commissioner Lehane) and that Report 16 has already been translated. Commissioners Aubry and Larmagnat were reluctant to add the updated articles due to the time involved since they have spent much time on the 2021 Code translation. Also, Commissioners Aubry and Larmagnat reported finding errors that should be corrected in the English Code and provided a list for either an "evergreen" Code or the next publication. Vice Chair Orndorff and Commissioner Stamm volunteered to work with Commissioners Aubry and Larmagnat and the ad hoc committee of Edwards and Pratt to get the translation completed.

12. Vote on Adoption of Proposed Revisions to NACSN Articles of Organization (Bylaws) (Commissioners Lynn Dafoe, Marie-Pierre Aubry, Carlton Brett, Jim Lehane, Randall Orndorff, Fernando Nunez Useche)

Committee members recognized and thanked Commissioner Dafoe for leadership in this endeavor. The proposed draft of the bylaws and a separate document explaining the changes were distributed to the commissioners prior to the meeting. It was noted that although the updated bylaws state the need for two-thirds majority vote, any vote on this item at the meeting will be held under current Articles, which states only a majority of current commissioners is required.

Commissioner Dafoe discussed the explanations of changes document. The change of voting procedures is a quorum of half of the commissioners plus one needed for a vote. Once a vote is on the floor, two-thirds of the commissioners present is needed to pass.

Commissioner Lehane made a motion to *adopt the revisions of the bylaws committee*; this was seconded

by Commissioner Fluegeman. Discussion ensued: Commissioner Edwards pointed out that the verbiage on when and where the annual meeting is held (Article 5, item 2 of Articles of Organization and Procedure) should allow for virtual option and not tied to GSA Connects meeting. The motion was amended by Commissioner Dockery to *adopt the revisions of the bylaws committee with the annual meeting to occur at or around the time and place of GSA Connects meetings*; this was seconded by Commissioner Brett. Yea votes – 23, nay votes 0; motion carried.

Commissioner Brett asked if including students on the Commission should be codified; consensus among commissioners was, not at this time, but should be encouraged. Vice Chair Orndorff stated that since the meeting is open, any commissioner should invite students that they see fit or could benefit the student or the Commission.

A discussion ensued on changing the name of the Commission to be inclusive of potential members from Cuba, Central America and South America. A request was made to form an ad hoc committee on either presenting potential names or putting forth one name that can be voted on at a future time. Many commissioners felt it was premature to vote on a name change at the current meeting, since commissioners-in-waiting will not be official until the beginning of the 80th Annual Meeting. Commissioner Joeckel put forth a motion *to change the name of the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature to be inclusive of Central and South America to be decided at a later date*; this was seconded by Commissioner Dafoe. The ensuing discussion included a question by Commissioner Dafoe if the bylaws should wait to be published until after the name change. There was no resulting answer. The discussion included the possibility of three names: The Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature of the Americas, American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature (original name from 20th Century), and Pan-American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature. Commissioner Joeckel rescinded his motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Zonneveld. A new motion was put forth by Commissioner Joeckel and seconded by Commissioner Zonneveld *to change the name of the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature to the Pan-American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature*. A lively discussion ensued on potential unintended consequences or sensitivities, the lack of participation from our commissioners-in-waiting, and concerns of acronyms or initials of a new name. Commissioner Dockery proceeded to amend the motion *to table the decision on changing the name to Pan-American*, which was seconded by Commissioner Brett. An amended motion by Commissioner Joeckel *to change the name of the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature to be inclusive of Central and South America and still provides the lineage of the Commission to be decided at a later date*; motion was seconded by Commissioner Dafoe. Yea votes – 24, nay votes 1; motion carried.

An ad hoc committee was formed on the name change and will include Commissioners Lehane, Joeckel, Dafoe, and Stamm. Commissioner-in-waiting should be encouraged to join once they become Commissioners.

13. Report from the Ad hoc Committee on Hydrostratigraphy (Past Chair Joeckel)

This committee was initiated after a presentation on "Is There a Case for a Hydrostratigraphic Code?" by guests Jon Arthur (Director, AGI) and Harley Means (State Geologist of Florida) at the 78th Annual Meeting. Commissioners Dockery, Smith, Landing, Orndorff, Workman, Brett, and Lasca agreed to participate as an ad hoc committee with Commissioner Joeckel as the chair. Commissioner Joeckel reported that committee did not meet for various reasons, but partly due to discussions with hydrostratigraphers on concerns about being a part of the Code. He collected many documents from previous efforts of the Commission from Commissioners Edwards and Lasca, and from John Arthur (Director, AGI). Commissioner Joeckel introduced guest Brad Cramer (Univ of Iowa) who explained the concerns, liability and legal implications, and philosophical questions. He worked with

hydrostratigrapher Jessie Myer (Univ of Iowa) in compiling the issues. It was decided that the committee should stand by at this time as discussion within the hydrostratigraphy community continues.

14. Discussion on Revisions to Article 13 – Age vs. Date on the Code (Vice Chair Randall Orndorff)

Vice Chair Orndorff shared the peer review structure of the USGS, which includes geologic names review, and how that process led to discussions on how the terms "age" and "date" are used in the geochronology community and how it is counter to what is included in Article 13 of the Code. A summary of the issue was distributed to commissioners prior to the meeting. Ian Hillenbrand and Sean Gaynor (both USGS) introduced the differences in how the geochronology community uses "age" vs. "date" and the difference in how the Code defines these terms. They referred to Flowers and others, 2023 (GSA Bulletin vol. 135, p. 104-136, available online at https://doi.org/10.1130/B36268.1) that covers how the different dating techniques are in agreement with recent community usage. Ian stated that "date" is a result and "age" significance is an expression of interpretation, separating data from interpretations.

Commissioners Aubry and Haugerud stated that age is 75 years old while a date is 23 September 2024. Commissioner Easton interjected that the geochronology community is not necessarily in agreement and sees a generational gap in the usage of "age" and "date." He felt that the concept has merit but may be premature to change the Code. Vice Chair Orndorff volunteered to work with the geochronologists who wrote the proposal and other commissioners as an ad hoc committee to present a draft a new Article 13 that takes both views into account. Commissioner Easton agreed to work on the ad hoc committee and stated the importance of the introduction of a Note to be explanatory of the issue and who would be impacted.

The ad hoc committee on Article 13 consists of the authors of the proposal, Vice Chair Orndorff, Commissioners Aubry, Stamm, Easton, and Zagorevski. Vice Chair Orndorff will chair the ad hoc committee and draft a process to arrange thoughts prior to a meeting.

15. Discussion on Keeping the Code Evergreen (Chair Richard Denne and Vice Chair Randall Orndorff)

Chair Denne and Vice Chair Orndorff introduced the topic of keeping a version of the Code up to date on the NACSN website once articles are updated, revised, added, or deleted. Chair Denne referred commissioners to a document sent out before the meeting of an email string on the subject. Commissioner Edwards pointed out that the International Commission on Stratigraphy keeps an evergreen copy of the International Guide on the web and a printed version has not been produced since the 1990s. Commissioner Workman interjected the need to have a versioning system. An ad hoc committee on the evergreen Code includes Chair Denne, Commissioners Workman, Edwards, and Stamm.

16. Reports from Other Commissioners or Organizations

Commissioner Easton announced an updated classification of lithodemic units to be published soon in the Canadian Journal of Earth Science and available outside of the subscription process.

17. Discussion of Unresolved Agenda Items from the 2023 Annual Meeting

None reported.

18. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers for 2024-2025 (Nominating Committee - Commissioners Jim Haggart, Matt Joeckel, and David Dockery)

The committee reported that Commissioner Easton will serve another at-large term, and Commissioner Lasca will step down; however, Commissioner Lasca will continue to archive NACSN documents. The list of commissioners was distributed.

The nominating committee nominated the executives of the NACSN for 2024-2025:
Commissioner Orndorff agreed to be Chair for 2024-2025; approved by acclimation.
Commissioner Stamm agreed to be Vice Chair for 2024-2025; approved by acclimation.

19. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2024-2025 (Chair Richard Denne)

The NACSN bylaws state that a nominating committee of three commissioners in the 3rd year of their terms be appointed. The nominating committee for 2024-2025 are Commissioners Rich Denne, Lynn Dafoe, and Lucy Edwards.

20. Election/Renewals of Commissioners-at-Large (Chair Richard Denne)

Commissioners Landing and Orndorff were reappointed as at-large commissioners, and Commissioner Lehane (GSA representative) was appointed at-large starting with 80th Annual Meeting. All were appointed by acclimation.

21. Recognition of Commissioners Whose Terms are Ending (Chair Richard Denne)

The Commission recognized the work and passion over many years of Commissioner Lasca who graciously organized and maintained the NACSN archives and continues to do so.

22. Miscellaneous Business

None reported.

23. Adjournment of the 79th Annual Meeting (Chair Richard Denne)

Commissioner Fluegeman moved to adjourn the 79th Annual Meeting; seconded by Commissioner Joeckel. Meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm PDT.

24. Call to Order of the 80th Annual Meeting (Chair Randall Orndorff)

Chair Orndorff called to order the 80th Annual Meeting of the NACSN at 4:58 pm PDT.

25. Remarks by Incoming Chair (Chair Randall Orndorff)

Chair Orndorff remarked on the action items from the 79th Annual Meeting and doing his best to bring the items to fruition by the next meeting. He placed the 80th Annual Meeting in recess until in conjunction with the Geological Society of America Connects 2025, San Antonio, Texas, USA, 19-22 October 2025 (estimated to occur on Monday, 20 October 2025, 1:00-5:00 pm CDT; location TBD).