

# Minutes of the SMMP Meeting

## 26 November 2016, 12:00

### Melbourne, Australia

Present: Penny Williamson, Steven Petkovski, Dermot Henry, Natalie Schroeder, Peter Butler, Chris Fitzgerald

- Welcome and introductions by attendees
- Denver SMMP meeting update by Penny Williamson
- There was discussion about the use of SMMP funds to support the development of mineral professionals.
  - o It was highlighted that for younger staff receiving a stipend can make the difference in attendance or non-attendance. This may be different depending on locations of conferences and respective members/participants.
  - o Other options include trying to initiate fellowships or travel bursaries from organisations such as SPNHC (Society for the Preservation of Natural History collections) or patron mineral collectors. The target could be young curators or collection managers under 35, for example, as part of career development. Examples could be to travel and visit a nearby museum or conference.
  - o Currently there is a USD\$1000 grant available to learn the craft or support secondment to another museum or attend a conference by SMMP but uptake has been limited.
    - *Action Item: Penny Williamson to email members for further input and ideas in relation to making use of SMMP funds.*
- Access to Policies and Procedures: Discussion then centered on providing support to curators, collection managers and museums in the way of policies, and procedures.
  - o Examples were given of institutions collection management, procurement, ethical and legal policies and procedures which could benefit the wider SMMP community. Those present advised that their organisations would be happy to share documents like these publicly.
  - o Options for the most efficient way to do this were discussed with issues highlighted particularly around having updated versions available if hosted. Those present agreed that having a list on the SMMP website at a high level explaining each institutions core documents with a short blurb and a representative email contact (assuming these are public documents) could work.
    - *Action Item: Penny Williamson to email Australian members to determine what policies/procedures exist at a high level for each institution.*
- Other business:
  - o There was dialogue about the possibility of having the M&M8 conference in-conjunction with the SMMP Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines (France) meeting in 2017.
  - o Discussion about when and where the next major meetings/conferences are to be held
    - IMA2018 will be in Melbourne, Australia, August 13-17, 2018
    - IMA2022 will be in Lyon, France
    - M&M9 2020 will be in Sofia, Bulgaria
- Meeting closed 13:00.