

Draft Minutes for the 1582<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Geological Society of Washington

October 19, 2022

American Geophysical Union, Washington, D.C.

President Meinert called the meeting to order at 20:09 EDT.

### Attendance

There were 141 attendees, 58 in-person and 83 online.

### Minutes

The meeting began with the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting (1581<sup>st</sup>). The minutes of the 1581<sup>st</sup> meeting had been posted online and a Minute's Minute was read aloud at the 1582<sup>nd</sup> meeting. No corrections were noted and the minutes were accepted.

### New Members and Guests

Two new members were announced: Jonathan Tucker (NAS) and Sam Rigby (BASIS DC Public Charter School).

Seventeen guests were introduced and/or signed the guest book: Jane Mather (NASA), Josh Rosera (USGS), Carl Martin (Cambridge U), Alexander J. Lastner (UMD), Zachary Zega (UMD), Stephen Griffies (NOAA and Princeton U), Sarah Feakins (U Southern CA), John Martinic (DOE/FERC), Nick Schmerr (UMD), Amy East (UC Santa Cruz), Caroline Kenney (PVCC), Stephen Cox (NMNH), Mary Ackerson (Mike A's mom), Magdalen Grismer (NMNH), Carol Frost, John Faber and Liz Cottrell's dad.

### Announcements

1) President Meinert announced that the next meeting, scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>, will be virtual and that the presenters will be confirmed shortly.

### Informal Communication

There was no informal communication.

### Obituaries

There were no obituaries.

### Formal Program

The formal program commenced at 20:23 pm. Bradley Lecturer John Mather (Senior Project Scientist for James Webb Space Telescope, NASA) presented "Opening the Infrared Treasure Chest with JWST (James Webb Space Telescope)"

Mather shared his origin story and that of the James Webb Space Telescope or as he called it "the great golden eye in the sky." He reported that JWST, launched on Christmas Day 2021 unfolded like clockwork and is performing beautifully despite potentially injurious micrometeoroid strikes. Mather said that we can now see farther back in time, farther out in space, and deeper into the dusty clouds where stars are being born today. He noted that over 20,000 technicians, engineers, scientists, and computer scientists built it, tested it, launched it, commissioned it, and are now using it. He explained why the spectra over the wavelength range from 0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  (red) to 28  $\mu\text{m}$  (thermal infrared) is optimum and shared stunning photos and startling discoveries. As it turns out, first galaxies grew much more quickly than astronomers expected. In addressing what comes next, Mather said that we hope to know if small planets around small red stars (M dwarf class) have atmospheres and perhaps water.

Questions were asked by: Mong-Han Huang (UMD), Bill Burton (USGS Emeritus), Liz Cottrell (NMNH), Michael Wysession (Washington U), Gabriela Farfan (NMNH), Yasmina Martos (NASA Goddard), Michelle Muth (NMNH), Dick Smith (USGS), an unidentified questioner, Jonathan Tucker (NAS), Ved Lekić (UMD), Mike Purucker (NASA Goddard), Jamie Allan (NSF) and Larry Meinert (Economic Geology & CSM).

President Meinert adjourned the 1582<sup>nd</sup> meeting at 21:39 EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Doyle