

IAA SETI PERMENANT COMMITTEE

20 MARCH 2014

UNESCO, PARIS

present at the meeting

Claudio Maccone, chair
Leonid Gurvits, Netherlands, planetary science
Alan Penny, astronomer, St. Andrews University, Scotland.
Guillermo Lemarchand, UNESCO
William Edmondson, retired, University of Birmingham.
Stephane Dumas, SETI League
Alain Labeque, Paris
Florence Raulin Cerceau, Paris
Daniela de Paulis, artist, Netherlands
Stelio Montebugnoli, INAF, Italy
Germano Bianci, INAF, Italy
Klara Anna Capova, socio anthropologist, Universty of Durham
Rob La Frenais, curator for Arts Catalyst, an art group based in London
Joseph Breedon, astrophysicist, private sector
Kurt Langstrom (John Hopkins University?)
Jean-Loup Bertaux, scientific Emeritus CNRS, planetary Scientist,
Geoff Marcy, Berkeley U.
Valentina Marcheselli, PhD Anthropology, Edinburgh University
Danielle Brigo, astrophysicist, Observatoire de Paris
Micheal Garrett, ASTRON, Netherlands
Alan Kurbitz, attorney, USA.

CM started the meeting by explaining the history of the SETI PC then asked people to introduce themselves.

FOLLOWING THE AGENDA

2. Report by CM about his first and a half year of activity as Chair:

CM explains the difference conferences that are coming. He explained IAA, IAF and COSPAR.

LG comments on SETI by Russian.

MG comments on using SETI with the SKA.

CM asks about other conferences, i.e. astrobiology.

CM talks about BIG HISTORY conferences.

3. Approval of minutes from the 2013 Beijing Meeting, by Mike Garrett.

LG talks about special sessions in IAU conference, they are very friendly to SETI. Talked about Woody Sullivan that recorded interviews with SETI pioneers in the archive of the ?

GL, since 1984, the bioastronomy commission in the IAU. Before the exoplanets discovery, a lot of papers were about SETI.

CM, talks about other conferences (historical perspective)

RLF, inquires about the relation between private sector and our group. CM report to later the answer of this question (which was never very answer)

CM talks about ISSOL (<http://issol.org/>) and the next meeting in Japan. SETI has a very small part in this conference. The conference is dominated by chemists and biologists.

AP, talks about a complete bibliography and copyright.

CM, JBIS published a lot of SETI papers.

GL, the Origin journal published a lot of SETI papers.

KAC, how will the archive be manager and accessible ?

MG, the resource to build and manage this archive is huge.. who will do it.

CM, announces the creation of a subcommittee on History of SETI.
FR will be chair, SD and Lori Walton (Canada) are co-chair.

FR, talks about the FORMULE OF DRAKE conference in 2008.

CM, talks about the main core of SETI is growing older and their archive should be collected somehow.

CM asks MG to talk about the IAA in China and continue to explain what happened.

MG comes back to China and comments on the meeting. He asked about the minutes of the meeting. CM asked to delay the acceptance of the Beijing minutes in Toronto.

4. Review of the two SETI Sessions to be held in Toronto (SETI I on September 29 and SETI II on October 1, 2014), mainly by CM.

22 abstracts submitted for Toronto, 2 were rejected.

SETI I : 9 papers (19mins) + 2 posters

SETI II : 9 papers (19mins)

Historical Session 3 : 4 papers

Intro Lectures for SETI I and II.

5. 2015: Two SETI Sessions at the IAC in Jerusalem: mainly by CM.

coordinator : Paul Shuch

SETI I

Co-Chairs: Mike Garrett and Doug Vakoch

Rapporteur: Andrew Siemion (GM agreed)

SETI II

Co-Chairs: Lori Walton and Paolo Musso

Rapporteur: Adam Korbitz

6. Funding for BCEL, mainly by Mike Garrett.

MG, talks about paying a portion of the money

CM, talks about the past conference. The cost for the lecture. He said that the sponsor is dead and they are looking for more sponsors.

7. Revised protocols: disappointing news in a field that used to be mainly looked after by Seth Shostak and Doug Vakoch.

The United Nations and SETI - 15 years in the past, at that time Jill Tarter went to UN but no trace was found. She went to COPUOS, Vienna (around 2000) and made a speech about SETI.

Seth Shostak and Doug Vakoch wrote the SETI protocol.

CM talks about his presentation for the protection of the far side of the Moon. He then realised that the presentation of Jill Tarter was not in the archive.

GL, talks about the archive of UN and where to find the presentations given by people.

CM asks AK about law business and how to 'lobby' governments about SETI. What about reviving the SETI protocol. Mentioned Kathryn Denning and Doug Vakosh.

The UN Office of Outer Space Affairs, the new director is now Simonetta Di Pippo, replacing Dr. Mazlan Othman. CM knows her. Asked her about SETI.

MG, asks about the protocol. There are new methods of detecting SETI. The protocol should be revised.

AP, wants to create a transmission protocol.

GL, the only protocol that was really approved was the detection one by IAA. 1991, IAU commission. The protocol does not really have to be changed. The real issue is about the transmission protocol. He talk about the anti-METI group and

JLB., we known how to detect exoplanet, we known how to detect intelligent life (in 30 years), any EC more advanced than us already know we are here. There is no problem to communicate.

AP, wants a METI protocol to direct the transmission.

SD, JBIS will published this year. Anybody can broadcast a message using an antenna with enough money.

GL the original name of the committee was CETI. The US renamed (in 1975) the committee to SETI because they were concerned about the possibility of communication. Those discussions have been done year ago and we are still

discussing this again.

CM, 2007, in Valencia, SETI was only listening and not broadcasting. John Billingham and Micheal Michaud were against it. He mentioned Aceribo, Nancay, Evpatoria transmissions but does not like them. In Valencia, Seth 'legalised' METI and some people resigned from the Committee. CM, think we are paying for the decisions of that time.

MG wants the committee to 'express' a position on the transmission of message. He suggest that a group of people should look at the question and give their perspective to the question.

RLF, is there a process by which the committee would 'endorse' the message.

MG, there will be no endorsement by the committee

KAC, talked about other small transmissions (Doritos, etc) and mostly privately funded. And they target exoplanets.

CM, the committee cannot act against the transmission of the message.

AK, a group should be created to look at the matter, be charged to survey of where we are, and making recommendations to process of transmission, ratification of a protocol

CM, IAC Toronto, the SETI PC session will be Thursday AM.

AL, what is the action of the working group on protocol.

CM, asks a vote to create a working group on revision the protocol. Subcommittee on SETI and METI, the majority vote for the creation the subcommittee. Let this group handle the hot topic

GL, we have been discussing this for 20 years and still discussing that. The only possibility to introduce a real regulation is to organise an international conference on that. It is the legal international system. Before reaching this stage, we need to propose a protocol to COPUOS. Ask COPUOS to organise a conference on this subject. Otherwise, why we discussed in the committee is useless.

AL, to GL, we will never achieve an agreement, an international agreement to have this.

CM, asks AP to chair the committee. Let create the group within a month and present a draft report by Toronto.

for the subcommittee of Protocol

chair : Alan Penny

co-chair : GL, DdP

CM, this committee is the new 'way' of the SETI. suggest to contact Douglas Vakoch, Seth Shostak, Jill Tarter and Frank Drake.

CM, talked about IAA. This is a academy of astronautics. IAA produces a series of studies called 'cosmic study'. In the past 10 years, Doug Vakosh. has coordinated a study on the SETI Protocol. But no news about the status of this study.

8. Publications, mainly by CM.

no time to talk about this

9. Status of subgroups: Reports as appropriate, by All, with special reference to Jon Lomberg's new activity as Chair of the revived SETI Media/Education/Outreach Subcommittee.

CM, talks about the art subcommittee. He mentioned about Roger Malina. He want to revive all the subcommittee. He want to split the art from the media.

the subcommittee, chair is Jon Lomberg.

MG, asks if the decision has been made. He proposed DdP as chair.

CM, announces that DdP may be co-chair. He committed himself to Jon and cannot change now. Jon is working on the New Horizon Message.

CM, wanted to appoint another member as the wife of Gregory Matloff, who is an artist

The media subcommittee, Carol Oliver does not show. He proposed to appoint Morris Jones as the chair of the media subcommittee.

MG asks what is the goal of the subcommittee.

CM: the chair of the subcommittee should give a talk at SETI 1 and 2.

The post-detection subcommittee, chair is Paul Davis. But this group has never produce anything. So CM asked should we close it ? We should have a procedure to close the subcommittee.

MG: how about Jon Lomberg that did not come from a long time.

CM: he should come to Toronto.

10. Discussion on activities of SETI PC members with respect to other research fields like: Astrobiology, Big History, Interstellar Flight Prospects, and so on: Introduction by CM and then discussion by All.

NO TIME.

CM ended the session because of the building is closing.