

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Location:

- Meeting was called to order at 11:34 AM. The meeting was held as an online Zoom Meeting

Attendance:

- Kate Pound, Past-President; Julia Steenberg, President; Tony Runkel, President-Elect; Vanessa Baratta, Treasurer; Michael Ginsbach, Secretary; Sean Hunt, Management; Jennie Leete, Management; Andrew Streitz, Newsletter; Kathy Udem, Education Committee.

Agenda:

- Approved.

Past Minutes:

- Changes: additional bullet for NCGSA; change wording about new fundraising. "Pound says new emphasis will likely be placed into fundraising."
- Pound moved to approve pending changes. All voted in favor, motion was approved.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- Baratta shared the Treasury Report with the Board – total income is \$19,408.61, net income is \$-318.42, and total assets are \$92,308.35. Baratta noted that the negative net income is due to transferring \$10,000 to the MGWA Foundation and the cancellation of the spring conference.
- Steenberg asks if there are any concerns about being negative. Baratta notes that being negative is just a function of moving funds to the Foundation and without that movement it would be positive for the year.
- Baratta said that Leete sent the 990T paperwork and this paperwork has been signed and submitted.
- Pound asked for a reminder of what this form is for. Leete notes that this is the information return for what a non-profit files when fundraising is undertaken that isn't program related.

Management (WRI):

- Hunt notes that several emails were sent out. One was about Midwest Geosciences Discount and one was about the North Central GSA conference announcement. Hunt has placed the main membership report on the Google Drive –membership numbers are at 413. Memberships are down about 100 members compared to the past few years.

Membership Chart:

- Hunt has completed the membership breakdown to look at what type of field each member belongs to. Academic, city/county, federal, state, industry, non-profit, retired, and miscellaneous.
- Steenberg mentions that state and industry are fairly well balanced as biggest category. Academic category also includes students.

MGWA MINUTES

- Steenberg says that 10 years ago (the last time this sort of analysis was completed) the industry number was larger and state numbers were smaller but are more balanced now.
- Pound said that Runkel will need to start thinking about finding a future president and that it would be good to have a future president that could help communicate with industry. Runkel will start thinking about this.
- Hunt will update the website with the updated chart.

Newsletter Team:

- Streitz has sent out ideas to board members about article ideas. Streitz notes that it would be good to have an update about the Foundation and introduce the Foundation to the membership.
- Streitz said it might be good to include information about increasing money being sent out for scholarships from the Foundation. The newsletter is publishing articles as they arrive. Pound states that it will be a topic for next week's meeting and will make sure it is on the agenda for this meeting.
- Baratta, Steenberg, and Streitz have been brainstorming about ideas to talk about what members are doing in the times of COVID-19. One topic that has been brought up has been discussing rock collections and that Harvey Thorleifson may be willing to write an article.
- Streitz notes there are no limitations for length or pictures in the new format, unlike the old format.
- Streitz suggests asking Minnesota Department of Health hydrologists about how their work has been impacted. He notes it might also be interesting to reach out to industry members who have work that has not been impacted much by the pandemic.

MGWA Foundation:

- Pound states that there has been nothing new since last meeting. Pound also suggests it would be good to send out an email about scholarships to let people learn about the awardees. Hunt notes that the check and letters were sent last week.
- Hunt says that normally there is a public acknowledgement of the awardees at the conferences and it would be good to give them acknowledgement through an email.
- Hunt and Leete state the checks that have been awarded so far are for the Gil Gabanski scholarships. Pound notes that she is not sure if the field camp scholarship may not be offered this year.
- Pound says the other awards are grants that are given out by the Foundation and a few of these were given out at the last Foundation meeting. Leete says these checks have not been sent yet and asks about the verbiage for these awards. Pound will get wording to Leete so the checks can be sent along with a letter with appropriate wording.
- Steenberg said that an email announcement will be sent with the awardees and a paragraph description will be sent. Steenberg also asks if there will be an article about the scholarships. Streitz notes that no information has been sent to the Newsletter Team yet.
- Steenberg asks if there will be both an email announcement and an article in the newsletter. Hunt notes that an article could be drafted for the newsletter and that an email could be sent informing members that the article has been posted. Streitz said the Newsletter Team is happy to help. Pound will send information about each scholarship winner to Streitz. Streitz will write an article for the newsletter and Hunt can announce

MGWA MINUTES

the article with an email. Leete mentions it might be nice to draft a separate email to each students' home institutions.

Social Coordinator:

- Steenberg sent Jane de Lambert an email about virtual socializing but has not heard back from her yet.

White Paper:

- Streit had sent a reminder to the stormwater chloride white paper team to contact the board about the upcoming submittal of the draft white paper.
- Steenberg said that there will be a submittal of a draft outline for the Groundwater Protection Act white paper.

Education:

- Udem has submitted a report from the field trip group; general consensus is the membership wants field trips. Udem notes that Steenberg has more info if there are any questions. In the last Education Committee meeting, there was a discussion if the developed workplan was still relevant and workable in the COVID-19 era. Udem notes the workplan is valid but will require restructuring.
- Udem notes that a field trip is not going to happen this year. Udem also asks if a field trip is developed for MGWA membership could that field trip be modified to be more outward-facing for teachers, legislature, etc. Udem also notes that it would be good to have these documents achievable and referenceable for the future.
- The Education Committee will provide and produce the education component for the groundwater models. Udem notes that the Education Committee will reach out to the Freshwater Society to discuss the path forward. There are a number of challenges in distributing the models when no contact is allowed – Udem says that there could be a potential for the models to be presented at a groundwater festival and shown working remotely.
- Udem states that the Education Committee will not take sidesteps and add new things on this this year and will focus on their workplan.
- Pound asks if it would be more productive for the Education Committee to focus on one item, such as the field trip this year. Steenberg says yes but there is a priority in the commitments of the group right now. Pound advocates focusing on one very large task for the year (Pound suggest the groundwater model). Baratta notes that work for the groundwater models would be more intense after the models were acquired and it would be good to have another task to work on while waiting for funding.
- Udem says that the Education Committee will not be planning the field trip but instead will be creating education material for the field trips. Udem says that since it only the second year of the Education Committee, it would be good to understand what the goals of the committee and this component is still evolving. Udem notes that they don't have to wait for Freshwater Society to get the models to start developing materials about the models that could be used either for an in-person exhibit or an online demonstration.
- Udem notes that limiting to one task might limit the group, as there are many different factors that can change the priority of tasks in a given year. One of the ultimate goals for the Education Committee might be determine what role the Education Committee has and what can they create.
- Pound states that it could be useful to create a video focusing on what daily tasks MGWA members work on. Pound notes there is a lot of internal knowledge and expertise and

MGWA MINUTES

there are mechanism for creating videos about groundwater careers and what groundwater professionals do. Udem notes that Jeff Stoner was going to connect with the Anoka County Board of Water and Soil Resources and MDH about videos these groups have produced. Udem says the group is current in the research and discovery phase about the video topics.

- Udem says that with the COVID-19 situation, it might be good to expand the video resources since they can be accessed online. Steenberg asks if it would be good to put together a paragraph describing the Educational Committee and use this as a call for additional volunteers. Udem says that is a great idea and it would be helpful to have guidance to narrow the subjects the Educational Committee will address and ask for volunteers specifically for those subjects. Pound agrees it would be good to be specific about the requests.
- Hunt and Baratta note that the email lists go to a broader audience than presenting at a conference.
- Streitz notes that it would be good to have an update about the Education Committee in the newsletter.
- Udem states that they will move forward on their end of investigations into the field trip but it would be good to learn more from the Foundation. Steenberg mentions it would be good to have Steenberg and Runkel attend an Education Committee meeting to discuss the Board's involvement in field trips.
- Pound says that after reading through the survey, remediation and glacial geology were the top vote getters for subjects. Steenberg notes that the response was approximately 80 people so individual ideas may not be represented – the takeaway from the survey is that people want to attend a field trip. Runkel and Steenberg will follow up and devise more specific plans for the field trips.

Other Business:

GSA Virtual Conference:

- Steenberg listened in to a few talks from the conference and asks if it would be good to bring someone from North Central GSA in to talk to the board. Pound says there were a few technical problems but there were no problem with questions. Pound says this it would be worthwhile to bring in someone from GSA to discuss hosting a conference online.
- Steenberg does not think it would be a free conference, like North Central GSA was. Steenberg also notes that MGWA would need to purchase or subscribe to a video hosting platform for the meeting.
- Steenberg asks if it would be good to move forward with a virtual option. Pound and Baratta agrees that it would be good to look into a virtual conference for the fall conference. Steenberg will contact North Central GSA to see if someone would be willing to attend a future MGWA board meeting.

Op Manual:

- This was not discussed at this meeting and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Summer Schedule:

- Steenberg says the meeting in June will continue on as planned and either the July or August meeting will not be held. The determination as to which meeting will not be held will be discussed at the June meeting.

MGWA MINUTES

Meeting Adjourned: 1:10 PM.

Action Items:

- Hunt will update the website with the updated membership chart.
- Pound will send verbiage for awards to Leete so checks can be issued for the award winners.
- Pound will send information about the scholarship winners to Streitz.
- Steenberg will contact North Central GSA to have someone talk at the next Board meeting.
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Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will take place June 16th at 11:30 am on Zoom.