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Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 15, 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; Sherri Kroening, Newsletter; David Crisman, White Paper Committee

Agenda:

- Pound asked about adding an email Pound, Steenberg, and Runkel received about professional development credits. Steenberg agreed to add to agenda.
- Approved with addition.

Past Minutes:

- Pound moved to approve. Baratta seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion was approved.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- Baratta has not received a treasury update from Leete prior to the meeting. Baratta said that Jeanette Leete noted the taxes have been filled on September 9, 2020.

Management (WRI):

- No members of management team were present at this meeting.

Newsletter Team:

- Kroening noted the latest blog for the September news release is being put together. Kroening will be meeting with Andrew Streitz to review the articles that will be posted.
- Steenberg asked if there have been any additional discussion about adding sponsors to the newsletter or the article about the field camp at the University of Minnesota. Kroening said that she has been out in the field and was not aware of any conversations. Steenberg

Foundation:

- Pound stated that the Foundation met last week and discussed funding sources and this discussion cleared up a lot of misconceptions. Pound said that a virtual children's water festival was voted on and approved.
- Pound said that the Foundation voted to increase the number of scholarships from two to three (two undergraduate and one graduate) and to increase the funding to \$2000 each. Pound notes there was a lot of discussion but the motions were approved.
- Pound notes that the diversity and inclusion work was discussed and Pound will report separately on this discussion.

Operations Manual:

- Steenberg says there is nothing to note on the Operations Manual.

Other Business:

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DEI Committee:

- Pound says the next step for the DEI Committee is to approach the likely groups that MGWA would work with. Meeting with these groups will help establish fundraising goals. Pound says that the group will need to talk with Leete to discuss funding.
- Pound says the next step will be to discuss with the groups and that the initial group members will be able to handle this initial step without any additional help from outside the committee.
- Pound notes that there is a high school group that can be connected with along with another group that works with internships with college students. Pound says that the Foundation did not want to get involved with making decisions about who to support because we do not have the expertise to make decisions about these topics – it is better to collaborate with groups that have this expertise and to partner with them.

Education:

- Steenberg says that the Education Committee is waiting for the Board to update the committee. Steenberg notes that the group is willing and interesting to help write up curriculum.
- Steenberg said that the company that was chosen to produce the groundwater model was difficult to contact. Pound noted that phones might be the best option. Pound says now is a good time to work on supplies, curriculum, and other portions that will be put together.
- Pound said that the Foundation discussed where the Education Committee will receive money from. Pound notes that Leete said that the Foundation can give money to the Education Committee if they submit a grant. Pound notes that there has been historic confusion on how the Education Committee will get funding.
- Steenberg said the Education Committee met in August. The Committee is interested in doing more videos and outreach. Steenberg said that there are a few broken links on the MGWA website. These broken links were brought up by Education Committee members working on the virtual Water Festival.
- Steenberg discussed videos put together by staff at the Department of Ag and if these could be included in the newsletter.

White Paper:

- Crisman says he does not have any update on the Chloride in Stormwater white paper. Steenberg said that an update was received from Mike Trojan and there are edits being made. Kroening noted that the edits have been made and Trojan has sent emails to other committee members about wrapping up the paper.
- Crisman says that the work group for the Groundwater Protection Act white paper have begun writing. The early chapters, which are being worked on now, are focused on why this paper is being written, what caused the act to be developed, and how the act was implemented. Crisman says the group is meeting early October to discuss where the paper is headed. There were two members of the committee that stepped away in early 2019 that have returned to the committee according to Crisman.
- In addition, Crisman notes that an employee with the Department of Health that works on health risk limits has joined. The new and returning members will help the Group shape health risk topics within the paper.
- A rough written version of the white paper is expected in November and a final draft is expected in March or April 2021.
- Crisman said that an old topic that is potentially being revitalized is about changing climatic conditions impacting groundwater levels. This topic will go into the pool of consideration for new topic.
- Crisman says that a new topic will be introduced to the Board in November.

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- Pound asked how Crisman feels about having a paper about to be finished, one in progress, and trying to start a new paper. Pound also asks if this is causing any delays for the White Paper Committee and if there would be any benefits in delaying.
- Crisman says there are five topics to be considered. One of the new topics, micro-plastics & polymers, might be addressed by other groups in the state government and could be duplicitous. Crisman says the other topics are very broad and there would be a significant effort required to narrow these topics.
- Crisman notes that if these other topics that require significant effort would be chosen that there could be delays as Pound noted. Steenberg said to keep the fall conference in mind to solicit topics. Crisman noted that a call for topics was put in the summer newsletter and that maybe waiting for 2021 for starting a new white paper could be good.
- The white paper committee will meet in October. Crisman noted the committee will discuss asking for new topics this Fall, timing for launch, and informing the Board after this meeting.

Conference Discussion:

- Steenberg has checked in with the speaker list and has received a yes from eight people, a no from two people, and has not heard from one remaining speaker. Steenberg asks about having a one day versus two day conference.
- Pound said she asked at the Foundation meeting about splitting the conference into two days and noted that the overwhelming choice was one day. Pound says that putting out a notice about having the meeting is important.
- Steenberg will get info to Shaun Hunt to send an email about the meeting to announce to members that there will be meeting.
- Steenberg said that their university Zoom account can host up to 500 people and that the university has no issues with using the account to host the meeting.
- Pound asked if it was going to use GoToWebinar or Zoom. Steenberg replied that it would be using Zoom. Pound notes that a previous meeting they attempted to attend used GoToWebinar and there were technical issues.
- Steenberg brought up that Zoom can be used to register and pay for the meeting.
- Runkel asked if all the speakers will be prerecorded. Steenberg said yes and that the prerecorded talks can be submitted a week before the conference to allow for Board members to review the talks.
- Runkel also asked if the two “no” responses were topics that would need to be replaced. One of the speakers that said no was Dennis Leeke from Pace, who has moved to a different position. Leeke told Steenberg that they are working on finding someone else to discuss this topics. The second “no” for general contaminants in stormwater. Steenberg said that they working on backfilling this speaker.
- Pound notes that to be careful not to have too many speakers, as online conferences can easily go over the allocated time limits. Baratta notes that the break times may not be as long as required for in-person meetings. Baratta also says that an informal poll could be included in the email about the meeting to discuss if this would be a one day or a two day conference.
- Steenberg asked if half an hour was long enough for a lunch for a virtual meeting. Pound said that attendees might need to have time to attend to other matters. Pound said that an hour for lunch is a good amount of time. Breakout groups for mentoring could also be set up during this time – perhaps a half hour mentoring group with fifteen minutes on either side.
- Steenberg suggests 15 minutes for breaks and an hour for lunch would reduce the schedule by 50 minutes. Steenberg said that the speakers mostly wanted to talk 20-30 minutes.
- Pound said that one of the hardest parts in in-person conferences is that speakers talk for longer than you expect. Steenberg asks if the MGWA Board updates and other topics should be pre-recorded or

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not. Pound suggests that it could be a nice break to have someone talking live in the midst of the pre-recorded messages.

- Runkel notes that they would prefer a one-day meeting. Kroening asks what days would be picked for the meeting. Steenberg said that the date is set for Thursday, November 12 with a potential second day being Friday, November 13.
- Steenberg notes that her preference is to hold a one-day conference. Pound said that a one-day virtual meeting may help improve student attendance. Pound also noted that Zoom meetings can be recorded so if someone were to suffer from “Zoom fatigue” they could catch up by watching the video.
- Steenberg notes that the poster session has not been discussed yet. Steenberg said that a five-minute spot could be given to a poster. Pound said that the poster presenters at NC GSA had two or three minutes to share their poster. These talks were pre-recorded. Some of the poster presenters were available for discussion after the meeting. Steenberg said that the Board could make a call for poster abstracts and see how many are submitted. The range for expected number of posters would be three to 15 so a poster presentation could be 30 minutes to an hour.
- Steenberg said there will be about a \$50 fee to attend the meeting for members and at least \$45 more for a non-member – perhaps \$100 for a non-member. A student fee has to be half of the member fee and would be \$25. Steenberg notes that there are less fees involved with holding a virtual conference.
- Steenberg noted that they test out hosting the Zoom meeting. Runkel notes that they could assist in testing.

Earth Science Education Email:

- Pound shared an email about professional development for earth science teachers. The email requests interview time for people on the board to get feedback from professional organizations.
- Steenberg said that they will have to read more about the email. Pound mentions that the changes will be for the levels being taught – before, earth science was not required for high school students but now it will be.
- Steenberg mentioned that they could respond in the affirmative. Steenberg asks if there should be multiple people offered for an interview or if there should be one point of contact. Pound notes that they are involved in the group so should not be interviewed. Runkel volunteered to interview and will follow up with the group.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:49 PM.

Action Items:

- Steenberg will try to attempt to host test meetings on Zoom in preparation for the conference.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will take place October 20th at 11:30 am on Zoom.