

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Location:

- Meeting was called to order at 11:33 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

Agenda:

- Approved.

Past Minutes:

- Steenberg noted that there are two extra bullets under the Management and Officer Election that should be deleted. Pound moved to approve with the modification of deleting these bullets. Baratta seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion was approved.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- Baratta said total income is \$31,744.03; net income is \$15,1096.68; total assets are \$102,349.92. In comparison last month, numbers are up because of the fall conference. Baratta asked if all money has been added from conference registration. Leete noted that everything was included before the report was sent to Baratta. Leete notes that some of the registrations were from purchase orders and cash will be forthcoming from those. Baratta asked about the net income from the fall conference this year versus previous years given that this year everything was virtual. Leete noted that the net income was \$8175, with expenses of \$4174. Leete noted that conferences usually bring in about \$15,000 net income and that a non-profit group having a net profit for the year is a great situation.
- Baratta sent a report to Sherri Kroening of the Newsletter team to put an update on financials in the newsletter. The report is in their hands pending edits.

Management (WRI):

- Hunt has been busy processing conference information recently.
- Leete has been having interactions with the IRS regarding the extensions. Leete said that the Foundation is not required to file the 990 forms but has asked for an extension regardless. Leete noted that this has occurred with the Association recently. Leete noted that if you don't have to file a 990, you have to file a postcard. Leete said that she has filed the postcard but still has to file a 990 for Minnesota's charitable branch of the Attorney Generals office. Leete said that she will send these forms along with a filing fee to the Attorney Generals office.
- Hunt noted that there were some issues with the link for the conference. Hunt said that 150 emails were sent on the Thursday before the conference and that 20 of the emails had been flagged as spam. Hunt resent the emails with a different service provider – Hunt said that he had sent seven different batches of emails total. Hunt included the link when attaching the conference agenda and information. During this email, there were 15-20 instances where the email was flagged as spam and the link had to be resent after this.

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- Leete asked if one of the attendees had brought up posting the email on the website. Hunt notes that the link was for paying attendees of the conference. Pound notes that she has reservations about posting the link directly on the webpage, given issues that had occurred with Zoom early on in the pandemic. Pound notes that everyone has learned to pay attention to the link and agrees that she is leery of putting the link on the website.
- Hunt said there is a generic message that goes out to every shopping cart event. Hunt notes that there is less risk with the Zoom Webinar format – attendees are muted and cannot share their videos.
- Pound asks Leete if there is anything the Board can help with these situations. Leete said no and there are just conversations that need to be had with the IRS.

Newsletter Team:

- Streitz said that the Foundation minutes should be posted on the website and the Newsletter team is not seeing them. Hunt will follow up on this.
- Streitz asks if there should be a call for officer nominations in the December issue. Steenberg asked Streitz for clarification. Steenberg said that the Board is looking for nominees for the open position. Streitz will remind the Board for an update on the open position for the December issue.
- Streitz asked if the Foundation wants a fundraising post in the December issue. Pound says yes and that a blurb is being worked on for the mailer.
- Streitz said that an article about the storm water white page will be written. Streitz also says there should be a call for additional topics in the newsletter.

Foundation:

- Pound said that the Foundation has not met. Pound has sent copies of the two DEI documents to the Foundation to get feedback. Pound has a concern about the Give to the Max day. The member of the DEI group has been reallocated to COVID response and has not been able to work on this. Hunt notes that there is a link on the Foundation webpage to donate even though there has been no advertising campaign there can still be donations. Pound asks if there is anything that can be done to help. Leete will send the email with everyone.
- Steenberg brought up the website. Leete notes that the website has not been updated in 3-4 years. Hunt notes that we have received an inactivity notice. Pound asks if the website needs to be updated to make it current. Steenberg asks if a donation was made through this website if we would still get the money – Leete notes that she thinks we would still get the money.
- Leete said that the link is no longer searchable but still accessible if you have a direct link. Leete will work on updating this and will attempt to reset the password for the account.
- Steenberg asks for Pound's opinion on Give to the Max Day. Pound said that an email could be sent to members including the link for donations. Hunt notes that this a Foundation function and should be routed through them. Pound says that she can make the page searchable without getting permission from the Foundation. Pound will put language together for the Board to review and then send to the Foundation for permission.
- Steenberg asked Pound about her thoughts regarding the Foundation meeting with the Board next year. Pound said this would be a good idea and would be beneficial especially regarding donations.
- Hunt notes that Leete's test donation using the direct link worked. Leete was able to log in and turn discoverability back on.
- Pound shared potential verbiage for encouraging donations. Baratta and Hunt had suggested changes. Pound will share these with the Board.

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Other Business:

Officer Elections:

- Runkel sent Jere Moore from Barr Engineering an email about the president-elect position including time commitments. Runkel said that he sent the email on Saturday but has not heard back yet. If Moore declines, Runkel has three other potential candidates. All three are government employees. Hunt asks if Moore is an active member as he is not in the database. Runkel said that he does not know if he is an active member.
- Pound brought up Katrina Marine, who is also with Barr Engineering, as a potential president-elect. Runkel mentioned that he went to a previous president to ask for recommendations – the first recommendation turned down the nomination.
- Steenberg said that having a president-elect from outside the metro will require virtual board meetings but will help expand the scope. Runkel agrees that he could bring an interesting perspective.
- Steenberg said that the newsletter will go out mid-December and that will be the deadline for having a nomination for president-elect.

DEI:

- Pound shared the screen for the DEI initiatives. The suggestion for high school and college level students would be four internships in cooperation with Freshwater. For K-8 students, Pound said that the group started writing curriculum but reached out to the science specialist at the Minnesota Department of Education. Staff there noted that the best way to reach these groups was to build connections.
- Pound asked for feedback on the status document. Steenberg asks if there had been any feedback on the Step-up program. Pound said that she sent several emails and left phone messages to this group and did not get any response. Pound left a voicemail with Summit Academy and did not hear back from this group either.
- Pound suggest that there might be a need for additional members to aid in the partnering process. Steenberg suggest reaching out to the MGS DEI committee for assistance.
- Steenberg asks if there are contacts on the Education Committee that could assist with outreach.
- Pound shared the Freshwater-MGWA Partnership document. Pound adds that Freshwater will be working with interns and asks for feedback.
- Steenberg said it was a good idea but lacks structure about what the students will actually be doing and asks if more will be provided. Steenberg asks if this is Foundation money – Pound said yes.
- Pound said this document was deliberately kept thin to get the document done. Pound said that Jennings from Freshwater is willing to help present to the Board or the Foundation about what work the interns would do and what they had done in the past.
- Steenberg and Baratta asked about the salary and budget and, in particular the stipend. Ginsbach noted that the salary is in-line with student worker positions and internships that the MPCA offers – Leete noted that this is also in line with DNR salaries.
- Steenberg asked for clarification on what the internship will consist of and what activities they will perform. Pound mentioned that members of MGWA may have questions about the partnership with Freshwater. Runkel asked about long-term fundraising for this partnership and if the \$12,000 would have to be raised every year.
- Pound will ask questions about the specificity, the stipend, and the number of internships for fundraising concerns. Pound asks what the next steps should be. Steenberg said both the

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Foundation and the Board need more information about these subjects. Pound will reach out for clarification and will report back.

- Steenberg asks what MGWA can do for this – is it just monetary support? Hunt notes that the conference attendance fee is reimbursed for students. Pound said that the MGWA Conference fee in the document is for poster preparation and other incidental costs associated with attending a conference.
- Runkel notes that scholarships for BIPOC students attending hydrology field camp or urban hydrology field camp could be a good use. Pound said the Foundation didn't feel equipped to make the decision for eligibility for these scholarships. Steenberg and Runkel mentioned that it could be based on self-identification.

Conference Recap:

- Hunt sent out the conference evaluations the evening prior to the meeting.
- Steenberg asked if the entire conference should be uploaded or if the individual talks should be uploaded. Runkel said that having the Q&A is good so it would be good to have the whole talks. Pound mentions that she uses the talks in teaching and the individual talks are beneficial.
- Hunt and Baratta said the full conference talk could be loaded with timestamps to each talk. Runkel mentioned he could get the timestamps for the full conference.
- Steenberg asked if the audio that has been uploaded in the past includes the Q&A or is just the talk. Hunt said that the PDF presentations were just the slides but the audio includes the Q&A.
- Based on a discussion with Baratta, Runkel, Steenberg, and Hunt the conference will be posted on the website.

Spring Conference Plans:

- Runkel mentioned that the group should commit soon to the next meeting being remote. Runkel has several ideas for the spring conference but some of them may depend on remote meetings. Baratta, Steenberg, and Ginsbach agreed that the spring meeting will be remote.
- Runkel mentioned that one of the potential topics is applying research to real-world problems. The talks would be both applied and cutting-edge techniques. This was similar to a proposed topic in the conference evaluations. Runkel will look into themes from the past 5-10 years.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:23 PM.

Action Items:

- Pound will follow up on the DEI initiative.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will take place December 15th at 11:30 am on Zoom.