

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Location:

- Meeting was called to order at 11:31 AM. The meeting was held as an online Zoom Meeting

Attendance:

- Julia Steenberg, Past-President; Tony Runkel, President; Jeré Mohr, President-Elect; Vanessa Baratta, Treasurer; Michael Ginsbach, Secretary; Sean Hunt, Management; Jeanette Leete, Management; Andrew Streitz, Newsletter

Agenda:

- Approved with no changes.

Newsletter Team:

- Streitz said the newsletter team is working on the process to see what is happening where the newsletter is being caught in spam filters. Streitz says that he was not getting the newsletter and found that it was because he was not in the member list.
- Streitz notes that there is a larger focus on stopping spam so the newsletter group is working against that.
- Streitz said that the newsletter will next be published in March and asked if the Board has some wording to include in the newsletter.
- Runkel said that all 10 speakers are confirmed for the conference and that there is an update on the website. Runkel asks what deadline is required for the newsletter. Streitz said that the newsletter will be published in about a month.
- Leete and Hunt noted that a quicker update will be required to make the brochures.
- Runkel asked what format the President's Letter should be - Streitz said that the text should be in one file and the images should be included separately at the highest resolution possible.
- Streitz said the Newsletter team also checks in with the Foundation and Education team and would like an update in the same timeframe. Streitz notes that this issue is looking a little lean so it would be a good time to publish any articles that may be floating around.
- Steenberg said she will check in with the Education Committee to see if they have any updates.
- Runkel, Hunt, Streitz, and Steenberg discussed the email issues. Steenberg suggested sending an email directed about this or including an update in the newsletter. Steenberg also suggested including a physical reminder asking if people are getting the emails.

Past Minutes:

- Runkel asks if there are any updates or reviews. Baratta noted a few small typos - Runkel's name is spelled wrong in one point, the correct prices for total assets should be

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\$104,183, and click through is missing a space. Runkel noticed that there is a missing thought under the Newsletter Team section.

- Steenberg noticed a few typos.
- Ginsbach has made the corrections in the Google Drive version.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- Baratta said total income is \$14,030.93; net income is \$13,367.79; total assets are \$101,804.12.
- Compared to last year, Leete said that numbers are down a few thousand from last year. Baratta suggests this is because of membership numbers.

Management (WRI):

- Leete scanned some documents to Steenberg. Leete said that the IRS claims that the taxes have not been filed. Leete called the IRS and the phone system was down that day. Leete sent Baratta the IRS's most recent conversation (dated February 8th) and the most updated taxes now. Baratta said that the documents have arrived but some of the sheets were angled. Baratta will call Leete later about taxes.
- Hunt notes that these are the 2019 taxes that were filed last year.
- Hunt said that they continue to process membership renewals. Hunt put a membership update on the Google Drive - there are 312 total paying members as of a day or two ago. Hunt said we are down about 100 members since last year. Hunt said that there tends to be more renewals during conference renewals.
- Hunt said the membership renewals were sent in early January and there was a bump from that.
- Leete said that speaker gifts have been sent out.
- Hunt said that MGWA has a color printer. Leete said it has been acting up and will only print in black and white. Hunt said that once the ink runs out the printer will be retired. Barattal asks if this will be replaced - Hunt said that it will not be but Leete and Hunt have a personal color printer that can be used.

Foundation:

- Runkel asks if he was supposed to have a Foundation update. Steenberg notes that it is her job to provide the update. Steenberg said that the Foundation does not meet until March so there is no update from her. Steenberg thinks they are working on the DEI proposal.
- Hunt said there was some chatter about the DEI initiative. Hunt said that Kate Pound put together a funding request for this. Hunt has been tracking this and notes that a lot of people have been sending money for the DEI in addition to the membership renewal.

Other Business:

Discuss inquiry from Senator Wiger:

- Runkel received an email from Senator Wieger about environmental issues including a request for MGWA members in his district to meet with the Senator about environmental issues in his district.

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- Leete said that you could use the zip codes to see what members live in his district. Hunt said he will attempt to see which members live in that district. Steenberg said that it might be worth adding a line to the newsletter blog if people live in the district.
- Leete said it would be beneficial if the Senator's staff would share verbiage. Baratta said that the newsletter blog is a good idea but email should be limited.
- Runkel will contact Streitz about this. Runkel confirmed with Hunt that Hunt will try to parse out members living in the district from zip codes. Runkel shared the email sent to him by Senator Wiger's staff. Runkel said he can respond to the Senator's staff to let them know that MGWA is trying to figure out members in the zip code and ask for some wording the Senator's office would like to include.

DEI Workgroup Update:

- Runkel said that Kate Pound reported that the grant proposal for the Freshwater proposal for BIPOC student funding will be brought forward to the Board.
- Runkel reported that Pound suggested that the term DEI Committee should be changed to DEI Workgroup.
- There will be a March 2nd meeting with the DEI Workgroup, the Education Committee, and Runkel (and perhaps Steenberg) to improve coordination and discuss roles for each group. Runkel said that Cathy Udem of the Education Committee is interested in helping with this.
- Steenberg said that it will be beneficial to have Udem, Pound, Runkel, Steenberg, and the full DEI Workgroup together to discuss everything as a group. Steenberg said that the Education Committee is down to four of five members and does not have time to focus on the educational part of the DEI Workgroups right now.
- Steenberg said that there had been discussions about meeting with Project WET and someone else from the K-12 group. Steenberg said that someone from the Education Committee has agreed to reach out to those groups - Steenberg notes that things are moving slowly but they are moving.

Spring Conference Update:

- Runkel shared a list of speakers and topics for the spring conference. Runkel shared the title of the conference - "Groundwater Research: What's New *and* Useful?" Runkel notes that the focus of the meeting is research that is not hypothetical and is applied instead.
- Speakers include:
 - Jessi Meyer, University of Iowa
 - Peter Kang, University of Minnesota
 - Dave Hart, Wisconsin Geological Survey/University of Wisconsin
 - Mindy Erickson, USGS Upper Midwest WSC
 - Crystal Ng, University of Minnesota
 - Bonnie Keeler, University of Minnesota
 - Jens Blotvogel, Colorado State University
 - Colby Steelman, University of Waterloo
 - John Nieber, University of Minnesota
 - Randy Hunt, USGS Upper Midwest WSC

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- Runkel said the only thing missing right now is formal titles for the talks. Runkel asks Hunt what the timeline is for the information. Hunt said as soon as possible - at minimum, two months before the conference. Hunt said that he would like to start putting together a webpage for the conference soon.
- Runkel said he will get the information to Hunt by the end of the day Friday. Hunt said it would be good if an email about the conference could be sent out by the middle of next week.
- Baratta asks when people will be able to sign up for the conference and if it would be by the middle of next week. Hunt confirms that this is the case and if the title of the conference and the cost has been announced registrations can start occurring.
- Hunt notes that the last online conference was \$25 for students and retirees, \$50 for members, and \$75 for non-members. Runkel said that there were not a lot of complaints about the cost and suggests sticking with the same cost. Leete and Steenberg said that the costs were fine.
- Steenberg also reminded Runkel that a short summary of the conference needs to be written. Runkel said that he will get this to Hunt by the end of the week.

Other Business:

- Runkel mentioned that we are still without a social coordinator and asked if Sherri Kroening was going to see if there were any updates. Baratta said she thought that Kroening was going to discuss this with Jane de Lambert. Runkel said that he will follow up with de Lambert.
- Steenberg said that it was posted in the December newsletter and that Runkel could check in with Kroening to see if anyone has volunteered.
- Runkel mentioned that one of Mohr's responsibilities is to learn how to host a conference. Runkel notes that this is not the first virtual conference that we've had so there might not be as much preparation needed as for the last conference. Runkel also notes that he asked questions during the conference and that he will be part of the team to help host the conference.
- Baratta said that if Mohr had any questions to feel free to ask. Mohr notes that he has started reading the operations manual. Baratta notes that if there are questions about that operations manual feel free to ask.
- Steenberg said that she recently opened the document and made some additional changes to the operations manual. Steenberg told Baratta that if there were any things that needed to be added or updated the document is ready for an additional review.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:26 PM.

Action Items:

- None at this time.

Next Meeting:

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