

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Location:

- Meeting was called to order at 11:34 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; Sherri Kroening, Newsletter

Agenda:

- Runkel will discuss the open social coordinator position.

Past Minutes:

- Runkel and Baratta noted a few typos, which have been fixed on the Google Drive version.
- Approved.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- Baratta said total income is \$16,031.74; net income is \$10,694.10; total assets are \$103,804.93. Baratta said total assets are stable from last month and total income is slightly down because Hunt and Leete sent bills over.

Management (WRI):

- Hunt said that the request from Senator Wieger has been discussed. There have been 34 conference registrants so far. Hunt notes that he will put an update on the Google Drive once a week.
- Hunt said that membership renewals have been drying up - said there have been 348 membership renewals so far this year. Hunt said a paper copy of the conference notice and a membership renewal will be sent. Hunt said the first batch was sent last night.
- Mohr asked if there were any special requirements for registration for board members - Hunt and Baratta said that it is the normal registration process for board members.
- Runkel asked Hunt what the next thing is needed for the conference. Hunt said that the speaker bios and abstracts. Runkel said that there will be no posters or exhibitors for the spring conference. Runkel notes that hopefully there should be an in-person conference in the fall and both the posters and exhibitors can return.

Newsletter:

- Runkel asked Kroening if there should be info about the conference sent to the Newsletter team. Kroening said yes.

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- Kroening said that the Newsletter team is working on getting the March update out. A number of articles and stories have been completed and are pending in Wordpress.
- Kroening said there are some things that are usually in the March report that have not been received yet, including the financial update. Baratta said that she had just sent information to Leete about this. Kroening said to send her the information once it has been compiled and finalized.
- Kroening said the Newsletter team usually provides an update for the voting results in the March newsletter. Kroening asked Hunt for an update on the number of votes.
- Kroening said the last thing that is in the March newsletter is about the scholarships. Kroening said she has not heard anything about it. Steenberg said she was at the Foundation meeting last week and Lanya Ross said she was late but is going to get the announcement out before the end of the school year. Steenberg said it will be the scholarship version where there are two undergraduate and a grad student recipient. Steenberg said that the field camp award is in question since field camp will have to be virtual this year.
- Kroening said the team is trying to get the next email with the news items sent in the next week or so but can always add to the post later on. Kroening also says that there can also be some updates about retirements.
- Hunt said that he had some email interactions with Andrew Streit. Hunt said that the way the website is setup, as everything is Wordpress-based, there will be newsletter and website updates intermixed. Hunt mentioned to Streit that the updates not tagged with Newsletters will go to the main page to update the website. Kroening said that she has been reviewing and updating the tag in Wordpress. Kroening said it can be easy to miss.

Foundation:

- Steenberg said the Foundation met last week. She notes that they are working on getting their scholarship announcement out. A big topic of discussion was that because field camp is now online, the course fee is only about \$100. Steenberg said it was proposed that MGWA cover every student's course fee for the online program, which would be close to what MGWA normally gives out for the two scholarships. Steenberg said this is a little different than the regular field camp award so it needs to be evaluated. Steenberg said if it works out it will be a neat plan.
- Steenberg said that there was a discussion on if the scholarship should go out this year or not - it was mentioned that students still need money and the scholarships will be flexible in how they are used.
- Steenberg said they approved the DEI proposal to fund two high school students that would be managed by the Freshwater Society but work with MGWA professionals.
- Runkel said that when he was looking at some emails, he noticed that the vote for providing money to the high school voters had two "no" votes. Runkel asked if Steenberg was there for the voting. Runkel asked what the concerns were. Steenberg said she was not there but it was conducted through email. Steenberg said it was rare to have "no" votes on the Foundation votes. The concerns were that this was new and the Foundation member was not sure if this could happen again; the second concern was about the financial stability to continue doing this in the future. Steenberg said everyone recognized it was good to do something. Steenberg noted that it will be a challenge to get the students working with other professionals. Steenberg said there were some additional details provided about what the students were working on.

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- Mohr asked if the proposal was on the Google Drive. Hunt said it was under the MGWA Foundation and then Proposals. Hunt said he will add Mohr to the separate Foundation drive. Steenberg said she would forward the email to Mohr as well.

Other Business:

DEI Workgroup Update:

- Runkel and Steenberg attended a meeting related to the DEI workgroup. Runkel said the meeting was about coordination between the different units of MGWA. Cathay Udem was there discussing the Education Committee's involvement in the DEI Workgroup.
- Udem said there were only four Education Committee workgroup members and Runkel asked if this was a normal amount of people to be on the committee. Hunt said there was a previous education committee about 15 years ago but Udem restarted it about three years ago. Hunt said that four people is an active committee. Steenberg said it was a little low and six members was where they were the past few years. Steenberg said the Education Committee has been creating smaller work groups that exist for six months to a year. Steenberg said Jeff Stoner, Rose Olson, and Bryce Hoppe are all on the committee in addition to Udem.
- Steenberg said they are always thinking about groundwater models and curriculum. The Education Committee has a lot of ideas. Steenberg said she will be speaking to the Education Committee in April about field trip ideas.
- Runkel said that Kate Pound will be writing a newsletter article describing the high school student DEI project. Runkel said this will be headed to the newsletter for the next issue.

Social Coordinator:

- Runkel said that Jen McDonald of the MGS will be the new social coordinator. Runkel will send Kroening her contact information.
- Runkel told McDonald that the next event should be after the spring conference.

Spring Conference Update:

- Runkel said the spring conference planning is going well. Runkel has received updated speaker titles and that the speakers have all been responsive on emails. Runkel said the next step will be getting the internal schedule for the conference arranged - many of the conference speakers are college professors and cannot attend the entire conference. He notes this may take a little longer than normal.
- Steenberg suggested that she and Runkel sit down next week to make sure that he has access to all of the webinar features that she used during the fall conference. Steenberg asked if there should be a date set for a runthrough or not. Runkel suggested waiting a little bit and asked if there should be one or two run throughs. Steenberg said it would be good to try a week out but there may not be any talks submitted yet. Hunt said there was a view for standard participants, another view for the "helpers", and one for the host. Hunt said that figuring out these views was part of the reason there were multiple test runs.
- Baratta said that there is a board meeting a week before the conference. Baratta asked Runkel if he needed any help before the next meeting. Runkel said that we can use Steenberg's notes from the last conference in coordination with the next Board meeting to run through the conference.
- Hunt said that the link sent out for the conference was a generic meeting link to each participant. This link allows them to register with Zoom and sends them a specific link.

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Hunt said that the event needs to be set up before the next meeting to make sure the attendees have a chance to register.

- Runkel asked if all the settings need to be set up before sending out the meeting invite. Hunt said the main ones are the title, time, and date. The meeting will create a unique URL at that point. Runkel said that there are a number of optional parameters to set.
- Steenberg said that if there is going to be an MGWA update to send those requests to the various committees and groups now to give each committee time to prepare their update.

Other Business:

- Steenberg asked Hunt if there was a plaque put together for Pound for last year. Hunt said no but it has been in the back of their minds for a bit. Steenberg said that if Hunt needs help with anything to ask.
- Steenberg asked if there will be a sponsorship provided to AIPG. Hunt asked if this was a membership affiliate with AIPG. Steenberg said it was sponsoring a meeting - \$250 paid to AIPG, which also provides two attendees to the meeting. Runkel said that he recalled we all thought it was a good idea and asked if there should be a formal vote. Baratta said we could vote to approve it but without having a final definitive conclusion from Leete it might be good to wait. Baratta suggested sending an email to Leete about it.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:22 PM.

Action Items:

- None at this time.

Next Meeting:

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