

# MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Regular monthly meeting

**Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021**

**Location:**

- Meeting was called to order at 11:32 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; Jennie Leete, Management; Andrew Streitz, Newsletter Team

**Agenda:**

- No changes to the agenda.

**Past Minutes:**

- Approved.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer:**

- Baratta stated that as of yesterday the total income is \$33,816.31, net income is \$18,640.89 total assets are \$106,983.13. Baratta said this has not changed very much since May. Baratta said that the net income has changed a bit because Hunt and Leete submitted three months of work time. Baratta said that compared to last year, numbers are up quite a bit as there was no spring conference last year - compared to pre-COVID, numbers are lower.
- Steenberg asks if the Foundation will receive a similar amount that they have received in past years. Leete said that we can follow the rules - after a successful spring conference the net can be turned over to the Foundation if wanted.
- Baratta and Leete checked on the net income from 2020. Baratta and Leete said that last year's net income was \$6096.50. Leete said this is the amount that would normally be discussed to be sent to the Foundation.
- Steenberg asked if this value was comparable - Leete said it is usually twice this amount or more. Steenberg also asked if this is the time of year that money would be sent to the Foundation. Leete confirmed this is the case. Steenberg said she attended the last Foundation meeting and they were discussing their budget.
- Steenberg asks if the Education committee proposal would be funded from this allocation. Steenberg asked if we needed to earmark these funds. Leete said that the point of this in the past was to match what has been fundraised by the Foundation and notes that there was no fundraising that took place last year.
- Leete suggests to put the money in an unrestricted pot of money and allow the Foundation to take money from the unrestricted money rather than the endowment accounts. Steenberg agrees with this but says that it is unlikely the Foundation will fund a scholarship.

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- Leete asked if field camp will be virtual again this year. Steenberg confirmed that is the case and noted that the cost is approximately \$50 per student. Steenberg mentioned that the Foundation has not completed any paperwork for scholarships or field camps.
- Leete said that there is currently a sustaining Foundation donor for \$50 a month for DEI work.
- Steenberg noted that the Foundation did fund \$5000 for the Freshwater internship.
- Steenberg makes a motion to approve the 2020 profits into the unrestricted funds of the Foundation, hopefully for scholarship funding. Baratta seconds the motion. All voted in favor, motion passed.

### **Management (WRI):**

- Hunt said that it has been pretty quiet. There have been a few memberships entered and a few emails sent. Leete said that the new membership year starts in August and anyone who sends in membership renewals from now on is a next year membership.

### **Newsletter:**

- Streitz said the June newsletter went out on time and the statistics for the number of members viewing it look good - this has been going well lately. Streitz said there's not much happening right now aside from preparation of the September newsletter.
- Streitz notes that this is his last meeting as he is retiring in two weeks. Streitz said he is planning on stepping down as an editor but will continue on as a MGWA member. Streitz said that the team will be down to three people. Streitz said that it would be good to get someone from consulting on the team.

### **Foundation/Education Committee:**

- Steenberg said the Foundation met recently. There was a financial update from their Wells Fargo advisor and everything looks good. Steenberg said there was a discussion about where funds were invested and making sure they were invested in socially and environmentally friendly accounts. Steenberg noted there was a yearly spending summary dating back to 2014 and notes there is not much in the way of fundraising. The Foundation agreed on a \$12,000 giving goal a year.
- Steenberg said there has been no communication from the scholarship committee and that there are not going to be any scholarships given this year.
- Hunt confirmed that this was a full discussion of the Foundation meeting.

### **Other Business:**

#### **MGWA T-Shirts for Volunteers**

- The Education Committee has requested \$1650 for 100 t-shirts for volunteers who are helping with well testing. Steenberg said that the MGWA would cover half and MNWOO would cover half.
- Baratta asks if 100 shirts is too many shirts for the volunteers. Steenberg said we could ask Jeff Stoner about that. Steenberg notes she is in favor of purchasing shirts but wants to confirm that the number is appropriate. Baratta agrees it is a good idea.
- Runkel asks if we can approve now or have to wait until confirmation of the number. Baratta said she is not hesitant about approving half the cost but things it would be good to confirm where this money would come from.
- Leete said this would likely be from advertising funds. Steenberg asks if MGWA should pay the whole fees and get reimbursed from MNWOO or vice-versa. Leete asks if there is

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an office for MNWOO. Hunt said the easiest thing is to get an amount and an address and send a check. Steenberg will reach out to see what the plan is.

- Steenberg motions to approve paying for the t-shirt cost for water well testing volunteers split with MNWOO. Baratta seconds. All vote in favor, motion approved.
- Steenberg will reach out to Jeff Stoner to find out what the plan will be for purchasing shirts.

### Fall Conference Planning:

- Runkel asked Hunt if the spring conference has been wrapped up or is there anything still needed. Hunt said that he has processed all of the post-conference materials for the website. Leete is handling the speaker gifts and will get started on sending
- Runkel feels comfortable with the topic and speaker lists. Runkel said that the Water Resources Conference will be remote. Runkel asked Leete how to proceed with the reservation. Leete said the University of Minnesota is waiting for the MGWA board. If MGWA wants to move forward, a contract will be signed. Hunt said there was a limit on the conference and asks if this limit is still in place. Leete will reach out to see if the limit is still in place or if it has changed.
- Runkel notes that things will be in flux until we get closer to the meeting time. Leete suggests making this decision as students get closer to returning to school. Steenberg agrees and thinks that this will be decided by the University of Minnesota at the start of the fall semester.
- Hunt asks if the date will stay the same regardless if the conference is virtual or in person. Leete said yes and that the date is November 18. Hunt said it would be good to have this information on the website and will update the date. Runkel will provide a title later and Hunt will update the webpage when that is decided.
- Steenberg said we will have to determine if the conference is in-person or virtual based on the limits. Runkel notes that we have about 200 attendees for these meetings and that it would not be good to limit the number of attendees based on the attendance limits.

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:19 PM.**

### Action Items:

- None.

### Next Meeting:

- The next meeting is potentially August 17.