

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 21, 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; Michael Ginsbach, Secretary; Sean Hunt, Management; Jennie Leete, Management; David Crisman, White Paper Committee

Agenda:

- No changes to the agenda.

Past Minutes:

- Approved.

White Paper Committee:

- Crisman mentioned that last night he received a new copy of the Ground Water Protection Act white paper.
- Crisman said that after the White Paper Work Group writes a paper, the Committee and the Board both complete two reviews. Crisman reported that the Work Group suggested this report go to the Interagency Groundwater Team to allow them to review a public draft. The Work Group would consider edits based on inaccuracies or historical facts identified by the agencies.
- Crisman said that paper would be both a review of how things have gone in the past and what the path forward should be with the Ground Water Protection Act.
- The Interagency Groundwater Team meets once a month. Future dates are October 7, November 4, and December 2. The Committee plans to do a presentation at the meeting, send a draft of the paper, and come back a month later at the next meeting to get comments. The Committee is planning on leaving a month for the review.
- Crisman said that after the review by the Interagency Groundwater Team there should be an MGWA review completed. There are two options:
 - A) MGWA board review in October, early November, present in November, collect comments in December
 - B) Quick review now, present to the Interagency Groundwater Team in October, collect comments in November.
- It was suggested that the Board complete a read-through of the paper before making a decision between the two options. Crisman notes that once a public draft is out there the white paper is out in the public sphere - he notes that it is the MGWA's paper and he doesn't want to get the details out until the Board reviews.

MGWA MINUTES

- Runkel said he likes having the Interagency Groundwater Team reviewing the white paper and that he would review the white paper as well. His suggestion is that the Interagency Groundwater Team review first before the MGWA board completes their review. He notes that the Interagency Groundwater Team is the “outsiders” on this and may ask for some substantial changes. Runkel said that it would be good for that process to happen first so he could review the full document.
- Steenberg said she doesn’t know which path is best until she reads the paper. Runkel said he can read the paper soon and weigh in on which option would be the best.
- Crisman said he will get the report to the MGWA board tonight so they can review it. Crisman said the draft tonight has been agonized by the Work Group and has been reviewed by Carrie Jennings and Jeff Stoner.
- Crisman said that he will talk with MDH to get on the schedule for the October meeting. He notes that they do not have to provide the white paper right before the meeting but could present on it and give the Interagency Groundwater Team the white paper after.
- Runkel, Mohr, Steenberg, and Ginsbach will all take a look and give brief feedback prior to presenting to the Interagency Groundwater Team. Crisman agrees with this - checking to see if it can be sent to the Interagency Groundwater Team and if the tone is appropriate.
- Crisman mentioned that the Work Group would like to dedicate the white paper to two influential folks in Minnesota groundwater history who recently passed away.

Fall Conference Planning:

- Runkel asked if the next thing Hunt needs is the information to print the brochures. Hunt said that he will need the speakers and topics for the brochure - maybe about three-quarters completed. Hunt notes that the website can be updated as needed.
- Runkel said that two of the one-hour spots will have speakers as panelists giving short talks and having discussions amongst themselves.
- Runkel said that since the talks are all 20 minutes or less he can give information for most of the speakers.
- Runkel said there that will be a lot of bad news presented during the conference, particularly in southeastern Minnesota, but the last talks will include actual farmers who are instituting better practices to end on a high note. He says that the last hour is the most unknown part of the agenda so far. Runkel said that despite the large number of speakers he is very pleased with how things are proceeding so far. Runkel says it can be done in the normal way but the Board needs to watch and make sure that the speakers end punctually.
- Hunt asked for more info in the next week and then would feel comfortable sending out the material.
- Runkel asked about keeping the same cost for this conference as the previous virtual conferences. The prices were \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members. Leete said that the financials are in good shape with this pricing schedule.
- Mohr and Steenberg both agree that this pricing scheme is good.
- Leete said that it would be good to include a membership renewal reminder with the brochures as it is the time of year for membership renewals.

Reports:

MGWA MINUTES

Treasurer:

- Baratta was unable to attend this meeting so there is no treasurer report. Leete mentioned that there are numbers in documents sent to the MGWA board that can be pulled from these documents to fill in the normal report.
- Ginsbach pulled the numbers after the meeting. According to Leete's email, as of today the total income is \$33,818.04, net income is \$12,406.89, and total assets are \$100,749.13.

Management (WRI):

- No updates from Hunt.
- Leete said she has to finish up the taxes, which are due by November 15.
- Hunt and Steenberg will check to make sure the website has been updated.
- Hunt and Leete said the virtual meetings are much less work for the Management Team.

Newsletter:

- Runkel reminded people that Andrew Streitz of the newsletter team has retired.
- Sherri Kroening sent an email to the Board this morning and noted she was unable to attend but presented an update. Kroening said that the team is ready to post the September newsletter.

Foundation/Education Committee:

- Steenberg said the Foundation met in early September. The biggest change is that the Scholarship Committee is going to be revamped.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:05 PM.

Action Items:

- Runkel will be providing more information to Hunt to prepare the brochure for the fall conference.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting is potentially October 19th.