

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Location:

- Meeting was called to order at 11:33 AM. The meeting was held as an online Zoom Meeting

Attendance:

- Julia Steenberg, Past-President; Tony Runkel, President; Jeré Mohr, President-Elect; Vanessa Bararta, Treasurer; Michael Ginsbach, Secretary; Sean Hunt, Management; Jennie Leete, Management

Agenda:

- Runkel added an update to the agenda related to the Education Committee.

Past Minutes:

- All in favor, past minutes approved.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- Barratta reported that as of today the total income is \$35,268.85, net income is \$9656.15, and total assets are \$97,998.393.

Management (WRI):

- Hunt said that the conference emails have been sent out and approximately 30 people have signed up for the conference so far. The membership renewals for 2022 have been started. Hunt said that Leete has made the conference brochures and these are being printed and mailed with the membership renewals.
- Hunt said that it would be good to send out an email membership renewal but it was prudent to get the printed version sent out with the conference notification.

Newsletter:

- Sherri Kroening sent an email to the Board this morning and noted she was unable to attend. Kroening said that the team has posted the September newsletter.
- Mohr said that the newsletter team is looking for ideas. Mohr notes that the potential topics for the December newsletter are a writeup from Jim Walsh related

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to viruses in groundwater, the private well sampling from Jeff Stoner, and bios for the new whitepaper committee members.

- Baratta asks if there are elections for the board this year. Mohr confirms that this is the case and mentions that the positions up for election are President-Elect and Secretary.
- Hunt says that the elections are held in December and the candidates should be posted in November.
- Ginsbach mentions that he will be willing to run for secretary again.
- Runkel said that if there were no nominations from members after the request for candidates the board may reach out to potential candidates.
- Steenberg notes that usually this time next month there should be an idea about candidates. Baratta said that the board may be able to announce at the conference if there are any candidates.

Foundation/Education Committee:

- Steenberg said that the Foundation has not met since the last MGWA board meeting.
- Steenberg said she is trying to re-ignite the Scholarship Committee and has found three volunteers in addition to herself. She notes that the Foundation did vote to remove the letters of reference from the scholarship application form and that the form will be revamped. Steenberg said that a notice of the scholarship will go out in approximately a month.
- The Board made a motion to approve the spending of approximately \$410 on brochures and business cards by the Education Committee with the stipulation that the Education Committee adjust the photos in the brochure. Steenberg made a motion and Baratta seconded. All in favor, approved.

White Paper Committee:

- Runkel asked if Baratta would be leading or contributing to the next white paper topic. Baratta said that the committee reached out and will be taking her topic and move it in a slightly different direction. Baratta said that she will not be leading the paper but will be involved.
- Baratta said that the committee had received some comments to make some changes.

Fall Conference Planning:

- Runkel said it is going okay. Runkel said there are 24 speakers, which will make the conference be more in the style of a GSA-style conference. The speakers will have 20 minutes - 17 minutes speaking and three minutes for questions.
- Runkel said there will be a panel discussion at the end of the conference. The panel will be attended by people who work directly with farmers.
- Runkel said that because there will be so many different speakers it would be good to have a few dry runs to make sure that the process goes smoothly.

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- Steenberg suggested that Runkel requests the speakers put their email on the last slide to account for the short timeframe for questions.
- Baratta suggested that questions can be placed into the Q&A portion of Zoom, as this is accessible even after the presentation is complete.
- Runkel said two of the speakers are retired and not aware how to give a Zoom presentation. He mentions that he might have a separate dry run with those presenters to get them familiar with the process.
- Steenberg asked if the mentor lunch would take place this year. Runkel asked about the turnout - Mohr and Steenberg said that attendance was not great. Runkel said that his initial response is that this is more beneficial in-person.
- Baratta suggests that a social hour could be scheduled shortly after the conference as a mentorship meeting. Baratta said that it could be approximately a week or so after the conference and that if the social hour is well advertised it may be better attended.
- Baratta suggest skipping the virtual mentor lunch - Steenberg and Runkel agreed. All agreed
- Hunt said that he will need the registration link to send to the attendees. In addition, Hunt will need the final agenda and speaker bios and abstracts. Runkel said the request for the bio will be going out tomorrow with a timeline of one week before the conference. Hunt suggests a deadline of two weeks before the conference.
- Baratta asks if these are a full abstract - Runkel said the it is not and the abstract are three to four bullet points about the presentation.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:39 PM.

Action Items:

- Runkel will provide Hunt with the registration link for the conference.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be November 16 on Zoom. This meeting will be the practice run for the conference.