

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Location:

- Meeting was called to order at 12:04 PM. 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; Sherri Kroening, Newsletter

Agenda:

- No changes to agenda.

Past Minutes:

- Runkel noted the time the last meeting was adjourned was missing. Ginsbach updated. All in favor, past minutes approved.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- No financial update at this time due to change in meeting time.

Management (WRI):

- With both Hunt and Leete unable to attend, Runkel provided an update. These included posting conference materials, a reminder to send messages to members for renewals, and a reminder to provide an update about the scholarships.

Newsletter:

- Kroening notes that they are getting the posts together for the December release. The goal is to get the newsletter sent out early next week. Kroening asked Mohr if he has taken a look at the article from Greg Brick; Mohr notes that he has and it was an interesting article.
- Steenberg mentioned that Kroening could add an announcement about the scholarship to the newsletter. Kroening agreed that this would be good. She would also add a notice about Ginsbach staying on as Secretary and Mohr becoming President.
- Kroening asked Baratta if Jim Berg from DNR was retiring and, if so, if he could provide a retirement notice. Baratta confirmed that he was and mentioned that she would send Berg a notice.

Foundation/Education Committee:

MGWA MINUTES

- Runkel asked if the scholarship information had been posted. Steenberg confirmed it was on both the MGWA and MGWA Foundation website.
- Steenberg said that she will send an email about the scholarship from the Foundation account.
- Runkel said that he and Steenberg met with the Education Committee. Runkel said that the Education Committee would like MGWA to lobby for a requirement to make earth science a requirement for 9-12.
- Runkel said that Bryce Hoppe from the Education Committee is the lead on this. Runkel notes that the standards have been diluted over the past few years and the earth science standards particularly so.
- Mohr suggested that it might be good to have Hoppe or another Education Committee member to give an update at the next conference.
- Runkel said that the Education Committee seemed concerned if an effort to issue a statement would require membership approval. Runkel's understanding is that the Board can make these statements.
- Steenberg does not see a reason the Board would not be on board with the lobbying. Kroening asked for clarification on this and noted that it seems like something that the members would be in favor of. Kroening also notes that if Hoppe would write text related to this effort it could be posted on the newsletter page.

Officer Election/Next Conference:

- Runkel asked if Mohr has any names for potential candidates for President-Elect.
- Mohr does have a potential list of potential candidates from this, including a mix of public sector and private sector employees.
- Baratta suggests looking outside of state agencies for this position. Kroening notes that some people may not have enough time; Steenberg said that it does not hurt to ask.
- Steenberg said that it is good to ask one person and reach out for a quick answer.
- Runkel noted that he knows one of the potential candidates and that he is likely to say no because of how busy they are.
- Runkel, Steenberg, and Kroening said that having someone from the public utilities side would lead to a different theme for the conferences and a new perspective.
- Runkel asked if Mohr would want him to reach out to folks on the list to help facilitate the discussions. Mohr agrees that this would be helpful.
- Mohr said that the board meetings are good on Teams but it may not be the case with Zoom. Ginsbach notes that Teams works well for larger meetings in a different format. Steenberg notes that MGWA could potentially pay for a Teams account for the conference.
- Steenberg mentioned that it would be good to check with Leete about the conference plans for the spring.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:41 PM.

MGWA MINUTES

Action Items:

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Next Meeting:

- Mohr will be in charge of organizing the next meeting. Mohr asked if the meetings would need to continue to be Zoom; he notes that Barr uses Microsoft Teams. Baratta and Kroening stated that the state uses Teams as well.
- Mohr will schedule the next meeting for January 2022.