

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Location:

- Meeting was called to order at 11:39 AM. The meeting was held as an online Teams meeting.

Attendance:

- Tony Runkel, Past-President; Jeré Mohr, President; Sandeep Burman, President-Elect; Michael Ginsbach, Secretary; Vanessa Baratta, Treasurer; Sheri Kroening, Newsletter; Sean Hunt, Management; Jennie Lete, Management; Julia Steenberg, Past-Past-President; Cathay Udem, Education Committee; Bryce Hoppe, Education Committee

Agenda:

- No changes to agenda.

Past Minutes:

- A few typos were noted but there were no content changes. Mohr moved to approve the March minutes. Minutes approved.

Reports:

Education Committee:

- Hoppe provided an update on the 2018 request to include groundwater in the updated earth science standards for Minnesota. Hoppe was told that the standards were not required to be taught unless something was included in the statutes and that earth science was included as an optional class and not a required class. Hoppe asked for a letter from MGWA to provide support for an update to the statutes to include earth science.
- Udem asked for an opportunity during the conference to include an update about the standards and the issue with the statutes, along with a question and answer session - the plan would be to tie the discussion back to the 2016 white paper. Udem said that the members would not be requested to act but the board would be to send a letter of support.
- Udem said she would be willing to provide an update to the newsletter but isn't sure what should be in there. Kroening said it could be posted to the blog whenever it is ready.
- Mohr asked if the first item was if the board supported writing a letter. Mohr stated he was in favor of it; Runkel, Baratta, and Burman were all in favor of the letter.
- Udem noted that this is an equity issue and earth science is not offered in many schools and is very rarely required as a class. Udem said that she could share a draft letter with the board for their use. Mohr said it would be good to have a final version of the letter and to send it after the conference.
- Runkel asked who the letter will be from; Hoppe and Udem suggest it be from the membership.
- Hoppe noted that the speaker is not a member of MGWA and asked how she will be able to join; the invite will be sent to her so she can join the business update portion of the conference.

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Treasurer:

- Baratta said that total income is \$23,417.92, net income is \$16,483.36, total assets are \$124,216.10 as of April 19, 2022.
- Leete noted that overall membership is down, likely because the price differential between the membership cost and non-membership conference registration costs.
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Management (WRI):

- Hunt has been processing incoming conference registration and membership renewals. An updated membership report has been uploaded to the Google Drive. There are 329 members right now; these numbers are a bit low and have been above 400 the past two years and above 500 in the past five years.
- Hunt echoes Leete's note related to the costs associated with membership and non-membership costs for the conference potentially impacting membership numbers.
- Leete says that the lower costs for the retired membership has helped keep the numbers elevated for that group but student membership does not often lead to long-term membership. Leete is brainstorming ideas to get more members..

Newsletter:

- According to Kroeing, there are not too many updates to the newsletter at this point. The March newsletter was released and the team is preparing for the next newsletter, which will be in June.

Foundation Committee:

- Steenberg notes the scholarship winners were approved - there were five winners this year, which is more than usual. Steenberg said the Foundation Committee had funds to fund five good candidates due to a lack of in-person events and because scholarships were not given out last year.
- Steenberg said that discussions are happening to ensure full equitable representation for scholarship winners.

Spring Conference Planning:

- The logistics of the spring conference were discussed by the board, including how to navigate the Zoom call.

Meeting Adjourned:

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Action Items:

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Next Meeting:

- The spring conference will be held on April 19..