

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Location:

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

Attendance:

- Tony Runkel, Past-President; Jeré Mohr, President; Michael Ginsbach, Secretary; Vanessa Baratta, Treasurer; Sheri Kroening, Newsletter; Sean Hunt, Management; Jennie Leete, Management

Agenda:

- No additions or changes to the agenda.

Past Minutes:

- Ginsbach will look for the May minutes as they are not on the Google Drive and will send them to the Board when he finds them.

White Paper - Final Review and Approval:

- Crisman notes that the author group has been reading the paper out loud to find additional errors and potential changes. Crisman said that the sustainability topics may potentially be moved to section 4; Crisman said that the attached file recently sent to the board showed the potential organization of section four and also included information about what it would look like if the proposed move occurs.
- Mohr is comfortable with the White Paper as it stands. Runkel said that the paper was well done and very informative. Crisman said that the authors were not aware of interagency teams related to funding and that this information was good not only for the authors but also good for the membership.
- Mohr appreciated that the Groundwater Protection Act mentions a central data repository for groundwater, which ties in well with the next white paper.
- Crisman said the team will meet in early July to discuss what section 4 will look like. Crisman said that the team will also look for potential cascading errors from any proposed reorganization. Crisman will review Leete's comments on Google Drive and will get the paper ready for publication. Crisman will keep the board updated via email and asks if the paper will be able to be published once the changes are made. Mohr and Runkle agree.
- Crisman said that the team is working on a high level presentation. This presentation could be used for presenting the information to elected officials.
- Hunt suggested that once the text is final Crisman, Leete, and Hunt all meet to discuss the formatting. Hunt said that the chloride white paper is a good example of the formatting that could be used for this white paper.

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- Crisman said the authors are struggling with the format for statute citations and could use some assistance with ensuring those are correct. Leete will provide some insight to this based on how the state cites statute.
- Runkel suggests presenting to the Clean Water Policy group at the MPCA and to reach out to Paul Gardner to coordinate.
- Crisman asks if, after the completion of the white paper, the traditional celebration could be held. Leete said that is acceptable.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- Baratta said that as of May 21, total income is \$27,344.82, net income is \$15,495.92, total assets are \$117,011.23.
- Baratta said that three quarters of the report for the newsletter is completed and the report will be shared once it is completed and some questions have been answered,

Management (WRI):

- Hunt said that the 990 EZ was filed for the Association and it was accepted. Hunt will post the PDF to the website on the Above MGWA page. Hunt said that the only other major update would be in the fall update planning note.
- Hunt said the latest bill will be sent to Baratta. Baratta notes that Leete had sent a scanned copy of the bill and that she will send the physical copy back once she receives it.

Newsletter:

- Kroening notes that the articles for the next email are in review.. There are currently six of them in Wordpress at the moment, which will all be received by the end of the week. Kroening said that she will send the email by close of business on Monday.
- Sophia Vaughn from the MPCA has joined the newsletter team. Hunt has sent her the Wordpress and Google Drive information.
- Hunt also noted that he had removed a number of inactive users in Wordpress; Kroening suggested several other users to remove from Wordpress.

Education Committee:

- Runkel has been attending the meetings and notes there is not much new at the moment. Runkel said that he had anticipated receiving a copy of that but there is still some wordsmithing going on at the moment.
- Runkel also said that the Education Committee is working with MNWOO on well testing. Mohr said that he had received a note about a meeting that will be in Duluth and plans on attending.

Foundation:

- Runkel said that the Foundation's financial status has taken a bit of a hit with the current stock market. Runkel said the Foundation has asked for \$2500 for the metro children's water festival..Hunt said that this has been going on for at least two decades. The event used to be led by Carver County but now a different metro council is leading the way.
- Runkel said that Julia Steenberg has asked that we better define how scholarships are issued in the future to ensure that scholarships are not only based on merit alone. Runkel said that the group will be meeting this evening to discuss the criteria and an update will likely be provided at the next meeting.

Fall Conference Planning:

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- Mohr reminded the board that there will be two events this fall. Mohr said that both of the proposed venues sound good to him. Leete said that there are not many open venues but there are a number of members familiar with both the Earle Brown Center and the Town and Country Club. Leete notes that the Town and Country Club would not be a good location for the conference due to lighting issues with the screens. Leete suggests a silent auction along with the celebration.
- Leete has informed the Earle Brown Center that we would like the conference space but has not yet informed the Town and Country Club yet.
- Mohr is in favor of both venues. Runkel is appreciative of Leete going through all of the effort to find these locations and asks if it would be able to move the dinner to Wednesday even. Leete said that there was no available reservation available at the Town and Country Club for Wednesdays evening.
- Baratta asks that if the conference is more expensive would it cause any issues with having having a meal the same week. Leete noted that she does not think there will be much of an overlap between attendees of the celebration and attendees of the conference. Baratta suggests gauging interest before booking the meeting to ensure that people would attend, especially if there were to be a COID spike and the Board was left to pay all of the deposits.
- Hunt said that he could send a survey about the celebration but would need someone to provide him the contents. Hunt asks about cost distribution, organization, and other things related to the event. Hunt suggests sending an email to membership letting them know that the venues are changing this ear and there is a potential for a celebration earlier the week for the conference.
- Mohr noted that it would be good to get some rough estimates on cost; Leete said she will loo up the cost for attendees of the Parks and Trail event. Hunt asks if anyone has any ideas about the agenda for the celebration; Leete suggests having an award.
- Kroening said that the celebration sounds like something that the attendees would have to pay for themselves and that agencies would not be able to have the cost covered; she notes this might impact the attendance
- Mohr and Baratta both agree that having this at the end of the conference could be a very long day. Mohr stated that drawing attention to the fact that this would be a fundraiser would be beneficial to encourage attendance.
- Leete asks if there are any ideas about the distinguished service award Mohr said that he is too new to the organization to have much of an opinion. Runkel looked up the list of previous winners and recited them to the Board; the last awardee was in 2018. Runkel had a few ideas about potential winners.
- Leete noted that elected officials have presented a “groundwater 101” as the capitol in the past with retired members attending the talk.

Meeting Adjourned: at 12:29 PM when Ginsbach had to leave the meeting.

Action Items:

- None at this time.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will take place on at 11:30 am on Teams.