

MGWA MINUTES

Minnesota Ground Water Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Regular monthly meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Location:

- Meeting was called to order at 11:36 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 changes to agenda.

Past Minutes:

- Email edit of adding Sandeep has already been addressed, no additional edits.

Reports:

Treasurer:

- Baratta noted that total income is \$34,959.01, net income is \$19,744.77, and total assets are \$121,260.08 as of October 18, 2022.
- She noted numbers are up a little from last month due to registrations rolling in.

Management (WRI):

- Hunt: working on white paper with Dave Crisman; Conference webpage, registrations, and emails,
- Leete: Not much to report, getting finances in order, printable conference brochure and will be sent out with dues renewal. Does not have a very good idea of numbers yet, no companies/ state requests yet. Approximately 25 at the moment.
- Mohr brought up that sending out the brochure may increase registrations. Asked if another email blast would be beneficial
- Hunt said typical flow is an initial announcement and then a week before reduced cost deadline another reminder. Final reminder may be sent out the week before the conference.
- Kroening and Baratta stated that both of their state agencies are working to get submissions together toward the end of the week before anything moves forward to an actual registration.
- Leete discussed the fact that she often integrates a buffer into how many attendees there are to the venue to allow for last minute registrations.
- Baratta asked about the white paper google drive folder, it was somehow cleared out last week.
- Hunt responded that they have been looking into it, there were a bunch of actions that took place the Monday before it was noticed that it was emptied. Looks like Laurel

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Reeves did something that removed permissions from other individuals being able to see all of the files. He explained that it is pointing out a security issue of using google drive. Hunt does occasional back ups, but his most recent is from 2021. They are trying to get in contact with her and trying to restore things.

- Baratta asked about how to move forward for the current white paper in progress and Hunt recommended recreating the files if possible.
- Hunt also pointed out that he is going to increase his frequency of back ups.

Newsletter:

- Kroening reported that they got September news release out with some slight delays
- Newsletter group is working on getting items together for next release in December
- Kroening thinks there will be an announcement for the next white paper on groundwater protection act and Hunt spoke about their current status.
- Kroening brought up that we need to have a discussion about how to archive newsletter pieces on the website. There is a specific subset of articles they are thinking of including.
- Hunt brought up that they should have a recommended format for the archived files.
- Kroening said that they were thinking of adding an archive link to the newsletter page and have specific articles and president's letters.

White Paper Committee:

- Discussion of the groundwater protection act paper took place earlier in the newsletter discussion, they are pretty far along.
- There will be a 30 min slot about the GPA paper at the conference
- Mohr asked about if additional members are still needed for the data white paper
- Baratta updated that they have a decent number of members but that the survey may not be ready for the fall conference.

Education Committee:

- Mohr discussed the back and forth about the letter being sent out to the commissioner of education.
- The education committee accepted all of the Board's suggested edits on the letter. The Education Committee has finalized the letter and Mohr sent a final copy off to Leete for official mailing.
- Runkel noted that while was not able to make the meeting, the agenda appeared to be fairly standard.

Foundation:

- Mohr and Runkel stated the Foundation has not met since the last meeting.

Fall Conference Planning:

- Mohr notes that there is only one open spot for the conference agenda and it is fully booked aside from that. Mohr said he has a number of potential speakers and is optimistic that someone will offer to present soon.
- Someone reached out to Mohr to request a vendor space for this meeting. He asks if there is space for vendor displays at this meeting. Leete said this is a Foundation issue but there is no one actively pursuing this with the Foundation. She also notes that at previous conferences at Earle Brown, dedicated vendor and poster space was prohibitively expensive.

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- Hunt said that in the old space there was no additional cost for the space and a minimal cost for the table. Hunt suggests that the Board keep an eye out for potential vendor spaces during the conference.
- Leete asked if the person inquiring about the vendor space is a member and suggested that the member could help with space planning in the future. Mohr confirmed the person inquiring is a member.
- Hunt and Leete notes that timing is getting tight for printing the brochure and asks Mohr to update them when the agenda is finalized.
- Hunt said that there are a few outstanding issues related to audio-visual setup at the new venue. In particular, the sound recording, speaker presentation area, and the computer used for the presentations all need to be finalized.
- Leete notes that the AV costs are higher at this facility than others. Leete will speak with the facility related to the computer and setup.
- Baratta asks if Hunt and Leete will need help getting things prepared for an in-person conference. Leete said that it will go back to how it was before - nametags, packets, and a list of the speakers with the bios and agenda to meet PG requirements.
- Leete has at least one contact to help with the preparation.
- Hunt said that the packet will include an agenda page, speaker abstracts, speaker biographies, an evaluation form, and a printed copy of the invoice. Hunt and Leete will do an inventory of materials to make sure are enough.
- Baratta asks if another meeting would be beneficial or if emails would be sufficient to keep things on track for the conference. Leete is primarily concerned with printing the brochure and mailing information this week but notes that extra help the evening before would be beneficial to account for late registrations.
- Mohr defers to Hunt and Leete's expertise regarding in-person meetings and asks that they keep the Board up to date with what is needed.
- Hunt notes that there is an MGWA laptop that Leete uses during the day. Baratta said that she also has an MGWA laptop. Mohr offers to bring a computer if necessary too.
- Mohr suggests moving the board meeting up a week to November 8th to allow preparation for the meeting. Baratta suggest moving the meeting up an hour, which works better for everyone other than Ginsbach.
- Mohr asked if the presenters should provide the talk before the conference - Hunt suggests having the first few meetings ready to go is beneficial. Mohr also asked about the lead time for printed materials - Hunt confirmed a week ahead of time is beneficial.
- Runkel asked who the two potential speakers are. Mohr said one potential speaker is from UMD and works with wild rice and the other is from the Talon nickel copper cobalt mining project. A third potential speaker is from the MPCA describing regulatory challenges associated with mining.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:34 pm.

Action Items:

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Next Meeting:

- Next meeting will be November 8th, 2022 at 10:00 am.