

# MINNESOTA GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

## BOARD MEMORANDUM

**Date** | 12/10/2020

**To** | MGWAF Directors and Staff

**From** | Jarrod Cicha

**Regarding** | Draft Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 10, 2020 quarterly meeting

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Zoom meeting: 11:00

Attendance: Stu Grubb (President); Kara Dennis; Ellen Considine; Kate Pound; Jarrod Cicha; Scott Alexander; Lanya Ross; Katrina Marini. Erik Mohring; James Vanderwaal

Absent:

### Approve last meetings minutes

1. Sean questions if Metro Children's water festival check went out. Stu believes so but will follow up after the meeting.

Kara moves to approve the minutes, Scott seconds. Unanimous approval of previous minutes.

### Financial update Kara

1. HOP and Gibanski accounts are up this quarter, now up YTD
  - a. Gibanski up 5.77% since inception
  - b. HOP up 7.05% since inception
2. The foundation received donations in memory of Hans-Olaf. Thank you notes should be sent to those who have given. Scott would be happy to send the thank you letters for the HOP fund donations. Jennie indicates there have been 5 donations for Gibanski and 20-30 for HOP.

*Action Item: Lanya has letter templates and will send them to the group and upload to the MGWAF drive*

*Action Item: Sean will create a list of donors and add it to the MGWAF drive.*

*Action Item: Jennie will send lists of donors to Scott for the HOP and Eric for the Gibanski. James, Ellen, and Katrina can help as well.*

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## DEI Plans – Kate

The DEI committee has outlined the vision for making MGWA and the larger ground water community more diverse and inclusive. Initial plans focus on expanding exposure to ground water focused materials and activities to students. John Olson of the Minnesota Department of Education suggested to make connections through professional development. He added that programs like WaterWorks and ProjectWET would be good starting places to provide support.

## Freshwater MGWA DEI Partnership - Kate

Kate has been in communication with Carrie Jennings from the Freshwater Society about a proposal to support underserved high-school (2) and college aged (2) students who are interested in water resources. Interns would work with the Freshwater Society on policy. Stu talked with Carrie and indicated that there would be opportunities for some weekly work assignments at local consulting companies. The Freshwater proposal has a budget of 21k per year. Carrie's vision is that Freshwater Society and MGWAF would split the cost.

## Comments

- Eric: A lot of experience at Freshwater Society.
- Kara: Limited options for STEM internships before college.
- Stu: Can we select our level of giving on this?
- There were general concerns over the cost of the program. Kate is going to indicate to Freshwater that MGWAF would be interested in supporting two High-School students.

## Comments from the MGWA board

- The cost appears high.
- They felt that it was important for the Interns to experience more than Freshwater alone.

Lanya suggests starting with providing support for two high school students as a pilot project. Ellen indicates getting younger students into the natural resources pipeline is a priority of the DNR and she supports Lanya's suggestion. James agrees that starting small is a good idea. He indicates it allows for easier modification and development of the proposed program.

Table discussion until after we discuss our updated levels of giving.

Adding DEI considerations into Funding request documents – Kara

Include statement about how we offer extra consideration to underserved communities.

Tabled

### MGWAF Giving Back – Kate

The DEI committee has created a document stating the MGWA/MGWAF's commitment to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the ground water community. The MGWAF board agreed that the content of the document is well written and represents the board's position. However, the document needs reformatting.

*Action Item: Kate will reformat the document for easier reading.*

### 2021 Board Members

Kara, Lanya, Ellen, and Katrina are interested in serving a new term as board members on the MGWAF.

Kate makes a motion to elect Kara, Lanya, Ellen, and Katrina to new terms as board members. All in favor. Motion passes.

James is not interested in a new term.

Kate is not interested in being a member. Julia Steenberg, the outgoing president of the MGWA, will be the MGWA/MGWAF liaison.

### Officer Elections -Stu

Scott Makes motion for:

Stu – President  
Jarrod – Secretary  
Kara – Treasurer  
Kara – Board member

Eric seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Lanya willing to keep role as head of the Gibanski scholarship committee.

Scott will keep role as the head of the HOP scholarship committee.

### How much should we be giving away? - Stu

Stu believes a giving target of 3-5% is appropriate. This number is in line with other foundations. Scott thinks giving 5% is sustainable given the success of the foundation's investments. Eric thinks giving 4% would sustain principal growth and still give significant.

General discussion around flexibility of giving. We don't have to set our giving goals in stone. If it doesn't work, we can always decrease our level of giving. We want to stand by our new commitment to supporting DEI efforts and the board believes 5% represents our intentions.

### Freshwater MGWA DEI Partnership - back on the table

If we continue our scholarship giving at our current rate, we would be able to support two high school students at a total \$5000 and stay within our giving goal of 5%.

Kate will work with Carrie to submit an official proposal to the foundation for funding of two high school interns. This proposal will be voted on over email before the next board meeting.

### Schedule next meeting

March 11, 2021 – 11:00 AM

### Adjourn

Motion from Eric to adjourn, Scott seconds. No objections.

Adjourn 13:13