

## **Minnesota Ground Water Association (MGWA)**

### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 20, 2026

**Time:** 11:34 AM – approx. 1:02 PM

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

### **Board Members Present**

Jared Trost (President), Amanda Yourd (Vice President), Nick Budde (Treasurer), Cathy Udem (Event Coordinator), Nick Evans (Membership Coordinator), Michael Ginsbach (Committee Coordinator), Kayla Nelson (Marketing Coordinator)

### **MGWA Support Present**

Seth Nesselhuf (Business Manager), Elizabeth Kluesner (Executive Director), Sharon Kroening (Newsletter Editor), Eric Bunge (Past Vice-President)

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## **1. Call to Order & Introductions**

President Jared Trost called the meeting to order at 11:34 AM.

Jared provided introductory remarks and background. Amanda Yourd introduced herself and expressed appreciation for the onboarding process and support.

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## **2. Agenda Review**

- Jared proposed moving **Spring Conference Planning** to the top of the agenda due to time sensitivity.
- Kayla Nelson requested to present her report earlier due to a scheduling conflict.

**No objections were raised; agenda was approved as amended.**

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## **3. Approval of December 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Nick Budde

**Second:** Cathy Udem

**Vote:**

All in favor: Aye

Opposed: None

**Result:** December 2025 board meeting minutes approved.

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## 4. Spring 2026 Conference Planning

### Conference Theme & Structure

- **Theme:** *“It’s Time to Talk About Groundwater: Understanding Groundwater Age, Methods, and Implications for Resource Management.”* Will include a showcase of student research shared through posters and lightning talks.
- Conference will feature technical presentations aligned with groundwater age, an ethics session, keynote or headline speaker, and student research showcase via posters and lightning talks (not restricted to ground water age theme)

### Student Engagement

- Strong support expressed for student participation.
- Posters and lightning talks to be accessible even for early-stage research.
- Networking opportunities between students/early-career professionals and seasoned professionals discussed (potentially during breaks or meals).

### Timeline

- Target conference date: **April 28, 2026** (flexibility noted if venue constraints arise).
- Call for abstracts to be launched 1/23/26.
- Goal to publish a draft agenda by mid-March to support registration and approvals. Seth and Jared will get a 1<sup>st</sup> version of the agenda out by mid-February for state registration justification.

### Speakers

- Ethics speaker identified as a high priority.
- Board members encouraged to share potential speaker recommendations.

### Registration & Fees

- Registration structure to mirror recent conferences:
  - Early bird pricing through April 1
  - Student registration at a reduced rate with reimbursement
  - Member vs. non-member pricing structured to incentivize membership

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## 5. Venue Update

- **Plan A:** Minneapolis Convention Center (three rooms, ~240 capacity, central location)
- **Plan B:** University of St. Thomas – Minneapolis Campus
- **Plan C:** Heritage Center (fallback)

Minneapolis Convention Center currently viewed as the most viable option.

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## 6. Marketing & Communications Report (Kayla Nelson)

- Ongoing social media activity across platforms.
  - Salary survey promoted via social channels.
  - Encouraged sharing of job postings and internships for community value.
  - MGWA mug membership promotion showed strong engagement.
  - Growth observed on LinkedIn followers.
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## 7. Membership Update (Seth Nesselhuf)

- Membership decline appears to have stabilized over recent years.
  - December mug promotion results:
    - 62 memberships (37 pro, 21 retired, 4 sustaining)
  - Promotion generated net positive revenue and long-term membership value.
  - Discussion emphasized continued focus on member benefits and engagement.
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## 8. Financial Report – 2025 Actuals & 2026 Projections (Nick Budde)

### 2025 Summary

- **Total Income:** \$118,167
- **Total Expenses:** \$94,556
- **Net Income:** \$21,595

Primary income and expenses driven by spring and fall conferences.

### 2026 Projections

- **Projected Income:** \$134,000
- **Projected Expenses:** \$125,000
- **Projected Net:** ~\$9,200

Assumptions include full-year ED wages, an increase in SALD LLC hourly rate, 5 sponsors per conference, not resubscribing to DonorPerfect, earnings from CDs, and conference attendance estimates in line with 2025.

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## 9. Banking & Administrative Updates (Elizabeth and Seth)

### Change of Banking Institution

Proposal to move MGWA financial accounts from Wells Fargo to Sunrise Bank, including checking and savings accounts, Certificates of Deposit, and opening a credit card.

**Motion:** Nick Budde

**Second:** Amanda Yourd

### Vote:

All in favor: Aye

Opposed: None

**Result:** Motion approved.

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## 10. Winter Social & Future Events

- Winter social event confirmed and promotion ongoing.
  - Board encouraged to personally invite non-members.
  - Future field trip (cave tour) tentatively discussed for late summer or early fall.
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## 11. Communications & Systems Transition

- MGWA transitioning from Google Drive to Microsoft OneDrive and Teams.
  - Board members to receive MGWA Microsoft accounts. Committee members will be able to access OneDrive with permission from personal accounts.
  - Centralized communication expected to reduce missed messages.
  - Elizabeth Kluesner to compile a board contact list (phone, email, term).
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## 12. Bylaws & Governance Update

- Plan to separate **Bylaws** from **Operations Manual**.
  - Bylaws to be streamlined and formal (approx. 4–5 pages).
  - Operations manual to remain as an internal guidance document.
  - Draft bylaws anticipated for board review in February, with approval targeted by March.
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## 13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately **1:02 PM**.

**To Do**

- Elizabeth - Draft bylaws for board review in February with approval targeted by March
- Elizabeth – Compile a board contact list
- Jared, Amanda, and Seth – meet to come up with agenda outline. Due 2/1/26
- Seth – Create Call for Abstract page on MGWA.org with link to online submission for both students and professional speakers. Due 1/23/26
- Seth – Update MGWA.org with list Elizabeth sent. Due 1/30/26
- Seth – to ensure every MGWA board member has an Microsoft email set up. Due 1/30/26