

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

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

**Date:** April 14, 2026

**Time:** 11:34 AM – approx. 1:02 PM

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

### **Board Members Present**

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

### **MGWA Support Present**

Seth Nesselhuf (Business Manager), Elizabeth Kluesner (Executive Director)

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

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

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### **2. Agenda Review**

#### **Minor additions**

- Spring meeting poster materials
- Speaker correspondence (Seth)

Agenda approved as amended

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### **3. Approval of February 2026 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Kayla Nelson moved to approve March minutes with the amendment that Nick Evans was present

**Second:** Amanda Yourd

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously

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### **4. Introductions**

Intro/Announcement. Welcomed Nick Budde's new daughter: Claire Budde

Board members were encouraged to send congratulations.

## **5. Committee and Officer Reports**

### White Papers/Technical Work – Michael Ginsbach

- Data white paper nearing completion; requires focused effort
- Groundwater age paper still in progress
- No additional committee updates

### Marketing – Kayla Nelson

- Ongoing promotion of conference via posts and email outreach
- “Meet the Board” posts delayed until after the conference

### Events – Cathy Udem

- Post conference happy hour: confirmed and staffed
- Summer event:
  - Mid-July target
  - Venue (Wabasha Caves) pending response
- Fall Event
  - Focus on student/young professional engagement
- Plan to announce upcoming events at conference

### Membership – Nick Evans

- No updates
- Plans to coordinate post-conference membership strategy especially student engagement

### Newsletter – Via Michael

- March newsletter complete but delayed due to technical issue

## **5. Fall Conference Planning**

### Timing

- Tentative dates: Nov. 17-19

### Venue

- Arboretum is under consideration (pending further discussion)

### **Theme selection process**

- Members will vote during conference

- Top 3 proposed themes
  - Intersection of groundwater pumping and water quality
  - Groundwater-surface water interactions
  - “Wicked problems” in groundwater
- Board approved to proceed with these options

## **6. Spring Conference Planning**

- 226 registrants to date
- Projected attendance – 240

### **Logistics**

- 12 poster presenters expected
  - Located in main conference room
  - Set up prior to start; flexibility allowed

### **Speakers**

- Presentations due prior to the event
- One virtual presentation planned
- Combined presentations format likely

### **Catering**

- Lunch selection: Baja buffet, snacks and breakfast approved

### **Volunteers**

- Needed primarily 6:30-8am
- Registration (1–2 people)
- Table setup (4–5 people)
- Poster assistance

### **Sponsors**

- 6 companies confirmed (Barr, Traut, AECOM, Landmark, SGS, DARCY)

### **Speaker gifts**

- All speakers can receive a MGWA merchandise item

### **Program and Agenda**

- Emphasis on technical content over business
- Business items limited to:

- Committee updates (Michael)
- Scholarship announcement
- Brief board intro

## Highlights

- Lightning talks
- Poster session during extended break
- Student scholarship tied to poster presentation
- Fall conference theme vote – results announced after lunch

## 6. Student Engagement Initiative

- Plans to organize structured networking during lunch
- Students seated first
- Further coordination ongoing (Nick and Amanda)

## 7. Membership

- Membership trends:
  - +35 professional members since last month
  - 95 current professional members (311 prior year total)
  - 35 retired members (already matching prior year total)
  - 0 student members (identified as an issue to address)
  - 4 sustaining members
- Plan to increase membership through targeted outreach and conference engagement

## 8. Investment Strategy (CDs)

- Board approved moving reserve funds into CDs:

### Motion:

- Invest \$40,000 into a 6-month CD at ~3.75%
- Invest an additional \$40,000 in a second CD in 3 months
- Moved by: Nick Budde
- Seconded by: Michael Ginsbach
- **Result:** Motion carried unanimously

## 9. Bylaws Update

- Board reviewed revised bylaws incorporating prior feedback
- Key updates:
  - Standardization of “groundwater” usage (one word except legal name)
  - Removal of placeholder section referencing MGWA Foundation

- Clarification of Executive Director liaison role

**Motion:** Approve bylaws with noted revisions

- Moved by: Kayla Nelson
- Seconded by: Nick Budde / Nick Evans
- **Result:** Motion carried unanimously
- Final version to be prepared and published

## **10. Code of Conduct**

- Discussion deferred due to time constraints
- To be revisited at next meeting

## **11. Board Updates and Announcements**

- **Kayla Nelson**
  - Requested board members submit photos and responses for “Meet the Board” feature
- **Sharon Kroening**
  - March newsletter in progress
  - Will include conference information once agenda is finalized
- **Michael Ginsbach**
  - No update on white paper (group has not yet convened)
- **General**
  - Goal to finalize and announce summer event at Spring Conference

## **11. Adjournment**

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

### **To Do:**

Amanda Yourd & Nick Evans

- Finalize networking format and logistics:
  - Student seating distribution plan
  - Icebreaker question sheet
  - Communication plan to attendees
- Improve survey participation strategy
  - Table based QR codes
  - Optional incentives (drink tickets)

#### Everyone

- Submit theme ideas
- Look at proposed Code of Conduct to be voted on in April meeting
- Submit "Meet the Board" info to Kayla by April.
- Identify and finalize summer event to be announced at conference

#### Jared

- Include voting + results announcement in conference agenda
- Provide President's letter to Sherri for newsletter

#### Sharon

- Finalize and send March newsletter

#### Kayla

- Collect "Meet the Board" info