

WGWA Board Meeting Minutes - Draft
Wednesday March 8, 2008
Moreland Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel - Brookfield

Persons present: Troy Gawronski, Troy Thompson, Mike Raimonde, Lee Trotta, Paula Richardson, Mary Anderson (University of Madison), Cheryl Buchwald (USGS-Middleton office)

- I. Call to order 11:40 am.
- II. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the March 5, 2008 board meeting were not available for review.
- III. Treasurers Report – Not reviewed
- IV. Membership Report – Not Reviewed.
- V. Old Business – None to review.
- VI. New Business

2008 WGWA Conference Evaluation – All meeting attendees each took their turn in explaining what went well and what didn't go so well for the 2008 conference. Mary Anderson interjected "This conference was great and it was a shame that more of the AWRA folks didn't stay." She also stated that colleagues of hers mentioned that it is a groundwater remediation conference not a policy or research conference. She said that by attending this conference she will be able to say that the conference is more than remediation techniques. The group discussed trying to integrate AWRA and WGWA conferences better. It was suggested by Mary Anderson to contact the new AWRA president, Dave Hart, to attempt to do a better job of integration.

The group further discussed poor attendance and hypothesized it may be due to individuals are not able to commit three days in a row for the conference (personal life and work conflicts). Paula makes a suggestion that maybe the conference should be moved to the fall. Mary says this will not work for students and academia professionals as the fall is too busy and students are just beginning their projects. The students would have nothing to present for a fall conference. Jim Drought says he believes conference themes are more of a driver for attendance. Mike Raimonde states that maybe it would be possible to jointly hold the conference with AWRA as a third session. Suggestions were made to have a separate undergraduate session to possibly get more student involvement. A key may be to build bonds between the two groups.

Lee Trotta offers up an idea of bringing in the Darcy Lecturer from NGWA as a possible attractor to the WGWA conference. Jim Drought says that the Darcy Lecturer normally is available at different times of the year throughout the state. It may or may not attract additional individuals for that reason.

Paula and Jim both concur that the student career session was beneficial. Many students attended the career session to ask professionals questions about their jobs and careers. It was discussed that it would be beneficial to get presenters at the conference to stick around for one on one questions during the break periods. Many of the speakers had to leave after their presentations for other engagements.

Action Items: WGWA need to speak with Dave Hart to attempt to get integration of the two groups rolling. The board is to draft a couple options to better integrate with AWRA. A committee group needs to be formed to begin planning for next year's conference in Stevens Point. It was mentioned that to make the integration work, we must not interrupt the AWRA model. We need to enhance the model.

Paula also mentioned that in order to keep costs for the conference down it would have been nice to know who planned on eating and who didn't. Several meals were not eaten as well as over order on the breakfast food for Saturday. Many people did not stay for the second day of the conference. A possible way to better numbers for food would be to add a check box whether or not the individual plans on staying for dinner/second day.

2008 Fall Field Trip – It was recommended that the fall field trip only be one day this year. Paula suggests having the trip in southeast Wisconsin. Most of the active membership is from this region and may make for a better turnout. The trip needs to have more marketing associated with it this year and less planning. It is important to get academics, as well as regulators, involved with the groundwater professionals. Paula offers to lead a planning committee. Troy Thompson, Mike Raimonde, and Lee Trotta offer to help plan and market.

NGWA Membership Trends Presentation – Lee Trotta gave a brief presentation to the WGWA board on a seminar which he attended at the NGWA conference. The presentation pointed out trends of members of organizations and tips on how to get more members involved in the organization.

Formations of Task Forces – Lee brought up several areas that he feels committees or task forces need to be organized. The committees that need to be formed are: fall field trip planning, improving web site communication technology, and possibly a task force on Great Lakes Issues. An action item would be to prepare a WGWA note and distribute to current members to attempt to get membership involved in these committees.

14:05 Meeting adjourned