

WGWA Board Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday May 5, 2008

Attendees: Corey Pagels, Mike Raimonde, Katherine Grote, Joan Viney, Jim Drought, Paula Richardson, Lee Trotta

Call to order 12:00 Noon

Minutes from last meeting – March 8 – were approved.

Treasurer's report and Membership report were skipped in the absence of Treasurer.

Newsletter report was given by Joan Viney in Editor's absence. Nothing has been submitted yet and usual release date is May 15th. Lee and Joan will track progress.

Old Business

- Report from Mike Raimonde on Election of officers
- ❖ Mike will send a draft note this week for President's approval which then will be released as a WGWA Note. The Note will outline the ratification process and give 2 weeks for membership response.
 - Report from Paula on Field Trip Planning
- ❖ The date (Sept. 20) has been selected and 1 field stop leader is onboard (Prof. Bill Kean-UWM).
- ❖ The next planning meeting is May 15 and a drive-by of potential field stops is scheduled for May 17, beginning at Lee Trotta's house sometime in the morning.
- ❖ Several field trip tasks may be contracted out to a professional event planner, including online registration and solicitation of sponsors. Joan will detail costs of handling online registration in-house. Quotes from the professional planner are in progress.
 - Report from Paula on 2009 Conference Planning
- ❖ The date (March 5, 2009) and venue (Country Springs Hotel in Stevens Point) have been selected and it will be a one-day event beginning the morning of the AWRA Conference.
- ❖ The next planning meeting is May 12 and the conference theme will be selected then.
- ❖ Several field trip tasks may be contracted out to a professional event planner, including online registration and solicitation of speakers and sponsors.
- ❖ The history and justification for joint planning with the AWRA Conference was discussed. Jim Drought saw value in continuing the career counseling session held last year, but did not want the WGWA identity to be lost. Lee pointed out that student availability for career counseling was dependent on AWRA. Kathy Grote agreed that we should continue our applied talks and suggested we target undergrads rather than grad students (the traditional AWRA staple). We have committed to trying to make the WGWA/AWRA marriage work for the 2009 conference, but we won't be locked into that approach if it fails.

New Business

- Report from Great Lakes Task Force on "Healthy Lakes-Healthy Lives Tour"

- ❖ Task Force consists of Dave Jurcek, Joe Piatt, Bernd Rehm, Troy Thompson, and Lee Trotta.
- ❖ The consensus of the Task Force was to support this effort with an informational email to the WGWA membership that includes an opportunity for sponsorship. The Board saw no objections to this level of support.
 - Report from Communications Task Force on planned improvements
- ❖ Several improvements are already underway and others will depend on the price of contracting out to a professional events planner. Those underway include
 - A “Publications” page on our website on which the Field Trip Guidebooks will be placed. Right now the 2008 guidebook is available to Board members with password access and field trip registrants will be notified. The need for a password was questioned as the guidebook access would make good advertising to non-members. It was decided that if the field stop leaders would give their permission (Paula will contact them), the guidebook could be made available to all.
 - A blog in which questions from members can be answered. Responsibility for answering is yet to be determined in addition to possible linkage to “Ask A Geologist”.
 - Feasibility of becoming Wisconsin HQ for Groundwater Guardian
- ❖ The GG Program has a very similar mission to WGWA and is currently without a central office in Wisconsin. Becoming Wis. HQ for GG would entail establishment of a phone number for GG questions & coordination (probably the President’s), occasional travel to a meeting, and formation of a Committee to plan the next Wisconsin Groundwater Festival. It’s a big commitment and should not be undertaken without full consideration. Action was postponed until next meeting.
 - Feasibility of supporting WaterStar by providing a meeting room for them nr Milwaukee.
- ❖ The program allocates limited DNR funds to local water-quality efforts and needs a meeting place near Milwaukee in order to expand the effort from Madison-area communities. The number of WaterStar attendees is likely to be 20 or less, but is not yet determined. As few in attendance at today’s meeting actually have Milwaukee-area offices, a direct request will be made to Becky Caudill.
 - Other ideas
- ❖ A replacement is necessary for Ken Wade’s position on the WGWA Board. A few names were suggested and Board members are to email other suggestions to Lee over the next week. Then a consensus on who to invite will be reached among Board members via email.
- ❖ Jim Drought was able to attend the Groundwater Summit held by NGWA in Tennessee. He was very impressed with the Darcy Lecturer (Michael Scalia) and his presentation on Carbon Storage. See the NGWA website for the related PowerPoint. Jim was willing to write a summary of presentations at the Summit for our newsletter. He recommends we attempt to book the Darcy Lecturer as a speaker at our 2009 Conference.

The next meeting date (probably in August) will be determined later via email.
Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.