

Board Minutes (Final Approved)

Board Meeting of the Geological Society of Minnesota, August 19, 2021

- A. **Opening and Welcome:** The meeting was held by Zoom videoconference at 7:00 p.m.
1. Minutes for the May 2021 Board meeting were previously approved by email and posted to the GSM website. FYI: Board members have 10 days to review the preliminary minutes after the Secretary sends them out. Please do so by the date set by the Secretary.
 2. Review and agreed on the agenda for August 19, 2021.
 3. Future Board Meetings:
 - i. Date tentatively set for Nov 11, 2021. In absence of a quorum; will require confirmation which would be accomplished once the minutes have been formally approved by the Board.
 4. Board Status – Info only
 - i. Current Board membership.

1. Pete Hesse	2021-2024
2. Nancy Jannik	2021-2024
3. Patrick Pfundstein	2020-2023
4. John Westgaard	2020-2023
5. Wolf Bielefeld	2019-2022
6. Roxy (Knuttila) Janezich	2019-2022
7. Frank Janezich	2019-2022
8. Joe Newberg*	2018-2021
9. Dave Kelso*	2018-2021
 - ii. Current Officers.
 1. President – Joe Newberg*
 2. Vice President – Patrick Pfundstein
 3. Treasurer – Dave Kelso*
 4. Secretary – Dave Kelso*
 - iii. Board membership for 2021.
 1. First term for Pete and Nancy end December 31, 2022. FYI: Board members serve for one two-year term and are eligible for reelection to one more term.
 2. Nancy, Peter, Patrick, and John are eligible for reelection to one more term.
 3. ***Due to term limits, Joe and Dave K are leaving the Board on December 31, 2021, opening two seats and three officer positions. (Discuss as agenda item-see below)**
 5. Board members present: Joe Newberg, Roxy Knuttila Janezich, Frank Janezich, Patrick Pfundstein. Patrick and Joe compiled minutes in absence of the Secretary. Quorum was not met, though no votes were taken other than to adjourn.
 6. Non-Board members present: Alan Smith, Randy Strobel, Joanie Furlong, Steve Erickson
- B. **Agenda Items for review and/or consideration by the Board:**
1. Treasurer updates – Dave K/Deborah
 - i. Financial reports were submitted to the distribution list prior to the Board Meeting and have been uploaded to the website. Financial reports do not need Board approval.
 - ii. GSM review of finances.
 1. There were no questions concerning the financial reports.

2. GSM Website – Alan
 - i. Joanie Furlong is the backup webmaster when Alan is unavailable.
 - ii. Work on documentation for website management is ongoing.
 - iii. Dave W agreed to continue updating the website for announcements, field trips etc.
 - iv. A list of GSM Presidents has been added to the website.
 - v. Brief discussion of listing Rock Hammer award winners on the website, and there was at least one person concerned about privacy issues, so this won't be done until the award winners can be polled on this (and those objecting not being listed).
3. Nominations for new Board Members-Joe N
 - i. There was discussion taken concerning possible board candidates including that one or more might need to be considered for one or more of the pending officer vacancies. Suggested candidates should be submitted to Joe Newberg.
4. Lectures and Labs – Steve E/Dave W
 - i. No lectures since the last board meeting, so no attendance data to report. Although post meeting, Patrick checked in on YouTube, and found 207 Views listed for the last 4 weeks, with 54.4 hours of viewing, and 5 new subscribers. The most popular online lecture is by far the Geology of Iowa with over 300 views 152 of those being in the last 4-week period. **Patrick also noticed he hasn't made two lectures public and will fix that shortly (and have the Liaison Officer let members know when they are available).**
 - ii. All fall lectures except the Fall Banquet will be via online Zoom webinars; the schedule is online. Some discussion on the spring schedule was held, and Steve will need to know before we can finalize the spring schedule. Conditions, though, are still fluid; the U now mandates vaccination and masking for staff/students, and that may be tough for us to regulate and enforce. If those standards are still in place come spring, a full remote schedule is likely other than a Spring Banquet. The Fall Banquet meeting/lecture will for sure be available online. **Note: if the Fall Banquet is not partially live, Greg Brick will not be giving the talk.** Absent a quorum, and with conditions for in-person meetings still in flux, a decision was made to postpone the decision on having an in-person component at U Garden until Labor Day. At that point (unless the full board decides otherwise) the plan is that the board will vote remotely over three days to hold either a hybrid Zoom/U Garden meeting or go remote only via Zoom. Randy Strobel wasn't concerned about the technical side of a hybrid meeting and demonstrated a Zoom poll feature that will make it simple for remote members to vote for board seat candidates. **Note 2: Dave Wilhelm reported U Garden is game to host us, but it requires them to open special hours which (Patrick addition) may not be possible to guarantee. That should be considered when the board votes remotely.**
 - iii. There was brief discussion, but no decision concerning archive formats for lectures. Currently, the ones with distribution permissions are on YouTube, and can be downloaded for digital storage, or potential DVD disc formatting.
 - iv. Patrick has been posting the recorded Zoom lectures on our GSM You Tube channel.
 1. Patrick is currently the admin of the You Tube page and Randy is a co-manager.
 - v. Dave K continues to copy recorded "live" lectures to DVD for preservation in our Video Library. This needs further discussion as the Board previously indicated that "live" lectures should not be copied to DVD but copied to MP4 for distribution on YouTube.
5. Membership – Joanie

- i. Membership Chair Joanie Furlong reports 180 members with 129 memberships due for renewal in September. Emails to be sent to remind members of dues.
 - ii. Committee will assess the possibility of adding membership payment through the website (so far Joanie, Joe Newberg, Patrick Pfundstein).
 - iii. The printed membership directories have been mailed.
- 6. Newsletter – Kate/Mark
 - i. Kate Clover, Mark Ryan, Harvey Thorleifson (MGS), and Rich Lively (MGS) continue as Newsletter editors.
 - ii. Latest Newsletter is finished and includes a membership renewal note.
 - iii. Our policy is to post a Newsletter to the website when the next Newsletter is released.
- 7. State Fair – Patrick
 - i. Patrick is the State Fair Committee Chair.
 - ii. Patrick submitted a report detailing GSM’s withdrawal from the State Fair. Patrick also added this post-meeting note; the Star Tribune (Sat 8/21) had a front page article on other organizations not participating at the Fair, and it is extensive; withdrawals came on top of an already reduced exhibitor list. This again bodes well for GSM getting back into the Fair next year.
 - 1. Please see “State Fair Report” attached to these minutes.
- 8. Admin – Joe N
- 9. Conferences and Resources – Dave W
 - i. Live geology conferences have been cancelled indefinitely due to Covid-19. Dave W, as the Liaison Officer, will continue to inform the GSM membership of online conferences and resources as they become available.
 - ii. Patrick mentioned the upcoming MN Mineral Club Meeting on Sept 25 and 26th; a recruitment effort will be done post-Fair, via email and the Fall Meeting if needed.
- 10. Field Trips – Dave W
 - i. Field Trip planning is currently on hold but will be re-assessed this fall.
 - ii. There was also a brief, and positive, discussion of a suggestion by Kate Clover to have an outdoor picnic in case the Banquet doesn’t happen.
- 11. Zoom Social Gatherings – Randy/Dave W
 - i. **Dave W continues to host Zoom Social Gatherings on Monday nights for interested GSM members through the summer months. Dave W will continue notifying members of these gatherings.**
- 12. Video Library – Dave W
 - i. No rental activity due to suspension of in-person lectures.
- 13. GSM Marker Survey project – Becky
 - i. No updates.
- 14. Minnehaha marker replacement status – Kate/Patrick/Dick
 - i. Report attached. Status is unchanged; GSM is essentially done on its side, and the piece awaits Park Board design to brand standard. Our Parks contact (as is most of the staff) is still working remotely, and hasn’t answered recent voicemails, texts, and emails. Contextually this probably indicates, at the least, that the marker will not be installed before spring (once designed, there is a 6 to 8-week manufacture/shipping process) with the Park Board doing the installation).
 - 1. Please see “Minnehaha Marker Update” attached to these minutes.
- 15. GSM Scholarships and grants – Dave W

- i. Nothing to report.
- 16. GSM Rock Hammer awards – Theresa
 - i. No action on choosing new recipients.
 - ii. As noted under website, posting of recipient names on the website is currently on hold to insure there are no privacy concerns unaddressed.
- 17. Ask GSM activity – Theresa
 - i. No updates.
- 18. GSM Student Outreach – Joel
 - i. No updates.
 - ii. Dave K reported that the money from Tom Schoenecker for outreach are reserved for this purpose once student outreach visits resume.
- 19. GSM Operations Guide – Patrick
 - i. The outstanding section feedback came back with no needed changes to the Guide, so May’s revision can stand as the full 2021 edition.
- 20. Geological material contributions – Dave W
 - i. Dave W will continue storing rock box materials in his garage indefinitely.
 - ii. Dave Wilhelm did an inventory of Judy Hamilton donated materials including two binders of field trip information (1989-2003), two binders of newsletters ('84-'13), a binder of State Fair information '97-'11, and GSM Directories '90 to '13.
 - 1. Please see “Judy Hamilton Inventory” attached to these minutes.
- 21. New topics – TBD
 - i. Steve Erickson said there was interest from some other organizations like ours (including the Idaho Geological Society) of running a joint YouTube page, thereby extending each of our audiences. Patrick will look into the possibilities/capabilities of YouTube in this regard.
- 22. Goals
 - i. Install new big-picture marker at Minnehaha Falls during 2021.
 - ii. Develop a plan and prioritize marker installation/repair for Minnesota’s geological markers based on the recent marker survey.
 - iii. Continue developing a GSM marker database and survey the markers in 2021.
 - iv. Develop video recording crew and optimize the equipment and processes; have first video recording of a lecture available to members in 2021. Note: for online lectures, recording is done via Zoom and videos made available through Zoom for those presenters who consent.
 - v. Begin posting Zoom lectures to YouTube (Spring '21) Patrick/Randy (**Done**)
- 23. Adjournment: Roxy moved, and Frank seconded adjournment, which passed unanimously

C. Attachments

- A. State Fair Report
- B. Minnehaha Marker Update
- C. Judy Hamilton Inventory

Attachment A
State Fair Report
Submitted by Patrick Pfundstein

State Fair Report
August 19, 2021

Nothing new and breaking here, but for posterity...

Recruitment for the GSM State Fair Booth started slightly (mid May) as the State Fair itself went through a process of decision, then confirmed that positive decision with public statements, and the opening of its Exhibitor website.

GSM confirmed its registration, and paid the first half of the fee (\$532.50), and contacted our insurer to arrange for required coverage (\$82) and certificate. I also reached out to membership remotely (since the lecture season was over, and done completely via Zoom) through an email forwarded by Liaison Officer Dave Wilhelm.

Original response was very good, but things plateaued with about 1/3 of the 72 slots filled (not including myself, and I was able to add several weekend shifts). A second appeal went out with no response, but also at the exact time of the Delta variant of COVID-19 was in the news for its ability to break through (rarely) vaccination protection, but also spread through vaccinated folks.

Given that terrible news, I consulted with President Newberg about setting a deadline for responses, then turning to the board for a vote to withdraw in the absence of new volunteers. We did get an offer for three more shifts, but also a response from concerned members already scheduled, and in a couple cases some understandable retractions.

A motion to withdraw was put to the board, and passed with no dissents, and I contacted Pam Simon of the State Fair staff to formalize the withdrawal. Pam and I arranged to talk in October about getting GSM on the list for next year. Pam also let me know GSM was not alone; that state agencies in the Ed Bldg were also stepping back due to instructions of their HR departments, and I later received an inadvertent update from the Fair that the usual penalties for understaffing were going to be overlooked. (That wouldn't have done GSM any good, since the contents of the booth require staffing, but it was an indicator that others were having the same problems GSM faced.)

Personal side note: I did offer my time to Pam as a way to keep GSM in good graces, and quickly got routed to a recruiter who wanted to talk to me about a supervisor job in the Eco building. I had to turn her down since I couldn't work weekdays (if I could have, I probably would have just camped at the GSM booth as needed). I did sign up as a volunteer for the State Fair Foundation, though, so if you see me in a green shirt... Run! Or I'll try to sell you a coupon book.

Apologies to Dave Kelso; I wrote the two checks above on my personal account, and haven't sent the details for reimbursement yet, so they won't show in the register until the next board meeting.

Patrick Pfundstein
GSM VP/State Fair Chair

Attachment B
Minnehaha Marker Update
Submitted by Patrick Pfundstein

Minnehaha Marker Report (Prelim?) August 18, 2021

The Prelim? part is that I still hope (on Thursday) to talk to MaryLynn Pulscher from the Park Board, but she has been an elusive contact recently.

An email from a few weeks ago is unanswered, and I found out the other day she is working from home, which may have something to do with the disconnect. A Parks staffer (the only one in the building from the sound of it) gave me MaryLynn's home/Park cell, and after an unanswered text, I went to voicemail today letting her know I'd really like to talk before tomorrow night's (Thursday's) meeting.

Status as I know it: The GSM part is essentially done. The Park's designer has to finalize the parts into a design (mostly tweaks since we stuck to their original design, just finalized parts and text). Files are available to the Park through Dropshare, and part of my messaging to MaryLynn is that I can quickly export the vector art file used to create the Park map to the print size/resolution and/or tweak colors to brand spec in just a few minutes if I can find out from the designer, what the final specs for the file work best. (One of the advantages of vector art is that it is math-based, not pixel based, so you can blow it up to the size of a stadium without the loss of resolution. However if the designer just wants "drop-in" files, the file probably needs to be a TIFF file of specific size.)

When I talked to MaryLynn in January, the Park Board was in the depths of pandemic planning with budget cuts all over and staff dispersed. I waited until July to reach out again to let Federal and State budget processes play out (and MN went all the way to July). Presumably the city and Parks are much better able to know their budgets now, and know whether design work is in the cards.

To speed the process, I renewed my offer (in messages) to do some of the design jostling, but I'd need details (fonts, sizes, PMS codes or whatever other color system they use, and precise measurements); I have a bit of experience on those lines, and I know an expert. It certainly couldn't be final (I've been through this at MNHS; their design people have final brand approval), but it could potentially save time/expense on the Park side.

If I don't hear back from MaryLynn during the day tomorrow, this report can stand; project on hold awaiting Park designer.

Patrick Pfundstein

Attachment C
Judy Hamilton Inventory
Submitted by David Wilhelm

Inventory of Judy Hamilton materials

1. Two loose-leaf binders of very detailed field trip information from 1989 through 2003. Could be a good resource for ideas for future field trips. This is old enough that we probably would not add to the website, but I can look at having it added to our electronic archive. Thoughts?
2. Two loose-leaf binders of GSM Newsletters from 1984 to 2013. At first glance, it appears that all of these are already in the electronic archive that Harvey send with each Newsletter. However, I need to do detailed analysis to see if the archive has any holes that Judy's copies can fill.
3. One loose leaf binder on GSM at the State Fair, from 1997 to 2011, with varying levels of details. I could give this to Patrick when I get a chance, and/or it could be added to the GSM electronic archive. Thoughts?
4. GSM directories from 1990 to 2013.