

Geological Society of Minnesota Board Meeting Minutes Feb 5, 2024.

Prepared by Stephen Willging

Approved via email - 2/23/2024

Meeting: Monday 02/05/2024, 6:30pm

Location: Room 3-210, U of Minnesota Keller Hall, 200 Union St. SE, Minneapolis MN

Board Members present

Dave Wilhelm

Lowell Hill

Kate Clover

Stephen Willging

Roger Benepe

Deborah Naffziger

Pete Hesse

Dave Kelso (joined late via Zoom)

Dick Bottenberg (absent)

Non-Board Members present

Steve Erickson

Alan Smith

Patrick Pfundstein

Agenda Topics:

1. Treasurer's report – Dave Kelso

- a. The financial summary submitted by Dave Kelso before the meeting (see Attachment 1) was reviewed.
- b. It was proposed that some funds be moved from the checking account into the Investment account. **Deb Naffziger made a motion that the Treasurer transfer \$5,000 from the checking account to the Investment account. Roger Benepe seconded the motion. The Board vote was all in favor, none opposed. The motion was approved.** Dave Kelso will work with the President and/or Vice President to implement the funds transfer.

2. Lectures & Labs – Steve Erickson.

- a. Steve Erickson reported the Winter/Spring 2024 lectures are set. The next 3 lectures will be Zoom calls and there is a lab at Macalester scheduled for Saturday Feb 17th.
- b. See attendance report (Attachment 2) e-mailed by Dave W 1/29/24.
- c. Deborah Naffziger suggested the April 8th, 2024 lecture be moved one week before or after due to upcoming solar eclipse as several GSM members will be absent to view the eclipse. Steve Erickson will contact the speaker to see if that lecture can be moved up or back one week.
- d. Steve Erickson suggested that the honorarium for Jeff Thole be increased above the usual amount because of his extra effort pulling together the Macalester labs. **Deborah Naffziger made a motion that the honorarium for Jeff Thole be \$300. Pete Hesse seconded the motion. The Board vote was all in favor, none opposed. The motion was approved.**
- e. Steve Erickson reviewed a proposed lecture schedule for the 2024/2025 lecture series (Attachment 3). The Fall 2024 dates are locked in place. Two potential list of dates were presented for Winter/Spring 2025. The Proposal 1 dates were preferred by the Board.

3. Video/Zoom recordings – Dick Bottenberg
 - a. See summary report sent by Lowell Hill (Attachment 4). The Board gave the ok to purchase the SD card (Item 3 in Attachment 4) without a Board motion because the of the low dollar amount.
 - b. Zoom recordings are being uploaded to U Tube. Patrick Pfundstein makes edits and makes the recording live in U Tube. Joe Wright has been working with Patrick to upload video recordings to U Tube.

4. Membership – Joanie Furlong

See Joanie Furlong’s summary report (Attachment 5).

5. Name tags – Dave Wilhelm (Lowell Hill, Stephen Willging and Roger Benepe each still need a name tag. Anyone else?)

No one else needs name tags. Dave will order name tags for those listed above.

6. Possible GSM donation to [ILSG Student Travel Fund](#) (We have contributed to this for the past 6 years or so. In 2023, our contribution was \$300.)

Deborah Naffziger made a motion the GSM donate \$400 to the ILSG Student Travel Fund. Kate Clover seconded the motion. The Board vote was all in favor, none opposed. The motion was approved.

7. State Fair and other venues to promote GSM – Patrick Pfundstein
 - a. Patrick Pfundstein reported there was only 199 days to the opening of the State fair. See Patrick Pfundstein’s summary report in Attachment 6 paragraph 1. Estimated GSM expenses for the Fair will be about \$2,500 (\$1,100 for license and up to \$1,500 other miscellaneous expenses).
 - b. One issue is we need more people on the State Fair Team. Currently it consists of Patrick only. Pete Hesse volunteered to be on the team.
 - c. Roger volunteered his trailer for the State Fair set up and tear down.
 - d. Request for State Fair volunteers will be done in person at lectures later in the Spring.

Other venues:

- a. Dave Wilhelm and Randy Strobel recently attended the MESTA. See Attachment 7 for a summary report.
 - b. Patrick Pfundstein, Kate Clover and Mary Helen Inskeep will represent GSM at the Mill City Museum’s STEM Day on Saturday Feb 24th from 10a – 2p.
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8. Minnehaha Marker – Patrick Pfundstein

See Patrick Pfundstein’s update in Attachment 6 paragraph 2. Kate Clover will try to get the current drawings from the Parks and Recreation department in the next couple of weeks.

9. Video Library – Dave Wilhelm

- a. See David Wilhelm's summary in Attachment 7. Note: The dollars amount noted from video rentals in Attachment 7 should be changed from \$27 to \$31 as David Wilhelm received an additional \$4 for rentals at the Board meeting.
- b. Concern was expressed that the video technology maybe getting old and out of date.
- c. Patrick volunteered to make cases for the recent National Parks videos.

10. GSM T-shirts & caps – Joe Newberg

- a. See Joe Newberg's summary on the GSM T-shirts and caps initiative in Attachment 8.
- b. The Board agreed there will be no change in the GSM Logo (see Agenda item 12) so the existing logo can be used on the shirts and caps.
- c. Joe still needs to verify the women sizes available.
- d. Orders will be taken at the next in-person lecture (March 23rd). Email orders can also be submitted to Joe. Shirts and caps will be handed out at the in-person lectures and/or the Spring Banquet.

11. GSM Website – Alan Smith

Alan Smith conducted a demonstration of the new GSM website that is under development for Board input. Initial Board comments follow:

- a. On the Field trip webpage, there should a place to add field trip difficulty and limitation messages.
- b. Alan needs to provide a cost estimate for ongoing fees and transaction costs for the new GSM membership sign up system and how they compare to the current website costs.
- c. Alan needs to write up website operating and maintenance instructions.
- d. We need a backup website manager
- e. Several Board members thought SMS text capability for notifications would be good in addition to email notifications. The Board needs to know the costs associated with SMS texts.

The Board decided we should proceed by:

- a. Alan should provide the Board access to the new system for testing in the next 3 weeks.
- b. The Board will provide Alan with feedback by email.
- c. Based on what is found, the Board may approve the use of the new website at a future Board meeting.
- d. Estimated timeline final for approval is by the end of 2024.

12. GSM logo modification – All

Several Board members were strongly opposed to GSM Logo changes. It was agreed that there will be no changes to the logo in the foreseeable future.

13. Aiming for a younger and more diverse membership – Mary Helen Inskeep (See Nov 2023 minutes for ideas discussed at previous meeting.)

- a. Mary Helen was not in attendance. She can give her input at the next Board meeting.
- b. Potential activities from the last Board meetings were reviewed.
 - A possible walking tour of Saint Paul by Roger Benepe and Steve Erickson could be announced at the State Fair but sign-up list should limit the number of tour attendees.

14. Date & location of next Board meeting

Tentative date of next Board meeting is Thursday May 23. Location to be determined. U Gardens is a possibility. Stephen Willging will look into the feasibility of using a meeting room at the Hennepin County Saint Anthony Library.

Note: Updates on some of the action items from the Feb 5, 2024 Board meeting became available while the meeting minutes were being assembled. They can be found in Attachment 9.

Attachment 1:

Treasurer's Report
GSM Board Meeting
Feb 5, 2024

1. Checkbook balanced for the months of Nov. Dec. 2023 and Jan 2024.
2. Income, deposits, for the three months = \$1375.00.
3. Expenses for the three months:
 - a. Lecture honorariums = \$375.
 - b. Video recording/editing = \$301.06.
 - c. PO Box rent = \$194.00.
 - d. Extra Space Storage rent = \$429.15 (\$143.05/mo.).
 - e. Newsletter postage = \$26.10.
 - f. Newsletter printing = \$42.76.
 - g. Total expenses for the three months = \$1,368.07
4. Checking account balance as of Jan 31, 2024, = \$17,556.98.
5. Investment account balance (RBC Wealth Management) as of Jan 31, 2024, = \$5,985.69.
6. MN tax exempt annual renewal has been submitted to the Secretary of State.
7. IRS form 990N, post card, has been completed and submitted to the IRS.
8. Financial spreadsheets, and this report, will be uploaded to the GSM website at the conclusion of the Board meeting.

Submitted by Dave Kelso
GSM Treasurer

Attachment 2:

GSM Lecture/Lab Attendance

2023-2024

Summary for 2023/2024 YTD: 7 lectures, 396 total attendance, 57 average attendance, 12 identified new attendees

2024-01-29 65 Sediment Records of Extreme Earthquakes (*4 new attendees – State Fair; word of mouth; recent U of MN geology grad*)

Summary for Fall 2023: 6 lectures, 331 total attendance, 55 average attendance, 12 identified new attendees

2023-12-11 54 devices (60 persons) ONLINE T. rex, Triceratops, and MOR: The Dynamic Dinosaurs of Museum of the Rockies (*3 non-members identified, from MN*)

2023-11-13 57 Deciphering the Details of Dinosaur Worlds: Insights From 35 Years in the Cretaceous Rocks of Montana (*3 new attendees – website, invited by friends/relatives*)

2023-10-30 64 The Great Lisbon Earthquake in 18th-Century Philosophy and Seismology (*4 new attendees – State Fair; invited by friends*)

2023-10-16 45 Urban Micrometeorites and Everything You Need to Know about Them (*2 new attendees – invited by friends*)

2023-10-02 41 Making magmas: Experimental insights on magma depth and temperature beneath (*did not poll for new attendees*)

2023-09-18 70 Fall Banquet - The Deep Caves of Minneapolis and the Shock of the Anthropocene (*did not poll for new attendees*)

Attachment 3:

Proposed 2024/2025 Lecture dates

Fall 2024:

September 16 (Fall banquet)

September 30

October 14

October 28

November 11

November 25

December 9

Winter/Spring 2025 (Spring Break March 10 – 18)

MLK Holiday 20 January, school starts Tuesday 21 January

Proposal 1:

January 27

February 10

-----Macalister Lab mid-February-----

February 24

March 10 (Zoom)

March 24

April 7

April 21

May 5

Proposal 2:

February 3

February 17

March 3

March 17 (Zoom)

March 31

April 14

April 28

May 12

Attachment 4:

Lowell Hill

From: lthill6@msn.com

To: David Wilhelm, Roger Benepe, Kate Clover, Peter Hesse, Deborah Naffziger

Cc: Patrick Pfundstein, Mary Helen Inskeep, Steve Erickson, Alan Smith, Randy S. Strobel

Mon, Feb 5 at 10:37 AM

Hi all,

Attached is information for agenda item #3 for tonight's meeting - GSM Video/Zoom recordings.

Thanks,

Lowell

GSM Video/Zoom recordings – Dick Bottenberg/Joe Wright/Lowell Hill – Item # 3 on the agenda

1) Lecture recording on 1/29/2024 - Sediment Records of Extreme Earthquakes

This recording had a bumpy start with tripod adjustment and autofocus issues. Once recording started it wasn't feasible to stop recording to make adjustments – had to make do with the situation. As a post-mortem from that lecture:

- a. The “white balance” topic – I researched white balance online, and the consensus seemed to suggest using the automatic white balance, so that's what was used for the lecture.
 - b. The tripod issue was due to some wobble caused by not having the top of the tripod threaded tightly enough to the tripod shaft. Tripod issues should be resolved with a review of the setup prior to recording.
 - c. Autofocus issues – the focus kept changing frequently when panning, or when the speaker was moving around. I noticed that both autofocus and metering were set to using a single point. Online reading suggested using multi-point for both of them for video with subjects moving around, panning, etc. - so I made those setting changes.
 - d. There was still an issue with the lighting contrast between the speaker and the slides – the speaker was clear and the slides a bit washed out. It could be the change to the multi-point autofocus and metering could help remedy this.
 - e. I'll have to get the camera back to Joe W. for his review, feedback, and post processing.
- 2) Going forward – there are several dozen permutations for settings on the cameras these days. Instead of trying different settings and tweaking with each lecture:
- a. We have the lecture hall available/accessible each Monday, correct?
 - b. Maybe we could use the space on a non-lecture Monday or two, and experiment with our own slide presentation. We could have a few different camera settings to experiment with and zero in on what works best.
 - i. Does GSM have some PowerPoint slide presentations available to use for this?
 - ii. Is there any extra equipment needed to do a presentation in the lecture hall (besides a laptop)?
 - iii. I'll have to review this with Joe W to see if this works for his schedule and get his input.
- 3) SD card – we need to purchase a spare. Estimate ~ \$30.

- Lowell Hill

Attachment 5:

Report from Joanie, membership.

173 2024 Directories were printed at a cost of \$307.15 and sent out in January of 2024

GSM has 168 members.

There are also 39 members who have not renewed their membership that were due last September of 2023. Have sent postcards to those members as a reminder.

16 new members in 2023, 3 new members in 2024

2023

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Steve Morgan & Suzanne McKay | January | Online and attended a few meetings |
| Eugene Ollila | January | State Fair |
| Syd Pearson | February | |
| Jon Etl | June | Online Searches |
| Mryon Kasch | June | GSM member |
| Denise Cumming | June | GSM member |
| Mark Plombon | July | Saw U-Tube "Geology of Lake Superior North Shore", MN Rovers |
| Terry Dondlinger | August | From a friend |
| Erika Wilder | August | Internet-searching for a local group interested in geology |
| Zenobia Evans | September | State Fair |
| Susan Grubb | September | Co-worker |
| Kim & Norm Olson | September | State Fair |
| John Bisgaard | October | ? |
| Douglas Carlson | November | State Fair |
| Jungwei Fan | November | My kid is interested in Geology and Paleontology |
| Beth Kivett | November | |

2024

| | | |
|------------------|----------|--|
| Patrick Branigan | January | Gift from Son-in-law as his father-in-law is a fossil hobbyist |
| Wilson Schafer | February | I volunteer at the Science Museum |
| Melinda Edstrom | February | U of M - TC and internet |

Attachment 6:

Patrick Pfundstein

From: patrickpfundstein@mac.com

To: Joan Furlong

Cc: Lowell Hill, Roger C Benepe, Kate Clover, Peter Hesse, Deborah Naffziger

Mon, Feb 5 at 1:30 PM

I will try to make 6:30, but if work runs late, I might just Zoom in tonight.

In lieu of reports, because what I have is static right now...

On the State Fair front, we received our invitation to next year's Fair, I applied for a license, and it was granted under last year's terms. Next steps are billing and the beginning of recruitment for volunteers. If the Board decides (unexpectedly) to not do the Fair this year, we are not on the hook until the bill is due (March/April). Not sure what the early sign-ups would be, but assuming we are in, I will put together a volunteer grid post-meeting for Board review, then Member announcement at a lecture.

Sorry I haven't done anything about the Minnehaha marker; can somebody currently on the board take over as the Mary-Lynn contact, and pick up the proof she printed at the Park Board building? She didn't send an e-version, and frankly, if it is another call-back to the earlier version... well, I've kind of spent my patience on that front, and I'd rather not burn any bridges. I'm happy to facilitate images as needed, and seek out the printing bid, but would be happier with someone else as contact.

Patrick

Attachment 7:

David Wilhelm

From: dewilhelm53@msn.com

To: Lowell Hill, Roger Benepe, Kate Clover, Peter Hesse, Deborah Naffziger

Cc: Patrick Pfundstein, Mary Helen Inskeep, Steve Erickson, Alan Smith, Randy S. Strobel

Mon, Feb 5 at 9:33 AM

First, **I am still looking for someone who could bring a device to the meeting** so that a few people (Dick B, Joe N, Dave K) could join remotely. In hopes that someone will do that, I have prepared the following Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74206687301?pwd=g1pWPajr8ozN5jYmJjuQ2fFmMhOEi.1>

Meeting ID: 742 0668 7301

Passcode: GSM

(The Meeting ID & Passcode should not be necessary to join.)

Dave K & Joanie have already sent their reports to this distribution. I have forwarded a report from Joe re shirts & caps. Thanks!

Re item 7:

- Randy Strobel & Dave Wilhelm attended the Minnesota Earth Science Teachers Association (MESTA) conference on Friday, Feb 2. We distributed around 48 lecture brochures and emphasized that our lectures and field trips are eligible for CEU credits. We supplied 2 rock boxes and 6 sand calendars (thanks, Kate!) as giveaways.
- There has been a request from Carrie Jennings for perhaps 6 rock boxes for Headwaters Science Center in Bemidji. We have the materials to build those; they would supply the plastic boxes. They are also interested in a larger box of samples and fossils; Theresa Tweet is trying to track down where one of those currently exists.

Re item 9:

At the banquet, Video Library had 4 rentals; also 4 rentals tonight. VL has \$27 in the cash box.

Also, I would like to account for who has mailbox keys; I believe Joanie & Roger do. Anyone else?

See you this evening, perhaps at U Garden beforehand. Dave

Attachment 8:

From: joenewberg@gmail.com <joenewberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 8:20 PM
To: 'David Wilhelm' <dewilhelm53@msn.com>
Subject: FW: GSM T shirts and caps

Subject: GSM T shirts and caps

Jan 27, 2024 Message to members.

We are considering selling GSM T Shirts and Baseball Caps again as we did in 2119. The shirts would be available in several colors and sizes and have the same 8 ½ inch logo printed on them. Caps would be available in several colors and have the same 2 ¼ inch logo sewn on in gold. Shirts would cost from \$15-19 depending on the quantity ordered and caps from \$17-25, again depending on quantity. A photo of each is attached. We will discuss this and have samples at next Monday's lecture. Hope to see you there. If you are unable to attend but might be interested in ordering, reply to me (on the CC of this message).

Current Status:

In addition to the items mentioned above, I announced in last Monday's meeting that we could add fleece vests to the program for an individual price in the high \$40's. Based on discussions last Monday, I am going to look into long sleeve T-shirts and women's sizes. I originally thought we could have people order shirts at an in-class meeting in late March from 6:30 to 7 and deliver them at the Spring Banquet.

The possibility of a new GSM logo presents a complication. If we have a new logo, we should probably delay the shirt program until the logo is ready. This would involve re-doing the artwork for the shirts and hats, which has a minor cost attached. Ordering at the Fall Banquet with delivery 3-4 weeks later actually works better than the spring program described in the previous paragraph. So, a delay over the summer would not be a real hindrance.

Board Meeting:

I could log on for part of the meeting Monday evening to discuss and answer questions. Let me know.

Thanks, Joe

Attachment 9:

From Lowell Hill - Feb 19, 2024

Re: addressing video quality of lecture recordings at the U of MN – current status

Joe Wright and I spent some time at our U of MN lecture hall this evening to experiment with various camera and room lighting settings to use with our video recording of lectures. We have a couple of customizations that should greatly improve the quality of the next videos we'll be shooting. We saved both sets on the camera as custom settings, and we'll use our preferred one with the next recording we do.

Also – 1) an extra SD card for the camera has been ordered, and 2) Joe is reviewing the previous lecture recordings on the camera to see what might be “You Tube-able”.

From David Wilhelm – Feb 20, 2024

Some follow-up:

- I have contacted Pete Hollings about where to send the \$400 check for ILSG Student Travel Fund and will be sure that Dave Kelso gets the information.
- I have ordered the name tags for Lowell, Stephen, Roger; I should get them in a week or so.
- I now have the mailbox key that Roger had.
- As I think everyone has seen, Steve Erickson was able to postpone the April 8 lecture to April 15.