

Geological Society of Minnesota Board Meeting Minutes Feb 20, 2025
Prepared by Stephen Willging
Final Approved 3/14/2025 (Vote: 8 approve, 0 opposed, 1 no response)

With 8 Board members present David W. called the meeting to order at 6:30p on 2/20/25.

Location: U Garden Restaurant

Previous minutes 11/14/2024: approved via e-mail and posted on [website](#)

Board Members Present

David Wilhelm
Stephen Willging
Dave Kelso
Dick Bottenberg
Kate Clover
Roger Benepe
Lowell Hill
Dan Japuntich

Board Members Absent

Deborah Naffziger

Non-Board attendees

Alan Smith
Kay Smith
Mary Helen Inskeep
Patrick Pfundstein

Note: **Board motions and votes are bold, underlined and highlighted in yellow.** **Action items are bold and underlined.** Please complete your assigned action items by next meeting or date specified.

Agenda Topics:

1. Treasurer's report – Dave Kelso

See Appendix A for the Treasurer's report. The Merrill Lynch account has been set up but funds have not been moved from RBC account yet. Dave K. is working with Tiffany of Merrill Lynch to transfer funds.

The previous proposal to move the checking account from Huntington Bank to another bank was briefly discussed. For now, we will keep the checking account at Huntington Bank.

Recently, Huntington Bank replaced GSM's debt card. This caused issues for renewing GSM's insurance (The Hartford) and the storage facility rental. These issues have been resolved.

2. Membership – Joanie Furlong

See Appendix B for Membership report.

3. Lectures & Labs – Steve Erickson

David W. provided a lecture attendance report:

Summary to date for 2024-2025: 8 lectures (excludes 12/09 video)
420 total in attendance
53 average per lecture
25 identified new attendees

Steve E. was not able to attend the meeting but asked the Board to review the potential dates for the 2025/2026 lecture series.

For the Fall of 2025, 2 set of dates (all Mondays) were proposed.

| <u>Set 1</u> | <u>Set 2</u> | <u>Dates of importance:</u> |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Sept 8 | Sept 15 | U of M start Tuesday Sept 2, finals Dec 12 |
| Sept 22 | Sept 29 | Yom Kippur Oct 1 – Oct 2 |
| Oct 6 | Oct 13 | “Columbus” Day Oct 13 |
| Oct 20 | Oct 27 | Thanksgiving Nov 27 |
| Nov 3 | Nov 10 | |
| Nov 17 | Nov 24 (possible Zoom lecture) | |
| Dec 1 | Dec 8 | |

For the Winter/Spring 2026, one set of dates were proposed (all Mondays) except for the February lab dates on 1 of 2 Saturdays.

| <u>Set 1</u> | <u>Dates of Importance:</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Jan 26 | MLK Holiday Jan 19 |
| Feb 9 | U of M starts Jan 20 |
| Feb 14 or Feb 21 Macalester Lab (Jeff Thole) | U of M spring break Mar 9 - 17 |
| Feb 23 | |
| Mar 9 Zoom lecture, U of M spring break | |
| Mar 23 | |
| Apr 6 | |
| Apr 20 | |
| May 4 | |

Spring Banquet

The Board reviewed the proposed dates and had not strong opinion on dates. The Board assigned **Steve E. to make the final decision on lecture dates.**

We need to have a better system so people do not stand out in the cold to get into the lecture hall and Macalester’s lab. There were no recommendations at this time.

Mary Helen I. is doing a write up on the Macalester Lab for a future Newsletter.

- 4. Video/Zoom recordings and posting to YouTube – Dick Bottenberg, Patrick Pfundstein**
See Appendix C and the YouTube part of Appendix D summary reports. The Fall Zoom lecture still needs to be up loaded to U-Tube. Randy Strobel usually does that. **David W. will talk to Randy about loading the lecture up to U-Tube.**

Video recordings of 2 lectures were uploaded last quarter and 3 are planned for this quarter. Lowell talked to Holly Dolliver about recording the 2/10/2025 lecture. She was ok with the lecture being recorded and being loaded on You Tube with a private designation. **Lowell will talk to her about the possibility of uploading the video for a limited time or limiting it to subscribers only. Patrick P., Joe Wright and Lowell H. will talk about other options.**

5. Holiday Party report – David Wilhelm

The GSM holiday party was hosted on Saturday, January 11, 2025 by Frank & Roxy Janezich. Approximately 30 members attended. David W. has a short report on the party in his President's Letter in the February GSM Newsletter.

It was agreed that the GSM will continue having the party in January. Stephen W. mentioned that the 2nd Saturday of January may cause a conflict for some people with the Minnesota Mineral Club's January meeting.

6. GSM markers – Dick Bottenberg

Committee membership:

Dick Bottenberg (chair) Becky Galkiewicz, Dan Japuntich, Alan Smith, Patrick Steury

See Appendix C for summary report. As of this meeting date, 33 of 70 Markers have recently been surveyed. At this point 8 markers are missing and 2 marker pedestals are in need of significant repair. The team plans to complete the survey of all markers this summer and develop an initial repair plan by the next Board Meeting.

7. Minnehaha Marker – Patrick Pfundstein

See Appendix D for update. Patrick P. reported progress has stalled again. **Patrick P. and Kate C. will meet to talk about next steps.** One thought was to post the marker on the GSM website.

8. State Fair and other venues to promote GSM – Patrick Pfundstein

State Fair:

See Appendix D for a summary report. The State Fair sign up is currently being built.

Other Venues:

1. Jan 30 Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion Elementary School STEM Night: Dave Wilhelm, Mary Kay Arthur, Pete Hesse staffed a table from 6 to 8 PM, mostly with the State Fair Rocks
2. Feb 7 Minnesota Earth Science Teachers Association (METSA) Conference: Theresa Tweet and one other person staffed a table over the lunch break. Note: Theresa has said that this is the last year she will be able to do this, so we should find someone else to head it up for 2026.
3. Feb 22 Mill City Museum
Patrick P. will staff a table with Kate C. and Deborah N.

There will be a report in the May GSM Newsletter on these activities and any other that happen.

9. Lake Minnetonka Historical Society joint lecture proposal.

Dick B. introduced a proposal to the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society to conduct a joint seminar on the geology of Lake Minnetonka at the Wayzata City Council meeting room. Basically, they are interested in an early 2026 seminar. The GSM offered to provide and pay for the speaker. **Dick B. will work with Steve E. to identify a speaker.**

10. Video Library – David Wilhelm

Activity Summary: no new purchases; 2 new members; 2 rentals in last quarter; \$38 in cash. Usage of the media/video library has been slow. David W. brought up the question: What is the future of the library? For now, it should be maintained for the next year with no new purchases. Eventually it may be shutdown. More discussions in the future.

11. Field trips – David Wilhelm

Current field trips scheduled or being planned are:

1. Randy S & Joanie F are planning week+ field trip to New Mexico May 14-21, 2025. Joanie sent an e-mail to the entire membership. 30 members have expressed interest.
2. **Dave W is pursuing “soils lab day” at UW River Falls, hosted by Holly Dolliver, our presenter from Feb 10.**
3. Lowell suggested that a field trip visiting local geology road markers could be set up for Sept/Oct. time frame. **The GSM Marker committee will research and report at the next Board Meeting.**

12. Creating video walking tours for the GSM YouTube channel – Kate Clover, Patrick Pfundstein

Kate informed the Board that nothing has been done on this yet. Still looking for topic suggestions and people to make the videos.

13. GSM Website – Alan Smith

Alan Smith reported he has been maintaining both the old and new website. Alan has been focused on increasing the help documentation for the new website. **Kate will help with documentation editing.** Several Board members have reviewed the new website. Alan has fixed reported issues. **Dick B. and Alan will talk about the new website management. Alan will send out another request for the Board to review the new website one more time with a deadline of about 2 weeks. Dave K. and Alan will work on the website’s host subscription renewal on “Host Monsters” (~ \$700/3 yrs.).**

14. Aiming for a younger and more diverse membership, Meetup group – Mary Helen Inskeep

Mary Helen reported there was 32 people registered on GSM's Meetup page. She showed several screen downloads from the Meetup site and continues to work on additional informational pages. **Mary Helen and Dick B. will work together on the Meetup site management.** While the meeting minutes were under review an additional note was requested to be added. From Mary Helen I., as of March 3rd, we are now at 35 people on Meetup. 3 people joined our Meetup group just in the 30 minutes prior to Rachel Phillips/GEO Girl's lecture on February 24th.

15. Donations:

1. At the last Board meeting we discussed the donation of a large number Robert Sloan's book "Minnesota Fossils and Fossiliferous Rocks" from Sally Sloan, widow of Robert Sloan. Although we voted to distribute these (with a disclaimer sticker) for a \$10 donation at the Annual Meeting, this did not occur. I have received one online request for one. **Patrick P. will work with Steve E. on the wording of the disclaimer sticker to be placed on each book with the target of the Spring Banquet for availability.** Also, we could make the books available to those that would like a copy at next year's METSA meeting. Kate will take about 20 to the ILSG meeting.
2. Various rocks, minerals, and other items from the Steffners
One suggestion was to give these away to those interested at the Spring Banquet.

16. Give to the Max Day

Teresa Tweet has once more set this up and reports we received \$195.00 in donations. Thank-you acknowledgments have been sent out.

17. Selling MN Weatherguide calendars as a fundraiser

Dave W set this up and received the following summary.

From: Sinthya Juviani at Freshwater January 21, 2025: Thank you for fundraising with us in 2024. You sold 8 calendars, raising \$40 this year! I will be contacting our Finance Director to review everything and issue you a check sometime this week.

18. Any other items?

1. Stephen W. informed the Board that he has started an Excel log of mail received in the GSM mailbox and its disposition in case there are any questions about the GSM mail.
Note: Joanie Furlong, David W. and Stephen W. have mailbox keys.
2. Joe Newberg reported in an email dated 2/28/2025 that we took in \$699 which gave us a net income of \$118 for the T-Shirt/Hat/Vest program.
3. After the Board Meeting on Feb 27, 2025 David W. sent a proposal to the Board for consideration to again donate \$400 to the ILSG student travel fund (see Appendix E).

On Mar. 5, 2025, David W. reported 8 Board members voted to accept the proposal to contribute \$400 to the ILSG student travel fund (Appendix E). The proposal is considered to have passed. He will contact the person from ILSG to inform him and will copy Dave K so he can get the payment details.

19. Date & location of next Board meeting (May 8 is second Thursday)

It was agreed; the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday May 8th at 6:30p at U Garde Restaurant.

Then Dave K. proposed a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Lowell H. seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion, none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8p.

Appendix A

Treasurer's Report
GSM Board Meeting
Feb 20, 2025

1. Bank statements balanced for the months of Nov, Dec 2024 and Jan 2025.
 - a. No issues or concerns.
2. Income, deposits, for the three months = \$940.00.
 - a. Donations = \$440.00.
 - b. Memberships = \$500.00.
3. Expenses for the three months = \$1,934.86.
 - a. Membership Directory postage/printing = \$597.86.
 - i. Postage = \$139.79.
 - ii. Printing = \$442.95
 - iii. Postage for membership reminder cards = \$15.12
 - b. Lecture Honorariums = 125.00.
 - c. U Haul Storage space rent = \$462.00.
 - d. Newsletter postage/printing = \$70.00.
 - i. Postage = \$36.50.
 - ii. Printing = \$33.50.
 - e. Video editing = \$100.
 - f. Reimbursement for T-shirts etc. = \$580.00.
4. Checking account balance as of Oct 31, 2024, = \$12,563.75.
 - a. Note: A new debit bank card was issued but not received in time to update the automatic billing for our U Haul storage rent payment. The problem has been resolved.
5. Investment account balance (RBCWM as of Jan 31, 2025, = \$11,883.53.
 - a. Merrill Lynch investment account has been established. Tiffany (Merrill Lynch) has been contacted regarding transferring funds. I will let the Board know when this is completed.
 - b. Annual Minnesota Tax renewal form has been submitted to the Secretary of State.
 - c. Federal tax form 990-N has not been submitted to the IRS pending technical problems with their website. I am working on getting it submitted.
6. 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

Appendix B

From Joan Furlong - Membership

Printing was more expensive this 2025 Directory

\$442.95 for 165 2025 Directories

\$15.12 for postcard stamps. Postcards sent out to 31 members who are about to have their membership cancelled. I have not kept track of responses.

\$139.79 for forever postage stamps

Total, \$597.86

172 Current Memberships

24 new members in 2024. See attached excel spreadsheet

Appendix C

From Dick Bottenberg

GSM Board Video Report – 20 Feb 2025

Progress in Video Recording.

1. Uploaded 2 lecture videos to YouTube last quarter:
 - a. Digging Into the Stories of Sand by Kate Clover (277 views)
 - b. Groundwater Governance in the Great Lakes States by Dr Carrie Jennings (79 views)
2. Videos planned to be uploaded this quarter:
 - a. Plan, Core, Scan, Store: Facilitating Core Research by Kat Canter
 - b. Geological Mapping by Dr Harvey Thorleifson
3. Potential lecture to be made available with limited availability:
 - a. Soils: The Most Undervalued and Overlooked Geologic Resource by Dr Holly Dolliver. The lecturer requested that the video be limited to GSM members and selected others. The video team recorded the lecture 10 Feb 2025. Joe Wright thinks it may be possible to use a Google Doc with a password, or a limited listing or viewers.
4. Video recording technical issues appear to be resolved and the camera and tripod are in good working order.

GSM Board Marker Report – 20 Feb 2025

1. The marker team met 17 November at Minnehaha Park to all get on the same page as a team by reviewing and assessing the condition of the markers at Minnehaha Falls and Lake Harriet. Since then, Patrick Steury has surveyed 34% of the GSM markers (including Minnehaha Falls and Lake Harriet). Here is the status of those markers surveyed:
 - a. 2 Marker pedestals have been damaged by frost heave and require repair (Lake Harriet and Minnesota River).
 - b. 5 Markers are missing.
 - i. The brass plate at Indian Mounds Park is recently missing from its pedestal. Patrick plans to contact Park officials to determine if they have the plate, and if so, what are their plans?
 - c. 15 markers are in fair to good condition.
 2. Our goals:
 - a. Survey the remaining markers and/or use previous surveys as appropriate.
 - b. Develop an initial approach to repair markers identified as needing repair.
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Appendix D

From Patrick Pfundstein

Minnehaha Marker

There really hasn't been movement on the Minnehaha Marker since last meeting. Kate and I can confab at the meeting to set a meeting for getting this project un-stalled.

State Fair (and other venues)

This is a quiet time in the State Fair calendar, but first indication was given to the Fair that we'd like to be back, we have duly been set up in the 2025 Fair vendor portal, and a confirmation of our offered services and items (education and no items) has been entered. Next step will be issuance of our license and the billing for same.

So I guess if we want to withdraw from the Fair and avoid the expense, this meeting would be the time for that motion to pass. Also to confirm the free ticket to multi-slot volunteers again.

Assuming we are going forward, I'll also set up the calendar with SignUp Genius make sign-ups available at the end of season lectures.

Kate Clover and Deborah Naffziger are set to work with me at this Saturday's Mill City Museum STEM Day.

I haven't heard from MMC yet, but that might come before the next Board meeting (early May last year?), but will answer "yes" unless the Board indicates otherwise.

Youtube

The GSM channel currently has 1411 subscribers (up 23 in the last 28 days). We've added two videos since the last Board meeting, Kate's Sands talk, and Dr Jennings's Groundwater Governance talk; both live lectures shot, edited, and posted by the video team. From the analytics page, most of our most recent 28-day counts are about normal: 2.5K views, 943.4 hours of view time, and the additional subscribers noted above. Our Top Five by views... Colorado: 29,064 views, Black Hills: 27,756 views; Trilobites: 15,971 views; Glaciation and the Great Lakes: 13,491 views; Volcanic Features...Southern Idaho: 12,685 views.

Appendix E

From David Wilhelm to the GSM Board dated 02/27/2025

GSM Board members,

My apologies for omitting this on the agenda for the February meeting: Possible GSM donation to [ILSG Student Travel Fund](#) (We have contributed to this for the past 7 years or so. In 2024, our contribution was \$400.)

Attached is a letter from ILSG requesting a contribution.

We need to decide this before the next Board meeting. I suggest we handle this by e-mail, but if anyone objects, I can call a special Zoom meeting. I propose that we once again donate \$400 to this fund. If you favor this, please reply-all no later than Tuesday, March 4, stating this. If you are not in favor, or wish to amend this motion, please respond in that fashion by that date.

I ask that Steve include this item in the minutes for the Feb 2025 meeting.



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MOUNTAIN IRON, MINNESOTA – MAY 15-16, 2025

Dave Wilhelm
President
Geological Society of Minnesota

02/26/2025

Dear Dave Wilhelm,

The 71st annual meeting of the Institute on Lake Superior Geology will be taking place in Mountain Iron, MN on May 15th and 16th, 2025. The meeting will bring together over 150 geoscientists in industry, academia and government from central North America who are working on a diverse range of topics, including economic geology, Proterozoic sedimentation and tectonics, Archean tectonics and the Midcontinent Rift. You are invited to visit our web site (<https://www.lakesuperiorgeology.org/MtIron2025/index.html>) and consider attending this meeting, with its two-day Technical Session and eight pre- and post-meeting field trips.

Given your organization's strong presence in Lake Superior region I would like to request that the Geological Society of Minnesota consider supporting the meeting by being a sponsor. Donations can be directed to supporting the attendance of students at the meeting (something ILSG is keen to promote), coffee breaks, prizes for the Student Paper competition, or some combination thereof.

In return, we will acknowledge your support on our web site, in the proceedings volumes that are provided to all participants and on posters and slides at the meeting itself.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information or wish to discuss anything in greater detail.

Myself and the other co-chairs thank you for your consideration of this request. I wish you all the best in your endeavors!

Eric Nowariak
Co-Chair, 71st ILSG

www.lakesuperiorgeology.org

From David Wilhelm: dated 03/5/2025

GSM Board members,

8 of us voted to accept my proposal to contribute \$400 to the ILSG student travel fund. I got no response from Dick; I think he is traveling. I consider the motion passed. I will contact the person from ILSG to inform him. I will copy Dave K so he can get the payment details. Steve, please include this motion in the February minutes. Thank you.

My laptop stopped working this morning, so I am reduced to corresponding using my phone, which is tedious and limited.

Dave