

Geological Society of Minnesota Aug 18. 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
Approved 9/13/2025 (7 approved, none opposed)

Meeting: Thursday 8/18/2025, 6:30pm

Location: Dan Japuntich home

Board Members Present

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

Non-Board attendees

Alan Smith
Kay Smith
Joan Furlong

With 9 Board members present David W. called the meeting to order at 6:30p on 08/18/2025
Previous minutes 5/8/2025: approved via e-mail and posted on GSM website.

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 Treasurer's report in Appendix A. Status of possible movement of GSM investment funds to checking is on hold since money was only recently put into Merrill Lynch. Should try next year.
 - Dan J has agreed to run for Treasurer at the November Board meeting.
2. Financial oversight – Finance Committee consists of Stephen W., Dan J. and Dave K.
See Dan J.'s overview of the Finance Committee's responsibilities in Appendix B.

A question arose on what are the IRS reporting requirements of a small non-profit organization like the GSM. Dave K. said we only need to file a 990N form since the GSM's income is below the minimum requiring filing of more detailed financial reports. **Kate Clover will contact her daughter and Stephen W. will talk to his spouse to verify what are the IRS reporting requirements.**

3. Membership: Note: Joanie, Dave W, and Stephen have mailbox keys.
See Joan F. membership report in Appendix C. There are 171 up to date members. There are another 33 delinquent members who will be deleted from the membership distribution list in the near future. Joan F. asked if she should send a reminder post card to delinquent members. The Board agreed that was not needed. Reminders should be sent by email. Membership information should continue to be published in the newsletter. The membership directory

should be sent by mail. On the new GSM website people will eventually have 2 ways to become a member. 1. Print a form from the website and mail the form and payment to Joan F. 2. Fill in an online form and use a credit card online to pay. Method 2 needs more development before ready for use.

4. Recruitment of members to fill the 2026 GSM Board.

- Three Board members (Deborah, Roger, - Dave K) will leave the Board at the end of 2025 due to term limits. We will elect members to replace them at the Annual Meeting in September. Wolf Bielefeld & Mary Helen Inskeep have agreed to run for Board positions.

We are still looking for someone to recruit one more potential new Board member before Annual meeting. It was suggested a Board nomination committee be set up. **Dave W. will send out an email asking for names of people who would be interested.**

5. Lectures & Labs – 2025-2026: Steve Erickson; the Fall schedule appears in the August 2025 Newsletter and is now online.

- Lake Minnetonka Historical Society (LMHS) and GSM presentation – Dick B.
 - o This joint meeting has been set up for Jan 15th. One will need to sign up using Sign Up Gensis to attend. A notice for this meeting will be put in the Nov. Newsletter by Kate C. The question of whether we can video the lecture was brought up by Lowell H. **Dick B. will talk to the LMHS and speaker to answer the question.**
- Presentation to Thompson Park Activity Center by Justin Tweet, Nov 12, 10:30am-12pm
 - o FYI note
- Regular GSM lecture series: Steve E. was not at the meeting. The Fall schedule is set and most of the Spring schedule is filled. A lab is scheduled for Feb 14th at Macalester.

6. Fall Banquet – David Wilhelm

The Mandarin Kitchen has been suggested as a potential new location for the Annual Meeting and initial Fall lecture. David W. visited the Mandarin Kitchen. The max occupancy was 65. They do not have a projection system was available and the wall décor was not good to project on. So, the conclusion this was not a good alternative. So, there will be no Fall Banquet. The Annual meeting and the first lecture will be in a UMN lecture hall (to be determined by the UMN). Kay and Allen Smith will bring cookies for the 1st lecture on Sept 15th. Long term the new Korean BBQ moving into the old U Garden site may work possibly as early as Dec. 2025.

7. Video/Zoom recordings and posting to YouTube – Dick Bottenberg, Patrick Pfundstein

See Joe Wright's video report in Appendix D. Nothing new has been uploaded in a while.

Lowell H. will connect with Joe Wright on the potential of doing "members only" uploads.

Future uploads should be spaced out. Not all at one time.

8. GSM markers – Dick Bottenberg

See Dick B. report in Appendix E. The current committee membership is Dick Bottenberg (chair), Becky Galkiewicz, Dan Japuntich and Alan Smith. Patrick Steury has moved to South Dakota so is no longer a member, but did extensive research and created a detailed 32-page report before leaving. The report not included in these minutes. Contact Dick B. if you need a copy.

Items 3a and 3b are set to be the highest priorities. **Dick B. will send out an email and talk at the first lecture to get additional team members and interest in the Marker program.** The GSM needs to decide what we want to do with the markers. Possibly maintain and/or replace. We would need to work with local and State entities for clearance. We need to the GPS coordinates for the marker locations on GSM website. We could schedule future field trips to the marker sites. **Dan J. will talk to the Historical Society contacts about how they do marker maintenance.**

9. Minnehaha Marker – Patrick Pfundstein

Kate C. reported some changes have to be made. Patrick P. has it.

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

See Patrick P.'s report in Appendix F. Patrick P. was busy with State Fair set up at the time of this meeting. All Fair time slots have at least 1 person except on Labor Day. Most slots have 2 people.

Another venue coming up is the Mineral Club Annual show Sept. 27-28 in the Dairy Building on the State Fair grounds. **Patrick P. I'll post a SignUp Genius grid in the near future.**

11. Video Library – Dave W: no new purchases; no rentals in last quarter; \$13 cash. *Discussion question: What is the future of the library?*

Nothing new to report. To be discussed further at a future meeting.

12. Field trips – Dave W

- Randy S & Joanie F conducted a week-long field trip to New Mexico May 14-21, 2025. Eight members participated. Trip reports are in the August Newsletter.
- Dave W is pursuing a "soils lab" day at UW River Falls, hosted by Holly Dolliver, our presenter from Feb 10. Probably late fall.
- Mary Helen I. is thinking about a potential trip to the Chicago museums (Field and Science Museum). Also, the "big hole in the ground" along I80 and possibly the Indiana Dunes. Trip could be a week to 8 days long. No update.
- Another trip discussed would be to GSM markers around Minnesota possibly led by Randy S., Roger B. and/or Patrick Steury. Nothing in the works yet.

Let David W. know if there are any additional thoughts about future trips.

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

Nothing new to report.

14. GSM Website – Alan Smith

New GSM website is online. Alan S. is looking to start working on enhancements like membership and donations, email distribution and membership directory access. Group discussion recommended the donations and email distribution should be low priorities. The membership directory is currently worked on. Informal website committee is Alan Smith, Dick B. and Dave K. Alan still has some documentation to work on. **Alan S. asked that everyone try using the site to test for flaws and text errors and report them to Alan for changes.**

15. Continuation of GSM MeetUp group – Mary Helen Inskeep

Mary Helen was not at the meeting but had talked to David W. She will post GSM at the State Fair on Meet Up.

16. Aiming for a younger and more diverse membership, Meet Up group – Mary Helen Inskeep

In Mary Helen's absence nothing new to report.

17. Donations: David Wilhelm

- "Minnesota Fossils and Fossiliferous Rocks" from Sally Sloan, widow of author Robert Sloan. We distributed 21 at the Spring Banquet (for a \$10 donation - \$210) and Kate has taken ~42 to distribute at ILSG. Dave W. have received one online request for one.
- Five grocery bags of various books and VHS tapes from Greg Brick, made available for free at Spring Banquet; about half of books and a few tapes taken.
- Jeannie Kant, widow of Keith Relyea, donated various of his geology books (many from the "Roadside Geology" series) which were made available for free at Spring Banquet; most taken. Jeannie might have more to donate.
- Various rocks, minerals, and other items from the Steffners (no further progress)

Nothing new to report except Jeannie Kant may have more stuff to donate.

18. Any other items?

Dick B. suggested a review of the book "Talking Rocks" be placed in the next Newsletter.

No additional items from the floor.

19. Date & location of next Board meeting (Nov 13 is second Thursday; Nov 17 is a non-lecture Monday)

It was agreed the next Board Meeting will be Monday Nov 17th in the UMN lecture hall as that day is a non-lecture Monday.

Deborah made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kate C seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor non opposed. The meeting was adjourned.

Appendix A from Dave Kelso:

Treasurer's Report
GSM Board Meeting
Aug 18, 2025

1. Bank statements balanced for the months of May, Jun and Jul 2025.
 - a. A \$20 service fee was assessed for June; balance dipped below \$10,000.
2. Income, deposits, for the three months = \$670.
 - a. Donations = \$350.
 - b. Membership = \$60.
 - c. Book sales = \$210.
 - d. Video Library deposit = \$50.
3. Expenses for the three months = \$1,319.57.
 - a. Lecture Honorariums = \$125.
 - b. U Haul Storage space rent = \$462.
 - c. Newsletter postage/printing = \$42.57
 - i. Postage = \$24.24.
 - ii. Printing = \$18.33.
 - d. Banquet facility rent = \$150.
 - e. Banquet speaker expense = \$50.
 - f. ISLG scholarship = \$400.
 - g. Web Hostmaster (3 years) = \$971.64.
 - h. Misc.
 - i. Meet-Up fee (1 yr) = \$70.
 - ii. Bank service fee = \$20
4. Checking account balance as of Jul 31, 2025, = \$9,807.16.
5. Investment account balance (Merrill as of Jul 31, 2025, = \$12,202.75.
 - a. Federal tax form 990-N has finally been submitted and accepted.
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 Dan Japuntich:

GSM Financial Oversight Report. 08/18/2025
Nonprofit Financial Statement to be written for 2025

Our goal for financial accountability is to produce a nonprofit financial statement for the next board meeting. The statement will be used as a template for future reports

Nonprofits have a primary responsibility to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and their donors when filing and sharing financial statements. Nonprofits must file four statements every year to comply with IRS rules. Organizations must follow basic accounting practices when filing these statements and find ways to share these details in ways donors can understand.

Nonprofit financial statements are formal records that detail your nonprofit's financial activities. They track how money is received, allocated, and retained. Beyond helping our organization meet legal requirements, they also promote transparency and help you evaluate your performance.

Unlike for-profits, nonprofits don't report profits. Instead, reporting is on net assets and how we use funds to advance our mission. There are many nonprofit financial statement templates available, and we will produce our own version. Some financial statements examples are shown below.

Appendix C from Joanie Furlong:

Here's the membership report.

We have 204 GSM memberships. For this I am counting family/individual as one membership. 33 memberships have not renewed and will be removed. I have mailed out final postcards in the past but now it feels a bit intrusive/naggy... I do have enough to send out this year. Maybe send out this year and if the return rate for prompting membership renewal is less than 20% would not do in the future. Renew notice in the newsletter and an email has been sent out to remind members to renew.

Now we have 171 memberships
119 memberships are up for renewal this year, September of 2025.
37 memberships are good until 2026
14 memberships are good until 2027
1 membership is good until 2028
One member has renewed for three years, 2028

Appendix D - Lecture and Other Venues - From Steve Erickson:

I will likely not attend tonight, other things to take care of. I have nothing new to report, looks like we are set up for the year, still a couple of minor holes to fill. Inquires have been sent. I will send an email today to the U of M Geology department for the class room. Likely not to get that until September after classes have been filled.

Dave and Patrick, have you printed yet? Should be great for the Fall, I always expect changes by spring due to long lead times. We can roll with that as it comes up. If you have not printed, I suggest we stick to the Fall schedule for printing for now, but don't worry otherwise if you have completed the print job.

I agree we should not include the Minnetonka talk on the printed flyer. That is a dual institute situation and is really out of our domain.

Appendix E: Marker Report from Dick Bottenberg:

1. This quarter Marker Team member Patrick Steury completed his personal goal of visiting all known GSM markers to verify location, assess condition and recommend actions on markers needing help. Patrick's final report is thorough, very well written and quite good. The report is attached. The Report's TOC and Summary statistics of the marker follow.
 - a. Report Table of Contents:
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. Methodology
 - iii. Summary Statistics
 - iv. Marker Entries
 - v. Sites Scouted for New GSM Markers
 - vi. Future Work
 - vii. Appendix A: Full Marker Coordinates List
 - viii. Appendix B: Links to External Sources
 - ix. Appendix C: Maps
 - x. Acknowledgements
 - b. Report Summary Statistics:
 - i. Total markers: 72
 - ii. Markers currently present: 49
 - iii. Markers removed from an intact pedestal: 4
 - iv. Markers never installed: 19
 - v. Markers in Good condition: 30
 - vi. Markers in Fair condition: 13

- vii. Markers in Poor condition: 6
- 2. The following actions are under consideration. A discussion of the goals and the future of the Marker Team at the Board meeting would be helpful. Planning and execution of these actions will require more GSM members to join or become involved on the GSM Marker initiative.
- 3. Proposed Actions:
 - a. Get the markers that are in poor and fair condition repaired as needed.
 - b. Deal with the markers that have been vandalized.
 - c. Research and recommend new and existing types of markers and media to be used at geological marker sites.
 - d. Research and determine what makes a good marker location.
 - e. Research and prioritize specific sites to erect new geological markers.

Appendix F from Patrick P.

Sorry for the late notice, but with all I still need to get done for the Fair (load in is tomorrow), I'm not going to make it tonight (probably at the storage checking supplies).

Kate can probably fill you in more on the Minnehaha project, but our main progress was getting a request from Carrie Jennings to use the panel at an Educators in Earth Sciences conference. So, I redesigned it using GSM branding, and a few stream name omissions. (oops) But it was well received and some helpful suggestions were given; I've got an idea to intrude arrows to show flow direction, but I haven't tried it yet.

YouTube is status quo; no major changes.

The State Fair is in progress; we ended up with great coverage other than the last Monday, which I can sit through with no problems. Tickets are mailed; Brochures go to print tonight; let me know if the Lecture version looks okay (I've update the QR codes to match the new website). Load in is tomorrow. It looks like me and Kate and her car (with its rack to carry the backdrop frame. If anyone wants to join us, check in with Kate about the time; I should be good to meet any time after 9.

I'll post a SignUp Genius grid soon for the Minnesota Mineral Club show Sept 27-28, Dairy Bldg.