

Geological Society of Minnesota Board Meeting Minutes Nov 17, 2025  
Prepared by Stephen Willging – Approved 12/27/2025 (9 approved, none opposed)

Meeting: Monday 11/17/2025, 6:30pm

Location: Keller Hall Room 3-230

Previous Board Meeting (8/18/2025) minutes were approved via e-mail 9/13/2025 and posted on [website](#).

<b><u>Board Members attending</u></b>	<b><u>Board Member elect attending</u></b>	<b><u>Non-Board attendees</u></b>
Dave Wilhelm (Pres)	Wolfgang Bielefeld	Joan Furlong
Deborah Naffziger (VP)	Javier Guzman	Steve Erickson
Stephen Willging (Sec)	Mary Helen Inskeep	Alan Smith
Dave Kelso (Treas)		Kay Smith
Roger Benepe		
Dick Bottenberg		
Lowell Hill		
Dan Japuntich		
Kate Clover (late arrival)		

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.

With a quorum of Board members present the meeting was called to order by David W. at 6:30p.  
Agenda Topics:

**1. Report on Annual Meeting Summary – Dave Wilhelm**

Held on Sept 15, 2025 at U of Minnesota's Keller Hall Room 3-230; 50 persons attended. Lowell Hill and Dave Wilhelm are each completing one 2-year term on the Board and are eligible for second terms. Both expressed interest in continuing as Board members. Wolfgang Bielefeld, Javier Guzman and Mary Helen Inskeep expressed interest in joining the Board in 2026, taking the spots of Dave Kelso, Roger Benepe and Deborah Naffziger, who are leaving since they have served four consecutive years. At the Annual Meeting on Sept 15, all five of these members were elected to the Board by acclamation. Their terms start January 1, 2026.

**2. Election of Board officers for 2026 (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary).** Note that all current Board members have votes, plus the incoming Board members (Wolfgang Bielefeld, Javier Guzman, Mary Helen Inskeep). All officer terms start January 1, 2026.

- David Wilhelm nominated himself to continue as President. No other nominations.  
**The vote was all in favor, none opposed.**
- Mary Helen Inskeep nominated herself for Vice President. No other nominations.  
**The vote was all in favor, none opposed.**
- Dan Japuntich was nominated for Treasurer. No other nominations.  
**The vote was all in favor, none opposed.**
- Stephen Willging nominated himself to continue as Secretary. No other nominations.  
**The vote was all in favor, none opposed.**

**3. Treasurer's report** – Dave Kelso

See Treasurer's Report in Appendix A. **Note: During the writing of these minutes, a modified Treasurer's report was published. The updated report is in Appendix A.**

**Steve E. will be writing a check for \$500 to the U of MN to support the Geology Student Organization.** This check is an alternative honorarium for the recent 4 U of MN lecturers for the GSM.

a. Status of possible movement of GSM investment funds to checking.

Again, in August the GSM was charged a \$20 service fee by Huntington Bank because the checking account fell below the minimum \$10,000. The question came up as to whether we should switch banks to one with no minimum balance requirement. Possible US Bank. The decision was put off until next year because of the transition to a new treasurer.

b. Transition to new Treasurer.

**Dave K. and Dan J. will work out a transition of the Treasurer's duties from Dave to Dan.**

**4. Financial oversight** – Finance Committee consists of Dave K., Dan J. and Stephen W.

Nothing to report. The committee has not met since its formation at the last Board meeting due to scheduling.

**5. Membership** – Joanie Furlong. Note: Joanie, Dave W, and Stephen have mailbox keys.

See Membership Report in Appendix B

**6. Lectures & Labs - 2025-2026** - Steve Erickson

Dave W. provided the Lecture attendance report for Fall 2025. See Appendix C for details.

Summary for Fall 2025 to date:

- 5 lectures
- 345 total attendance
- 69 average attendance
- 33 (10%) identified new attendees

Steve E. indicated the full Lecture schedule is now online. One gap in the schedule is the Spring Banquet speaker. **Steve E. will address after the holidays.** Kristie Curry Rogers is a potential speaker for the Fall 2026 Banquet.

The location of the Spring Banquet is still to be determined. Current thinking is the JBJ "Korean BBQ" in the old U Garden location. **When JBJ opens Dave W. will check it out. Otherwise, for everyone, let Dave W. know if you have any other location suggestions which can accommodate a gathering of 80 – 100 people and has video capability.**

**For everyone: Let Steve E. know if you have any thoughts on future lecture topics.** May want to send out a general request to membership for ideas. One suggestion from this meeting was Minnesota's Hydrogen and Helium deposits.

**7. Video/Zoom recordings and posting to YouTube** – Dick Bottenberg, Patrick Pfundstein  
See Joe Wright’s report in Appendix D.

It seems that the most recent posted lecture is from late 2024; can we get them posted more quickly? There is an offer from Barry Shillingford to assist. Joe W. and Lowell H. will be reviewing the process and work on a plan with other team members to accelerate the distributions. We’ll have more information later.

We have had 2 special requests regarding lecture video posting.

1. One lecturer suggested posting their lecture for a limited time as the technology/science evolves making some of their content obsolete. Video team will look into.
2. Holly Dolliver – expressed desire to not have her lecture (Soils) posted for public access (i.e. not “searchable”), but access directly by GSM members via a link sounded OK. Video team will look into.

Zoom recordings are the responsibility of Patrick P. to upload.

**Lowell will be head of the video committee going forward.**

**8. GSM markers** –Dick Bottenberg

Committee membership: Dick Bottenberg (chair), Dan Japuntich, Alan Smith. Five members have recently joined the committee: Zee Evans, Javier Guzman, Pete Hesse, Kevin Welk and Erika Wilder. A kickoff meeting is planned for 20 December. See marker discussion in Appendix F which was sent by Dick B. after the meeting.

Kate suggested having simple markers with a QR code linking back to the marker information on the GSM website.

**9. Minnehaha Marker** – Patrick Pfundstein

Patrick was not at the meeting so nothing to report. Patrick did send a report after the meeting. See Appendix E.

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

Patrick was not at the meeting so nothing to report. Patrick did send a report after the meeting. See Appendix E.

GSM representatives were at the Minnesota Mineral Club’s annual meeting Sept 20. Issue: Difficulty getting into storage locker to get the display samples for MMC show. Patrick was able to get into the locker after several hours. Need to come up is a plan to ensure we can get into the locker when needed.

At the time of this meeting, it was not known if Justin Tweet presented a presentation to Thompson Park Activity Center, Nov 12, 10:30am-12pm. Since the meeting Kate C. confirmed Justin gave this lecture and a short account will be included in the February 2026 Newsletter.

An Earth Science Teacher event and one at Mill City Museum are coming up.

Lake Minnetonka Historical Society (LMHS) and GSM presentation – Dick B.

Meeting plans are moving forward for Jan 15, 2026 at 7p at the Wayzata Community Center. Registration is required for attendance. A general announcement will be sent out after Dec 1<sup>st</sup> when the Event Write sign up is active.

**11. Video Library – Dave W:**

No new purchases; no rentals in last quarter; \$24 cash. Have asked Deborah N. to suggest new titles. *Discussion question: What is the future of the library?* No decision.

A new donation of DVDs has been received and reviewed by Deborah N. She highly recommended them as a “must see”.

**12. Field trips – Dave W**

- a. Dave W is still pursuing a “soils lab” day at UW River Falls, hosted by Holly Dolliver, our presenter from Feb 10. Probably January or February.
- b. Dave W will look into another tour of St. Anthony Falls Lab.
- c. Randy & Joanie are looking at various possible local field trips.
- d. 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.
- e. Another trip discussed would be to GSM markers around Minnesota possibly led by Randy S. and/or Roger B.

**For everyone: If you have ideas for future field trips, send to Dave W.**

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

Nothing new to report but keep on the agenda.

**14. GSM Website – Alan Smith (New website is online.)**

Alan S. ran into a snag with credit card payment system on the new GSM website. Dave K. helped test it and “broke” the system. It took Alan some time to fix the issue. The documentation for the system is still being developed. The credit card payment functionality is by “Stripe”. Alan will work with Joan F. for membership payments. **Everyone should work with the website to see if they can find any issues. If they do report them to Alan S.**

A question was raised on the “Ask GSM” Request distribution visibility. Alan will look into it.

We still have a GSM Facebook page. There does not appear to be much activity. Theresa T. and Mark Ryan maintain the site. **Stephen W. will check with Mark R. to see if he is actually maintaining the page.** Note: After the meeting Mark R. confirmed the site is being maintained by him and Theresa Tweet.

**15. GSM MeetUp group – Mary Helen Inskip**

Currently, there are 51 members to the GSM MeetUp site. The MeetUp site should redirect interested parties to the GSM website so they can manually request access to Zoom lectures.

The annual fee for the MeetUp site is \$299. Previously the Board had voted to reimburse Mary Helen I. \$100 as she was going to use MeetUp for other personal activities. However, these personal activities have not happened. So, it was suggested the GSM reimburse Mary Helen for the entire annual fee.

**Deborah N. made a motion that the GSM reimburse Mary Helen Inskeep the remaining \$199 annual MeetUp fee. Roger B. seconded the motion. The Board vote was 9 in favor of the motion, none opposed. The motion passed. Dave K. will send Mary Helen a check for the remaining annual fee of \$199.**

**Renewal of the MeetUp site should be discussed at the February 2026 Board Meeting.**

**16. Aiming for a younger and more diverse membership** – Mary Helen Inskeep

Nothing to report except for the previously discussed MeetUp activity. Mary Helen I. is looking for College lecture opportunities. Another thought is posters at colleges or in libraries. **Mary Helen I. will check with the U of Minnesota on their requirements for posters.**

**17. Donations:**

- “Minnesota Fossils and Fossiliferous Rocks” from Sally Sloan, widow of Robert Sloan.
- Various books and VHS tapes from Greg Brick.
- Geology books (many from the “Roadside Geology” series) from Jeannie Kant, widow of Keith Relyea. Jeannie might have more to donate.
- Various rocks, minerals, and other items from the Steffners.

Dan J. raised the question of what to do with this stuff (see Appendix E from Patrick P.). A suggestion was made that some of Sloan’s books be handed out to interested people at the Earth Science Teachers Conference.

**18. Any other agenda items?**

Rock Hammer award supply is down to zero. **Dick B. made the motion to authorize the purchase of 5 rock hammers. Kate C. seconded the motion. The Board vote was 9 in favor and none opposed. The motion passed. Dick B. will notify Thersea Tweet to purchase 5 rock hammers.**

It was agreed that the Holiday party be in January. Location to be determined.

**19. Date & location of next Board meeting**

Next Board meeting will be Monday Feb 2, 2026 in Keller Hall Room 3-230 on the U of Minnesota Campus.

## Appendix A: from Dave Kelso

Treasurer's Report  
GSM Board Meeting  
Aug 18, 2025 (revised 12/3/2025)

1. Bank statements balanced for the months of Aug, Sep and Oct 2025.
2. Income, deposits, for the three months = \$3,795.00.
  - a. Donations = \$1,150.00.
  - b. Membership = \$2,645.00.
3. Expenses for the three months = \$773.59.
  - a. U Haul Storage space rent = \$462.00.
  - b. Newsletter postage/printing = \$60.60.
    - i. Postage = \$18.72.
    - ii. Printing = \$41.88.
  - c. Misc.
    - i. Bank service fee = \$20.00 (Aug only).
    - ii. PO Box Rent = \$210.00 (one year).
    - iii. Web Hosing = \$20.99.
4. Checking account balance as of Oct 31, 2025, = \$12,838.57.
5. Investment account balance (Merrill as of Oct 31, 2025, = \$12,604.06.
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

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## Appendix B: from Joan Furlong

11/2025

We have 159 GSM memberships. I am counting family/individual as one membership.

Breakdown of types of memberships, 115 Individuals, 43 Family, 1 Lifetime

Breakdown of the one, two- and three-years options for renewing memberships.

111 memberships will expire in 2026

24 memberships will expire in 2027

23 memberships will expire in 2028

There are 29 memberships that expired in September of 2025 that have not renewed.

Printed out 180 2025 Directories. We were able to hand out about 60 at the last lecture. I will mail out the rest soon.

Cost was \$144 with discounts, (pd cash, no taxes, plus 10%off)

Stamps for mailing \$100.

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## Appendix C: from David Wilhelm

### GSM Lecture/Lab Attendance

2025-2026

**Summary for Fall 2025 to date: 5 lectures, 345 total attendance, 69 average attendance, 33 (10%) identified new attendees**

2025-11-10	84 Lake Superior and Its Gales ( <i>10 new attendees: invited by friends/relatives</i> )
2025-10-27	55 From Formations to Foundation: The Geology of Bridge Construction ( <i>no new attendees</i> )
2025-10-13	70 Upper Mississippi Valley: Proglacial Origins to Modern Evolution ( <i>8 new attendees: State Fair, invited by friends/relatives, website</i> )
2025-09-29	86 Feathers, Flight, & Fossils: Current Perspectives on the Evolution of Birds from Dinosaurs ( <i>15 (!) new attendees: State Fair, invited by friends/relatives, GSM YouTube channel</i> )
2025-09-15	50 Annual Meeting; Beautiful Ohio: Sedimentary Dreams – A Virtual Field Trip ( <i>no new attendees</i> )

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## Appendix D: from Dick Bottenberg

GSM Video Report 17 November, 2025

Lowell Hill and Joe Wright do the video for the seminars. Dick Bottenberg tries to keep us on track.

### 2024 -2025 GSM Seminars and Video

Of the fifteen Monday seminars in the 2024-2025 GSM series, we had five that were videoed, five where the presenter requested no video, four that were virtual, and one that was a DVD presentation. The quality of the raw videos were much better this year than last with only one seminar, Holly Dolliver's, having the screen views turn out faint.

Three seminars, Kate Clover's from the 2024 Spring Banquet, Carrie Jennings on Groundwater Governance, and Cat Kantner's on Plan, Core, Scan, Store (Core sampling) were completed and published.

Harvey Thorleifson's was started but have not completed. Holly Dolliver's presentation screen material is too faint to make into a quality presentation. In addition, Holly did not want the presentation to be openly available on the GSM website. We have not come up with a means to easily make lectures available on a "members-only" method and generally think that it may be more effort than it is worth doing. However, Joe and Lowell will talk to some contacts to see if there is an easy way that would allow a members list with access privileges. I will start Stephen's after Harvey's.

### 2025-2026 GSM Seminars and Video

The 25-26 season has started off well in that we have gotten video recorded for each of the seminars. Steve has asked that we move the latest presentation, Lake Superior and its Gales, as there is general interest in the Edmund Fitzgerald at this time. I'll move that to the top and get started on it this week.

Lowell and I use Dropbox to transfer files when needed. We are planning to get together to get Lowell familiar with the You Tube upload effort. We are also checking into developing a limited access method that we might be able to use if we get limited-permission to use a video on the GSMN website.

### Camera and tripod use

The camera and tripod are available for member usage as long as we have them for the lectures. If anyone would like to use them just give me a call or text at 763-229-1455 and we can work out a transfer. The camera is a Panasonic Lumix G85 with a 12-60mm F3.5-5.6 lens. We have two battery packs for the camera. We also have a very nice Manfrotto tripod (takes a little while to figure it out but very versatile).

Best regards,

Joe

The list of 2024-2025 seminars and video:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Title</u>
9/16/24	No Video	Randy Strobel	Fall Banquet: Geology of the Mississippi River Gorge
9/30/24	<b>Published</b>	Kat Cantner	Plan, Core, Scan, Store: Facilitating Core Research
10/14/24	Virtual	Jacob Walter	Damaging earthquakes continue in Oklahoma ...
10/28/24	<b>Published</b>	Carrie Jennings	Groundwater Governance in the Great Lakes States...
11/11/24	<b>In Process</b>	Harvey Thorleifson	Geological Mapping
11/25/24	Virtual	Tim McMahon	Shale in a Nutshell: An Overview of Shale Oil and Gas...
12-09-24	DVD pres.	Ford Cochran	The Great Courses: Wonders of the National Parks...
01/27/25	No Video	Benoit Welsch	Origin of olivine phenocrysts in oceanites...
02/10/25	<b>Issues</b>	Holly Dolliver	Soils: The Most Undervalued and Overlooked Geologic...
02/24/25	Virtual	Rachel Phillips	Greatest Mass Extinctions in Earth's History
03/10/25	Virtual	Joyashish Thakurta	Iron-ore in MN: Geology and the Industry
03/24/25	<b>In queue</b>	Stephen Delong	Earthquake Hazards
04/07/25	No Video	Bob Tipping	Current and Future Mapping at the MN Geologica Survey
04/21/25	No Video	Julie Bartley	Stromatolite Morphology and Diversity – How did ...
05/05/25	No Video	Jard Trost	Spring Banquet – Distribution of Ancient Carbon in Groundwater...

**2025-2026 seminars and video:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Title</u>
09/15/25	<b>In queue</b>	Deborah Naffziger	Beautiful Ohio: Sedimentary Dreams – A Virtual Filed Trip
09/29/25	<b>In queue</b>	Peter Makovicky	Feathers, Flight, & Fossils: Current Perspectives on the Evolution of Birds from Dinosaurs

Date	Video	Presenter	Title
10/13/25	<b>In queue</b>	Andrew Wickert	The Upper Mississippi Valley -Proglacial Origins to Modern Evolution
10/27/25	<b>In queue</b>	Jill Mickelson & Matt Ruble	From Formations to Foundation- the Geology of Bridge Construction
11/10/25	<b>In queue</b>	Paul McKinney	Lake Superior and its Gales

**Key:**

No Video	The presenter requested to not be videoed.
In Process	Video in hand, reviewed, laying out introduction, links, video clips, titles, etc., producing video, uploading
Issues	Poor video quality and/or access issues prevent completion
In queue	Video in hand, quick review
Virtual	Seminar presented online/zoom
DVD presentation	Seminar is at the U but is a DVD presentation from a previously presented lecture at another venue.

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## Appendix E: from Patrick Pfundstein

I'm attaching a report on the State Fair/MMC.

The Minnehaha Marker is pretty much static, though you can add an action item that I will have a possible website mockup for people to see at the next board meeting. I did print up a near full size copy that went to MMC and that I brought to a lecture, and we did get the marker in front of educators at a summer conference thanks to Carrie Jennings. I don't want to give up on getting a physical marker up in the park, but I just don't think we should keep it unseen waiting for the Park Board any longer. (The basic idea is to use the layout as a main page with links to the different parts as separate pages, and links to some source materials.)

I haven't done much with YouTube in a bit, but with new Zoom talks coming up we can definitely do updates soon. It sounds like we might have someone interested in working on posts (Barry Shillingford I think?). I'd be happy to get him set up as an admin.

FYI, the lock at the storage unit is the old one (which was never missing), so Dave W's key will work fine.

### MSF/MMC 2025 Report

The 2025 Minnesota State Fair had one record attendance day (the first Monday with 145,022), and the generally ideal weather helped to get to a new post-pandemic overall high attendance of 190,869 (the all-time record there is 2019's 2,126,551). You can find more MSF numbers at: <https://www.mnstatefair.org/about/attendance/>

For GSM:

We covered all shifts using SignUp Genius again.

We filled 60 of 72 slots (83.33% full).

We had 35 volunteers, 21 of whom signed up for more than one shift.

We handed out about 1500 lecture schedules and about 700 Marker Brochures.

We engaged with thousands of Minnesotans from all walks of life, and fulfilled our organization's mission to "promote public interest...in the geological sciences." Both through a small taste at our booth, and also by hopefully recruiting new attendees to our lectures, labs, and field trips.

Expenses were \$2633.25 broken out as follows...

Booth fee including insurance: \$1112.50

Brochure printing (2000 lecture, 500 Marker): \$1168.75

GSM Ticket comps (22 tickets @ \$16ea): \$352.00

MMC was hampered for GSM by UHaul mysteriously adding an extra padlock to our unit, meshed in with the fact they don't staff the space any more (staff is at the University Ave location). It took quite a while for me to figure that out, an

then another couple hours to get access to our location. I set the base table up (having had the banner and tablecloth at home for cleaning), and added a large print of the Minnehaha Marker, some Marker and lecture brochures, and some of my personal books to at least avoid an empty table to start. It wasn't until nearly 2:00 Saturday that we got all materials in place. After that, things went fine (but it was a slow start at the table).

We distributed about 250 lecture schedules and 150 marker brochures. There were no MMC expenses (MMC comps us the space and gives free admission to volunteers).

One other thing. Dan Japuntich met me at the storage location on Saturday, and picked up a couple binders of Marker materials that were part of the Doug Z materials donated a few years ago. He also took the two boxes of books that were part of the donation; his son is going to take them to HalfPrice Books to either realize what value is in them (probably not much; HalfPrice tends to give more credit than cash), and have them recycle what they can't use, which is probably the majority (science doesn't age really well).

Dan will report back on any money to go to GSM.

Hopefully that was okay. It would definitely be a good idea to have some sort of regular plan, because we've had a few donations since then, and we don't really have a set method for moving stuff on. Along with the boxes of the Fossil book, donations were starting to out-cube State Fair materials in the unit, and when Dan offered to deal with the Doug Z stuff, I kind a jumped at the chance to clear a shelf.

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## **Appendix F: from Dick Bottenberg (received after the meeting)**

GSM Marker Team Memo – 20 Nov 2025 update!

- 1. Team meeting at Minnehaha Falls Sunday 14 Dec (backup dates 20 and 21 Dec)**
  - a. Meet at Longfellow Grill at 1100 (we can change this time as needed to accommodate everyone)
    - i. 2990 W River Pkwy, Minneapolis
    - ii. Discuss marker program and needs
  - b. Drive to checkout various markers at Minnehaha Falls
  - c. Drive to checkout damaged marker at Lake Harriet
  
2. Status of Geological Informational Markers

This last year Patrick Steury completed his personal goal of visiting all the known GSM markers. Patrick joined the GSM last fall, visited all the sites, published a report in June, then started a new job in South Dakota in July!

In his travels, Patrick re-verified marker locations, assessed condition and recommended actions on markers needing help.

Patrick's final report is thorough, very well written and quite good.

Here is the marker status summary:

Present: 53

Good condition: 30

Fair condition: 13

Poor condition: 6

Bronze plaque removed from the intact pedestal: 4

3. The next step is to get the 6 markers in poor condition repaired and figure out what to do about the 4 pedestals without a bronze plaque.  
We need to determine the agency responsible (if any) for each marker needing repair  
Work with the agency to facilitate the repair  
If possible, develop a team of GSMers to repair markers  
-will need someone with experience in stone masonry

If no team, and the agency is not committed to repair  
- find a stonemason to do the repairs with GSM funding

4. GSM Website

Need 1 or 2 members to take ownership of the Marker section of the website.

- Ensure the data is up to date and accurate
- Recommend updates and changes as needed
- Recommend format changes as needed

5. Future marker design

- Research current types and technology used in roadside markers and other types of marker locations.
- Recommend solutions

6. Future marker locations

- Research and recommend new locations.