

Geological Society of Minnesota Board Meeting Minutes Feb 16, 2026

Prepared by Stephen Willging – 03/02/2026 Final

Approved 03/31/2026 see Appendix I - Posted on website 4/3/2026

Meeting: Monday 02/16/2026, 6:30pm

Location: Zoom

Board Members present

Dave Wilhelm (Pres)

Mary Helen Inskeep (VP)

Stephen Willging (Sec)

Dan Japuntich (Treas)

Wolfgang Bielefeld

Dick Bottenberg

Javier Guzman

Lowell Hill

Board Members absent

Kate Clover

Non-Board attendees

Alan Smith

Steve Erickson

Patrick Pfundstein

Debroah Neffziger

Dave Kelso

Previous minutes 11/17/2025: approved via e-mail and posted on [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 – Dan Japuntich

- a. Treasurer's report can be found in **Appendix A**
- b. Transition to new Treasurer

Transfer of Treasurer duties from Dave K. to Dan J. have been completed except for access to the Merrill Lynch account.

- c. Status of possible movement of GSM investment funds to checking

Early in this meeting the decision to move investment funds from the Merrill Lynch account to the checking account was postponed to the May Board Meeting. However, later in this meeting it became clear that the funds needed to be transferred sooner. At that time **Dan Japuntich made a motion that the Treasurer and Dave Kelso work to liquidate the Merrill Lynch account and move the funds into the GSM's checking account. The motion was seconded by Dick Bottenberg. The vote was 8 approved and non-opposed.**

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

No activity since last meeting. Stephen W. suggested the committee develop a forward-looking budget so we see the impact of future expenditure requests. **Stephen W. will work with Dan J. on a budget which will be presented at the next Board Meeting.**

3. Membership – Joanie Furlong

- a. There are 171 memberships in GSM as of 2/8/26.
- b. Joan F. has contacted organizations that have been receiving a complimentary copy of the GSM newsletter to see if they still want it. The list of who we send the newsletter via email can be found in **Appendix B**. The Minnesota Historical Society also receives a hard copy.
- c. Dave W has name tag for Javier G. – cost \$14 – **David W. will take \$14 from video library fund for reimbursement.**

4. Lectures & Labs – 2025-2026: Steve Erickson

- a. The full schedule is now online. Still looking for a speaker for the Spring Banquet (May 4th). Kent Syverson (speaker for April 20th) wants to stay overnight and looking to see if GSM will pay for the hotel. This request assumes the GSM will be meeting in person for the Apr. 20th lecture. **Dick Bottenberg made a motion to offer \$125 extra above the honorarium for a hotel room. Lowell Hill seconded the motion. The vote was 8 approved, non-opposed.**
- b. Possible change of venue for live lectures (next in person lecture is scheduled for March 23) **Steve E. will check with his contact at the UMN to determine if the GSM can get a U-card for access to Keller Hall.** Otherwise, the lecture could be a Zoom call. **If anyone has a suggestion for an alternative site let David W. and Steve E. know.**
- c. Spring Banquet location
The JBJ (Korean BBQ) is still under construction. No apparent opening date yet. **If anyone has a suggestion for an alternative site let David W. and Steve E. know.**
- d. Presentation by Lake Minnetonka Historical Society (LMHS) and GSM – See Newsletter Report from Joe Wright.
- e. Attendance report
Dave W has e-mailed lecture attendance report. The lab at Macalester on Feb 14 was attended by 38, including 8 new persons. The 2025/2026 attendance report can be found in **Appendix C.**
- f. Planning for 2026-2027 underway.

5. Video/Zoom recordings and posting to YouTube – Lowell Hill

- a. Barry Shillingford has 4 videos from online lectures this term; 2 have been published and the other 2 will be over the next 2 weeks (we are spacing them out). Prior to that, the most recent posting was from 2024.
- b. A question as to how many views have the video gotten came up. Lowell H. and Patrick P. will look up the viewing statistics. Patrick P. can set people up to have access to the statistics.
- c. **Lowell H. will look into software for editing videos and report back to the Board.**

6. GSM markers – Dick Bottenberg

- a. The Marker team now consists of Dick Bottenberg (chair), Zenobia Evans, Javier Guzman, Erika Wilder, Kevin Welk, Pete Hesse and Dan Japuntich.
- b. See activity report in **Appendix D.**
- c. Javier G. is developing a process to prioritize potential new markers and the maintenance thereof. Possible use of QR codes to link to the GSM website will be considered. **Dave W. will send Javier G. contact info for people who may be good resources.** Patrick P. has potential contacts from the MN Historical Society on how they manage markers. **Will send names to Dan J.**

7. Minnehaha Marker – Patrick Pfundstein

See update in **Appendix E.** Bottom line no progress.

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

- a. See **Appendix F** for the State Fair update. Patrick P. reported that he had not submitted invoices for the State Fair cost for the last 2 years. ~\$2,500 for 2024 and ~\$2,600 for 2025. **Patrick P. will send the invoices to Dan J.** The State Fair license fee for 2026 will be due soon ~\$1,200. These will result in about a \$6,300 hit to the GSM checking account.

- b. Other venues
 - a. The GSM has been invited to participate at an event at the Mill City Museum Feb 28th from 11a – 3p. Patrick P. needs 3 or 4 helpers. **Mary Helen Inskeep will join the event.**
 - b. The Minnesota Mineral Club annual rock show will be the 1st weekend in October which is one week later than the show in 2025.

9. Outreach:

- a. Justin Tweet gave a presentation on Minnesota Fossils to Thompson Park Activity Center, Nov 12, 2025 – See GSM February 2026 Newsletter for the full report from Justin Tweet. The Newsletter report without pictures can be found in **Appendix G**.
- b. Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion Elementary School STEM Night postponed due to ICE.
- c. Report on MESTA conference (Steve Erickson)
Theresa and Justin Tweet helped. Approximately 50 lecture brochures were handed out.
- d. Environmental Fun Fair to be hosted at Springbrook Nature Center from 11 am - 2 pm. on Saturday, May 2, 2026. We participated last year; looking for volunteers. **Stephen W. will help again this year.**

10. Video Library – Dave Wilhelm

- a. No new purchases; no rentals in last quarter; \$24 cash on hand. Nothing new to report.
- b. David W. has asked Deborah to suggest new titles. Nothing suggested yet.
- c. The longer-term discussion question - *What is the future of the library?* -, was deferred to a future meeting.

11. Field trips – Dave W

- a. Dave W has scheduled a “soils lab” day February 19 at UW River Falls, hosted by Holly Dolliver, our presenter from Feb 10, 2025. About 10 have signed up.
- b. Dave W will look into another tour of St. Anthony Falls Lab.
- c. Patrick Steury is investigating a possible trip to Black Hills in May.
- d. Randy & Joanie are looking at various possible local field trips.
- e. Mary Helen is thinking about a potential trip to the Chicago museums (Field, Science & Industry and Lizzadro Museums). Also, the “big hole in the ground” along I-80 and possibly the Indiana Dunes. Trip could be a week to 8 days long. This will be at least 1 year out.
- f. Trip to GSM markers around the Twin Cities possibly led by Randy S. and/or Roger B. (See Dick’s Marker Report.) The Marker team is looking for Marker field trip leader(s). **If you are interested let Dick B. know.**

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

Nothing to report. Looking for videos about 15 minutes in length. Lowell Hill and Joe Wright would be available to video any walking tours. A “Meteor Impact” video is under development by Mary Helen Inskeep and Kate Clover.

13. GSM Website – Alan Smith

- a. The credit card payment system is up and running for memberships. Joan Furlong gets a membership notification and payment goes into the GSM checking account. There is a fee for each transaction. **Alan Smith will send information about the system to David W.**
- b. Alan is working on a membership address book for the website.

14. **Aiming for a younger and more diverse membership, Meet Up group – Mary Helen Inskeep**
Mary Helen sent an email with Meet Up sign up data, which is summarized in **Appendix H**. Sixty-eight people have signed up of which only 9 were believed to be existing GSM members. Mary Helen was not able to give the Board a demo due to technical issues with the Zoom call. The Meet Up renewal will be in August. **The Board will need to decide on the renewal at the May Board meeting.** Send any questions about Meet Up to Mary Helen I.

15. **GSM Newsletter**

Kate is resigning as editor after many years of exemplary service. She will do the May newsletter hopefully with the new editor. **If anyone is interested or you know of anyone that may be interested with good editor skills let David Wilhelm know.**

16. **GSM donation to ILSG.** <https://www.lakesuperiorgeology.org/ThunderBay2026/index.html>

We have contributed to this for the past 8 years or so. In 2024, our contribution was \$400.

Dan Japuntich made a motion that the GSM make a \$400 donation to ILSG. Mary Helen Inskeep seconded the motion. The vote was 8 approves non-opposed.

17. GSM funding request from Olivia Rowe

Wolfgang Bielefeld made a motion that the GSM should not fund this request. Stephen W. seconded the motion. The vote was 8 approved and non-opposed.

David Wilhelm made a motion to work with Olivia for a 15 – 30 minute video for the standard \$125 lecture honorarium. Dick Bottenberg seconded the motion. The vote was 8 approved, non-opposed.

For future guidance on this type of request, after the Board Meeting, the following information was found online regarding donations from a 501(c)(3) organization to individuals.

Source: <https://donorbox.org/nonprofit-blog/501c3-donation-rules> - 501(c)(3)

organizations can donate to individuals, but these contributions must be made as grants or scholarships. When offering financial support to an individual, a 501(c)(3) organization must award these gifts to a class of individuals and include an application process for those who would receive the gift.

18. **Donations to GSM:**

- a. “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 took ~42 to distribute at ILSG. I have received one online request for one.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. Various rocks, minerals, and other items from the Steffners (no further progress)

Nothing to report

19. Any other agenda items?

Wolfgang B. suggested the link to the YouTube videos on the GSM website needs to be more visible.
David W. will get something to Alan S. to make the link more visible.

20. Date & location of next Board meeting

It was agreed the next Board Meeting will be May 11th at 6:30 pm at a location TBD.

Dick Bottenberg made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Wolfgang Bielefeld seconded the motion. The vote was 8 approved, non-opposed. The meeting was adjourned.

Appendix A

Treasurer's Report
GSM Board Meeting
Feb 16, 2026

1. Bank statements balanced for the months of Nov, Dec 2025 and Jan 2026.
 - a. No issues or concerns.
2. Income, deposits, for the three months \$1,682.97
 - a. External Donations = \$203.00
 - b. Memberships Form Deposits = \$1,479.97
3. Expenses for the three months = \$2560
 - a. Directory-Membership = \$258
 - i. Postage = \$114
 - ii. Printing = \$144
 - b. Lecture Honorariums = \$875.
 - c. U Haul Storage space rent = \$462
 - d. Meet-Up (1 yr) = \$299.99
 - e. Insurance = \$425
 - f. Poster \$140
 - g. Video editing = \$100
4. Checking account balance as of 1/31/2026 = \$11,865.87.
 - a. Note: The Huntington Checking Account and Debit Card have Daniel Japuntich as primary contact. Huntington checkbook signers are listed as Daniel Japuntich, David Wilhelm and Steve Erickson.
 - b. Note: The new Debit bank card was entered for automatic billing for our U Haul storage rent payment with Daniel Japuntich as primary contact.
5. The Merrill Lynch account balance as of 12/31/2025 = \$12,878.78.
 - a. The Merrill Lynch investment account was established last quarter (Tiffany Fahnhorst Merrill rep.). Dave Kelso is still the primary contact. Transfer to Japuntich will proceed next quarter.
 - b. The Annual Minnesota Tax-exempt renewal form was submitted last year to the Secretary of State.
 - c. Federal tax form 990-N has not been submitted to the IRS yet, pending technical problems with their website. Japuntich is working on getting it submitted.
6. This report will be uploaded to the GSM website at the conclusion of the Board meeting.

Submitted by Daniel Japuntich
GSM Treasurer

Appendix B

From Joan Furlong – Organizations receiving GSM Newsletter

Minnesota Geological Survey	runke001@umn.edu , tippi001@umn.edu	Anthony Runkel, Robert Tipping
Macalester College	thole@macalester.edu	Jeff Thole
Gustavus Adolphus College	jbartley@gustavus.edu	Julie Bartley, Chair
U of M - Dept of Soil, Water & Climate	will-b@umn.edu , pool0097@umn.edu	Brent Williams, Nora Poole
Involved in Earth Science teaching.	lschmitt@hamline.edu	Lee Schmitt-not sure email is correct. Did teach at Hamline.
Minnesota Lapidary Supply	sales@lapidarysupplies.com	Val Carver
MN Mineral Club	coop500stuart@gmail.com	Stuart Reid, Newsletter Editor
Mn/DOT Materials & Research Lab	jason.richter@state.mn.us	Jason Richter
UMD -Dept of Geological Sciences	rmorton@d.umn.edu	Ron Morton
U of M -Student GeoClub	umgs@umn.edu	Aletta
Bell Museum	menke004@umn.edu	Jennifer Menken
Carlton College	dmorissette@carleton.edu	Danielle Morissette, Administrative Assistant

Appendix C

Summary to-date for 2025-2026 (excluding special presentation & lab): 9 lectures, 608 total attendance, 68 average attendance, 56 (9%) identified as new attendees/non-members

2026-02-14	38 SATURDAY LAB: Rocks and the Minerals that Define Them – an Exploration of Minerals that Make Up Common Rocks (8 new attendees: MeetUp, website, invited by friend; one attendee was 10-year-old grandson of a member)
2026-02-09	63 devices (68 persons) ONLINE Hematite Ore Formation in the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, Northeastern Minnesota (6 identified as non-members: website, Nebraska Geo Soc, invited by friend)
2026-02-02	59 devices (64 persons) ONLINE The Role of Snowball Earth Events in Bedrock Weathering (5 identified as non-members: Nebraska Geo Soc, RAS, MMC show)
2026-01-15	105 SPECIAL PRESENTATION by GSM and Lake Minnetonka Historical Society: Geology of Lake Minnetonka (estimate that 75% of attendees were not GSM members)
2025-12-08	63 devices (66 persons) ONLINE - Origin and Mineralogy of the Sudbury Structure (8 identified as non-members: family, state fair, RAS)
2025-11-24	59 devices (65 persons) ONLINE - The Rock Elm Meteor Impact Structure, Pierce County, WI: Discovery and Basic Geology (4 identified as non-members)
2025-11-10	84 Lake Superior and Its Gales (10 new attendees: invited by friends/relatives)
2025-10-27	55 From Formations to Foundation: The Geology of Bridge Construction (no new attendees)
2025-10-13	70 Upper Mississippi Valley: Proglacial Origins to Modern Evolution (8 new attendees: State Fair, invited by friends/relatives, website)
2025-09-29	86 Feathers, Flight, & Fossils: Current Perspectives on the Evolution of Birds from Dinosaurs (15 new attendees: State Fair, invited by friends/relatives, GSM YouTube channel)
2025-09-15	50 Annual Meeting; Beautiful Ohio: Sedimentary Dreams – A Virtual Field Trip (no new attendees)

Appendix D

GSM Marker Team Status – 14 February 2026 from Dick Bottenberg

- 1) The Marker Team's top near term priority is to repair the 6 markers needing repair before erecting any additional markers. The goal is to do what it takes this winter to start repair on the first marker by 1 June. This effort is underway as Zee has started to contact organizations that may be responsible for the damaged markers.
- 2) The number 2 near term priority is to plan a marker field trip to take place this Summer. We are currently looking for a field trip leader.
- 3) The long-term priority is to develop a strategy for the use of geological markers, current technology (QR codes) and new ideas to provide information and education regarding Minnesota's geological features and history. It may be that significant initial costs and maintenance costs will dictate that new physical markers must be only for compelling geological sites. Other significant and interesting sites might use QR code benchmarks. Javier has developed an initial draft for review by the Marker team that hopefully will be ready for Board review by the May meeting. Imbedded in this strategy will be:
 - a) An approach ensure markers are properly maintained once installed. It needs to be recognized that repair and maintenance of existing physical markers is not a one-time task but requires an ongoing long-term commitment.
 - b) A process to rate and select new marker locations.
 - c) An understanding of potential funding sources.

In support of the above, Dan is working to set up a meeting with the MNHS and marker team members to learn more from their experience with historical markers.

Appendix E

Minnehaha Marker 02.16.26

I've been suffering the some pretty serious aging tech issues (my phone finally died and was replaced, but my newest serious computer needs replacement (crash issues any time I work long in big files or multiple apps; it's 13 y.o.)

Which has hampered my diving back into HTML/CSS to create a web version of the Minnehaha Marker. Sadly that halting progress is the only movement on this front.

The project is essentially finished until we get Park Board approval. Eons ago (a decade?) when Dick got a bid done, manufacturing and shipping likely took a couple months from the order date.

I sent off this email to MaryLynn today and will let you all know when/if I hear back.

MaryLynn

I'm not really sure where we are on this project (if you are waiting for us or we are waiting for you). My sense is that we were essentially at a final product, but again, I'm not sure.

Can you let me know if the Park Board is still interested in pursuing the geology marker? We'd like to get it out to the public at some point soon; on our website if not in physical form.

Let me know, and if you are waiting on us, let us know what you need.

Patrick

Appendix F

Minnesota State Fair and Outreach Report 2/6/26

First and most regrettably I listed my expenses in earlier reports for both '24 and '25, but realized I never actually submitted invoices or them in-season or afterward. I'm hoping it isn't too late to collect?

The 2024 total is \$2566.00 (\$1110.00 State Fair fees, \$1096.00 printing, \$360 tickets).

The 2025 total is \$2633.25 (\$1112.50 to the Fair, \$1168.75 brochure printing, \$352.00 in Fair tickets).

If it is still okay for me to send this for payment, let me know and I'll send Dan brief invoices and the supporting PDFs.

The 2026 Fair has started online. I received an email asking if we were 'in' for 2026 (the digital version of the post-card Dan used to get, and I answered in the affirmative. I've also gone online to confirm our services statement (same as it has been since I've been doing this; promotion of Earth Sciences, etc).

The base 2026 invoice amount has been posted as \$1,112.50 which is unchanged from last year, and includes the mandatory group insurance through MSF (something that started post-pandemic). It isn't payable yet, but when that happens I'll get it to Dan for payment. Usually official posting is in March/April after licenses are issued.

If, for some reason we don't want to take part, there isn't any financial penalty for withdrawing this early.

Outreach

Fairly late notice, but Mill City Museum has invited us back for their annual STEM Day on February 28th, and I said we could come. This would be our third time out, and the base program has been one tray of selected Table Rocks and one messier tray of Identify Rocks (iPad, scratch/hardness test, acid (in this case white vinegar). Kate has also brought her Sands collection (but that would be dependent on Kate being there.

The audience is far more kid-centric than the State Fair audience, and most of the STEM exhibits (including GSM) will be in the non-admission zone; aka free for the general public.

Deets: February 28, 11am-3pm <https://www.mnhs.org/events/45268743735>

I will set up and staff, but we could definitely use a couple more if people are interested. The museum feeds us, and comps for parking. Let me know soon if you want to take part.

MMC also let me know that they are shifting from late September to the first week of October for their Annual Rock Show.

Patrick

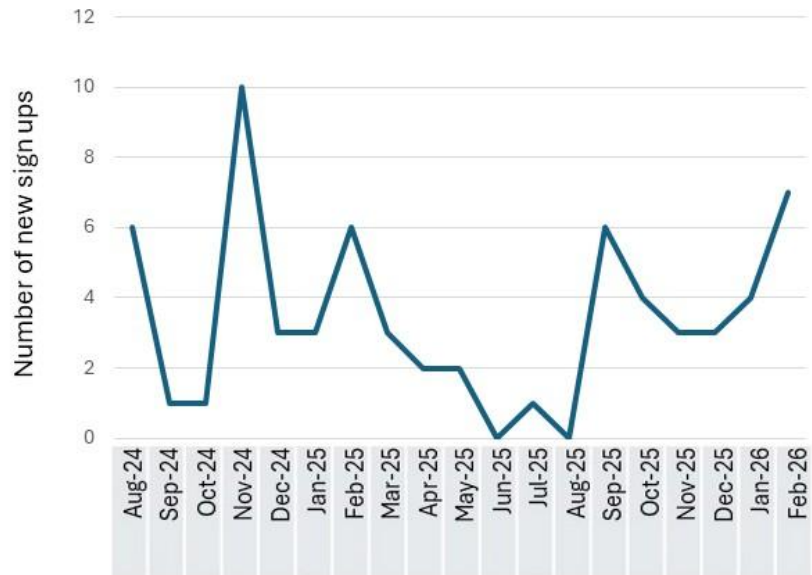
Appendix G

Presentation on Fossils of Minnesota
By Justin Tweet

On Wednesday, November 12, 2025, representing the Geological Society of Minnesota, Justin Tweet gave a presentation on the fossils of Minnesota for a 55+ education group. It was held at the Thompson Park Activity Center in West St. Paul. Attendance was strong, with a group of 20, who asked many excellent questions throughout. The program started with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the state’s fossils from the Precambrian, Paleozoic, Cretaceous, and Quaternary, with special focus on the abundant and well-known fossils of the Late Ordovician found from the Twin Cities to the southeast corner of the state. After this, Tweet had a table of fossils for hands-on learning, with plenty of local Cambrian and Ordovician fossils plus some stand-ins to represent Cretaceous and Quaternary fossils. Thank you to Tim Johnson of the Thompson Park Activity Center for the invitation!

Appendix H

Month/Year	Number new people joining M.U. Group
Aug-24	6
Sep-24	1
Oct-24	1
Nov-24	10
Dec-24	3
Jan-25	3
Feb-25	6
Mar-25	3
Apr-25	2
May-25	2
Jun-25	0
Jul-25	1
Aug-25	0
Sep-25	6
Oct-25	4
Nov-25	3
Dec-25	3
Jan-26	4
Feb-26	7



Appendix I Email approval dates – 9 approvals, non-opposed

	<u>Approval Date</u>		<u>Approval Date</u>
David Wilhelm	03/02/2026	Dick Bottenberg	03/02/2026
Mary Helen Inskeep	03/31/2026	Lowell Hill	03/02/2026
Dan Japuntich	03/02/2026	Javier Guzman	03/09/2026
Stephen Willging	03/02/2026	Wolfgang Bielefeld	03/02/2026
Kate Clover	03/23/2026		