

Geological Society of Minnesota Board Meeting Minutes Aug 17, 2026 – Final
Prepared by Stephen Willging – 9 approval, 0 objections

Meeting: Monday 08/17/2026, 6:30pm

Location: U of Minnesota, Tate Hall, Rm 110

Board Members present:

David Wilhelm (President)
Mary Helen Inskeep (Vice President)
Dan Japuntich (Treasurer)
Stephen Willging (Secretary)
Kate Clover
Lowell Hill
Dick Bottenberg

Board Members Absent

Javier Guzman
Wolfgang Bielefeld

Other attendees:

Joanie Furlong
Alan Smith
Kay Smith
Steve Erickson
Patrick Pfundstein
Deborah Naffziger

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.

Previous minutes 5/11/2026: approved via e-mail and posted on [website](#).

Agenda Topics:

1. Treasurer's report – Dan Japuntich

See Treasurer's Report in **Appendix A, page 1**. Everything looks good. **Lowell Hill motioned that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Dick Bottenberg seconded the motion. The vote was 7 approved, none opposed. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.**

Steve Erikson needs some more checks for honorariums. **Dan J. will get some checks to Steve E.**

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

See Budget and year to date spreadsheet in **Appendix A, page 2**. The financial oversight committee has not met since the last board meeting. **It will review the books after the close of the GSM's fiscal calendar at the end of August.**

3. Membership – Joanie Furlong. Note: Joanie F., David W, and Stephen W. have mailbox keys.

See membership report in **Appendix B**. Seven more memberships were received at the Board meeting. Alan S. report about 40 people have used the Stripes online payment system for membership. The membership dollars and the Stripes dollars need to be reconciled. **Alan S. will send data to both Joanie F. and Dan J. so it can be reconciled with the bank statement.**

Kate C. asked if the membership renewal form printed in the newsletter included info on renewing via the website and using the Stripes payment system. **Kate C. said she'd check.** The old form does not include the new payment info.

4. Membership dues increase

Due to action at May 2026 Board meeting, membership dues increase on August 1: \$30/yr for individuals, \$45/yr for families, students remain at \$10/yr. The dues increase was announced and implemented.

5. GSM Website – Alan Smith

Alan S. found several software issues with the GSM website in the last couple of months. At the present time it appears the problems have been resolved and the GSM website is back to normal operations.

One issue the Board will have to address in the future is who can take over maintenance of the website should something happen to Alan S. David W. will send out a request for anyone interested in becoming a backup for Alan S.

6. Recruitment of members to fill the 2027 GSM Board.

Three Board members (Dick B., Kate C., Stephen W.) will leave the Board at the end of 2026 due to term limits. We will elect members to replace them at the Fall Banquet in September. So far, Deborah Naffziger and Zenobia Evans have agreed to run for the Board. We still need to identify at least 1 more person before the Fall Banquet. **If anyone has a suggestion let Dave W. know. David W. will also send out a general request for people interested in joining the Board.**

7. Lectures & Labs Planning for 2026-2027 – Steve Erickson

The full 2026-2027 schedule was been submitted for the August 2026 Newsletter and is now online. The U of Minnesota will give us the lecture room assignment after Sept 7th. At the present time, there is no Lab on the schedule. Also noted the Spring Banquet is only 1 week after the last lecture.

8. Fall Banquet

The location for the Fall Banquet has not been set yet. The House of Wong at Lexington and Larpenteur has been suggested. However, their banquet room is a little small for our usual crowd and they do not have Audio Visual equipment nor enough clear space on the walls for a projector to project on, so it does not look like a suitable venue. JBJ Korean BBQ on University is not open yet so it is also not available.

As the Spring Banquet organized by Lowell Hill was a success, easiest choice would be do similar. **Lowell will look into the possibility of using the church hall again.** It was suggested

we find a caterer specializing in Chinese food. Let Lowell know if you have any suggestions for caterer. Joanie F. will help look into potential caterers.

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

From Mary Helen I.:

Lowell H., Kate C. and Mary Helen I. have set a date to film a short demo on impact cratering, on the afternoon of Aug. 24th (assuming the weather is favorable for outdoor filming).

10. GSM markers – Dick Bottenberg

Committee membership: Dick Bottenberg (chair), Zenobia Evans, Javier Guzman, Dan Japuntich, Kevin Welk, Erika Wilder.

During the May Board Meeting the Marker committee recommended decommissioning several markers with missing plaques. The Board approved at that time. See the current status in **Appendix C**.

Zee and Dick performed a top-level cleaning and maintenance procedure on the Lake Harriet marker and on 2 markers at Minnehaha Falls. See results in **Appendix C**.

During the May Board Meeting Javier presented a new approach to the GSM's efforts related to geologic education and outreach. This approach would focus the GSM on geologically significant sites (not necessarily the physical markers) and revamp or replace the GSM road markers webpage with a self-guided field trips page. The Board approved at that time. Here is the current update from Javier Guzman: "An update to the DIY field trip committee (agenda item #10): I plan to send out a call for committee volunteers around the time of the fall banquet and hope to schedule a kickoff meeting in September."

10. Minnehaha Marker – Patrick Pfundstein

Nothing to report.

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

See summary report in **Appendix D**. Initial e-mail to members for staffing the booth was sent May 28.

12. Outreach

Steve Erickson and Patrick Pfundstein manned a table at the Science Museum of Minnesota's Dino Fest on Sat. Aug 1st.

The GSM will participate in the Minnesota Mineral Clubs' annual show on the State Fair grounds. This year's show will be the first weekend of October and be located in the Grandstand.

13. Video Library – Dave Wilhelm (no new purchases; no rentals this quarter, \$22 cash on hand)

David W. has asked Deborah to suggest new titles.

Future Discussion question: What is the future of the library?

14. Field trips – Dave Wilhelm

- a. The Black Hills trip was June 1 to 7, headed by Randy Strobel & Joan Furlong, organized by Dave W. There were 16 participants. Deborah N. submitted comprehensive article for August Newsletter.
- b. Dave W. has scheduled a "Soils Lab" at UW River Falls for August 18th. It will be hosted by Holly Dolliver, our presenter from Feb 10, 2025.
- c. Dave W. trying to organize a weekend field trip to the Wisconsin Ice Age Trail, led by our presenter from Feb 23, Lisa Siewert. Maybe as late as mid-October.
- d. Dave W will look into another tour of St. Anthony Falls Lab.
- e. Paul Maloney is looking into trip to Dresser, WI quarry.
- f. Mary Helen is thinking about a potential trip to 3 Chicago-area museums (spending 1 full day each at The Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts). Also, the "big hole in the ground" along I-80 and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. This trip would be 7-8 days long, but it's probably a year or two in the future.
- g. Nothing new about potential trips to GSM markers around Minnesota possibly led by Randy S. and/or Roger B.

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

Nothing to report.

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

See report in **Appendix E**. At May 2026 meeting, Board voted to defund the Meet Up site.

At May 2026 meeting, it was suggested to focus activity to college students.

Steve E. will ask for U of MN contacts. If anyone has contacts at St. Thomas or Macalester let Mary Helen I. know.

17. GSM Newsletter - The editing team consists of: Jon Wolf, Mark Ryan, Harvey Thorleifson, and Rich Lively.

The August 2026 Newsletter has been issued. The transition from Kate Clover to Jon Wolf went well.

18. Donations to GSM

“Minnesota Fossils and Fossiliferous Rocks” from Sally Sloan, widow of author Robert Sloan. Steve distributed a few (how many?) at ILSG. We gave a few as thank-you gifts on the South Dakota field trip.

Various rocks, minerals, and other items from the Steffners (no further progress)

19. Any other agenda items?

Should we award Rock Hammers to anyone at the Fall banquet? **David W. will send a list of previous Rock Hammer winners. Let David know if you have any suggestions of potential Rock Hammer candidates.**

20. Date & location of next Board meeting

Potential dates for the next Board meeting are Nov 12 (second Thursday) or Nov 16 (a non-lecture Monday). Note: David W travelling Nov 23 to Dec 7.

It was agreed that the next Board meeting will be at 6:30p on Monday Nov 16th.

Kate Clover made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Japuntich seconded the motion. The vote was 7 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Appendix A (page 1)

Treasurer's Report
GSM Board Meeting
August 17, 2026

1. Bank statements balanced for the months of May, June, July 2026.
 - a. No issues or concerns.
2. Income, deposits, for the three months \$498
 - a. Donations = \$0
 - b. Memberships Form, incl. dues and donations, misc = \$498
 - c. Video Library = \$0
3. Expenses for the three months = \$1659
 - a. Banquet Catering = \$357 (costs after settling up collections, etc.)
 - b. Lecture Honorariums = \$0
 - c. On-line Membership Dues software = \$399
 - d. U Haul Storage space rent = \$462
 - e. Newsletter
 - i. Postage = \$18.77
 - ii. Printing = \$21.76
 - f. Outreach/Scholarships = \$400 (ISLG check cashed 6/15/2026)
4. Checking account balance as of 7/31/2026 = \$23,939.17
5. New Membership Dues Levels were enacted 8/1/2026:
 - () Student ____ \$10
 - () Individual ____ \$30; \$60 (2 years); \$90 (3 years)
 - () Family ____ \$45; \$90 (2 years); \$135 (3 years)
 - () Sustaining ____ \$50
 - () Supporting ____ \$100
 - () Guarantor ____ \$250
6. The MN Office of the Secretary of State Business Filing for the GSM as a non-profit (File 2969-NP) was renewed on 6/19/2026. I have amended and refiled it with Japuntich as the account holder. The State Business annual renewal request will now be sent to me directly in September.
7. The Federal tax IRS Form 990-N was successfully submitted 6/19/2026 for Tax Year End Date August 31, 2025. FYI: The 990-N Tax Form is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of our tax year on August 31. The due date for GSM is January 15 every year).
8. Financial Oversight – Finance Committee (Japuntich, Kelso, Willging)
 - a. Since the GSM Fiscal Year begins September 1 and ends the following year on August 31, a final, single page, yearly report will be sent to the GSM Board after the receipt of the August bank statement. At that time, a new fiscal year budget will be generated.
 - b. The format of the GSM Fiscal Year Finance Operating Budget Report, shown below as a partial through the 3rd Fiscal Quarter, will include line items under the designations of Current Assets, Income and Expenses. Report columns will include Actual YTD, Present Yearly Budget, Past YTD, and Past Yearly Budget. The “Dollars over Budget” column is for progress tracking using the difference between Actual YTD and present Yearly Budget. Net Surplus is shown at the bottom as Total Income minus Total Expenses.

Submitted by Daniel Japuntich
GSM Treasurer

Appendix A (page 2) from Dan Japuntich

GSM 2026 FISCAL QTR3 YTD Operating Budget Report							
Current Assets		FY2026	FY2026	FY2025	FY2025	FY2026	FY2026
		Actual YTD	Budget	Past YTD	Past Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Cash - Huntington Bank Checking		\$24,141	\$24,517	\$22,010	\$24,517	-\$376	98.5%
Total Assets		\$24,141	\$24,517	\$22,010	\$24,517	-\$376	98.5%
Income		FY2026	FY2026	FY2025	FY2025	FY 2026	FY 2026
		Actual YTD	Budget	Past YTD	Past Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Donations	Donations misc.	\$2,553	\$680	\$740	\$680	\$1,873	375.4%
Field Trips	field trips	\$0	\$107	\$0	\$107	-\$107	0.0%
Membership	dues	\$3,159	\$5,717	\$3,200	\$5,717	-\$2,558	55.3%
Misc.	Clothing/books	\$0	\$303	\$909	\$303	-\$303	0.0%
Outreach	k-12 sch lecture	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	rockbox	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Video Library	video library	\$15	\$17	\$50	\$17	-\$2	90.0%
Total Income		\$5,727	\$6,823	\$4,899	\$6,823	-\$1,096	83.9%
Expenses		FY2026	FY2026	FY2025	FY2025	FY2026	FY2026
		Actual YTD	Budget	Past YTD	Past Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Banquet	facility rent	\$357	\$308	\$300	\$308	\$49	115.9%
	spkr expense	\$0	\$39	\$76	\$39	-\$39	0.0%
Directory-Membershi	postage	\$114	\$179	\$140	\$179	-\$65	63.6%
	printing/pdf	\$144	\$249	\$443	\$249	-\$105	57.9%
Field Trips	field trips	\$0	\$117	\$0	\$117	-\$117	0.0%
Lecture/Lab	honoraum	\$1,800	\$1,283	\$925	\$1,283	\$517	140.3%
	mileage/parking	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	saff expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	video supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Marker Project	expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Membership	postage	\$0	\$5	\$15	\$5	-\$5	0.0%
	expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Misc	u-haul Storage	\$1,386	\$1,740	\$1,408	\$1,740	-\$354	79.7%
	Insurance	\$425	\$437	\$460	\$437	-\$12	97.3%
	misc	\$566	\$376	\$650	\$376	\$191	150.7%
	name tags	\$14	\$9	\$0	\$9	\$5	159.3%
	po box rent	\$210	\$192	\$200	\$192	\$18	109.4%
Newsletter	postage	\$52	\$120	\$78	\$120	-\$68	43.3%
	printing	\$43	\$262	\$67	\$262	-\$219	16.3%
Outreach	k-12 sch lecture	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Schps/grants	ILSG	\$400	\$367	\$400	\$367	\$33	109.1%
State Fair	booth rent	\$1,104	\$1,104	\$0	\$1,104	\$0	100.0%
	supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	printing	\$0	\$955	\$0	\$955	-\$955	0.0%
	free tickets	\$0	\$237	\$0	\$237	-\$237	0.0%
Video Library	video library	\$0	\$14	\$0	\$14	-\$14	0.0%
Video-Lectures	Supplies/equip.	\$0	\$181	\$0	\$181	-\$181	0.0%
	Editing, etc.	\$100	\$33	\$100	\$33	\$67	300.0%
Web Hostmaster	(every 3 yrs)	\$42	\$338	\$0	\$338	-\$296	12.4%
Total Expenses		\$6,757	\$8,546	\$5,261	\$8,546	-\$1,788	79.1%
Net Surplus (Income-Expences)		-\$1,030	-\$1,723	-\$362	-\$1,723	\$692	59.8%

Appendix B from Joan Furlong

On Aug 15, 2026

Here is the GSM Membership Report for the August 17 GSM Board Meeting.

I will be attending the GSM Board Meeting

202 memberships

23 have been made inactive as their renewal date 2025

We have 179 active memberships but

105 are up for renewal this year, 2026

That leaves 74 memberships (1 lifetime, 4 with an expiration date of 2029, 27 2028, 42 2029)

Renewals have been coming in. Stripe has been working great. I will bring a current number on memberships on Monday. One new membership.

On Aug 17, 2026

As of today, from GSM database

6 memberships will expire in 2029

32 in 2028

54 on 2027

One new member

93 memberships

There are 90 memberships up for renewal

Appendix C from Dick Bottenberg

GSM Marker Team Status – 7 August 2026

- 1) No progress to date on decommissioning the 4 markers identified at the last Board Meeting. Plan to address the next quarter. The approach is as follows:
 - a) Remove the 4 markers from the GSM website
 - b) Attempt to contact the marker owners to determine if any physical action is necessary
 - c) Gain Board approval if GSM funding is required
- 2) Zee and Dick performed a top-level cleaning and maintenance procedure on the Lake Harriet marker and on 2 markers at Minnehaha Falls. The purpose was to try cleaning to see if it would be effective.
 - a) We received no response from inquires to Minneapolis Park Board, so we charged ahead
 - b) Zee developed a top-level process
 - i) Use soft brush to clean debris from brass inlay
 - ii) Use wooden skewers to get into cracks
 - iii) Use camp soap dilution and soft brush to gently scrub away debris
 - iv) Rinse thoroughly with water, blot dry and ensure plaque is dry when leaving
 - c) Results
 - i) The cleaning did not really change the marker appearance. The problem is that the brass inlays have discolored due to usual brass weathering; one of the brass inlays had a small amount of paint on it. The question we are researching is: what can be done about the discoloration, if anything.
 - ii) The pedestals for 2 of the 3 markers that we cleaned need minor cement repair.

- 3) Dan plans to set up a meeting with Andrea Weber of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). We need to work with MnDOT to determine how to repair at least 2 markers controlled by them.
 - 4) Met with Liz Koele, former MNHS employee, to go over what she learned when she inventoried all the MNHS markers in Minnesota. We learned that Liz is now the communications person who coordinates between Minnesota's small museums and the various historical centers around the state.
 - a) There may be an outreach potential with these museums and historical centers. They are looking for speakers to present at their sites (including Minnesota geology).
 - 5) The DIY Field trip effort has been spun-off from the Marker Team effort. Javier leads the new committee and has updated separately.
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Appendix D from Patrick Pfundstein

State Fair Report (with a bit of MMC)

Forms are all filled out and filed (license, sales tax, workers comp).

Volunteers

We currently have 73% of all slots filled (53 of 72) including all of the critical weekday slots (most are double covered, most of the singles are evenings, which I can help with after work. 28 members have signed up for shifts, and 18 have signed up for multiple shifts (as many as 5 by Mr Erickson!). Current estimate is about 25 free tickets for extra shifts (financial cost below). That could well go up as we could still use volunteers, and it is likely that any names added to the current grid will be those with one or more shifts already (like myself as I fill weekend gaps).

Expenses

State Fair License (paid by me) \$1112.50
(inc. booth rental and insurance)

Tickets are \$16 each this year;
at current 25 ticket estimate: \$350.00

Brochure Printing

\$1500 estimate based on past years about 2K-2.5K items

Rental Van? (Depends on help loading in/out) \$50-\$100

Still To Do

First email to signed up volunteers (including load-in/out recruitment) (Tuesday)
Send around Lecture Brochure for proofing (Tuesday)
Order Brochures (Friday?)
Order Tickets (Wednesday)
Mail tickets (Thursday)
Main Load In Tuesday August 25
Fair Opens August 27
Load Out Sept 8th

MMC is first week in October now, so I'm waiting until post-Fair to post a grid.

Patrick

Appendix E from Mary Helen Inskeep

Getting a younger & more diverse membership:

* GSM's Meetup site has now been shut down, in time to AVOID paying anything more. My final letter to its participants directed them to GSM's main website and our YouTube page, which I specifically noted had a number of lectures recently uploaded to it.

* I myself have 1 contact at UST who teaches Environmental Geology. We all know Jeff Thole at Macalester; no one has sent me any other leads as of yet.

Appendix F: Email approval dates – X approvals, Y opposed, Z no response

	<u>Approval Date</u>		<u>Approval Date</u>
David Wilhelm	08/30/2026	Dick Bottenberg	08/30/2026
Mary Helen Inskeep	09/14/2026	Lowell Hill	08/29/2026
Dan Japuntich	08/29/2026	Javier Guzman	08/30/2026
Stephen Willging	08/29/2026	Wolfgang Bielefeld	08/30/2026
Kate Clover	08/29/2026		