

Geological Society of Minnesota Board Meeting Minutes - May 23, 2024.

Prepared by Stephen Willging

Revision Date: 06/01/2024

Meeting: Thursday 05/23/2024, 6:30pm

Location: U Garden Restaurant

Board Members Present

David Wilhelm

Stephen Willging

Dave Kelso

Dick Bottenberg

Kate Clover

Roger Benepe

Lowell Hill

Deborah Naffziger

Board Members Not Present

Pete Hesse

Non-Board attendees

Patrick Pfundstein

Mary Helen Inskeep

Steve Erickson

Alan Smith

Kay Smith

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:45p with a quorum of Board members present.

Agenda Topics:

**1. Treasurer's report - Dave Kelso**

See Treasurer's Report in Appendix A. Movement of funds authorized at the last Board meeting to the investment account has been completed. Deborah N. reported that our account contact "Tiffany" has moved from RBC to Merrill Lynch. Dave K. will look into a possible move of GSM investments to Merrill Lynch.

**2. Lectures & Labs - Steve Erickson**

See attendance report e-mailed by David W. 5/20/24 in Appendix C.

Steve E. reported the Fall 2024 lecture is set. The Spring 2025 lecture series is still being worked on. See current lecture schedule in Appendix B. The Fall lecture schedule will be available for the State Fair. Steve E. is looking to reschedule the cancelled "From Formations to Foundations: The Geology of Bridge Construction" lecture in the 2024/2025 schedule. Jeff Thole will hold a lab in mid-February 2025. Potential lab date 2/22/24. The next GSM newsletter will be published in August. However, due to travel, articles for the August Newsletter need to be to Kate Clover by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The next ILSG meeting is scheduled for May 14 – 17, 2025.

**3. Video/Zoom recordings - Dick Bottenberg**

See summary report in Appendix D. Five in-person lectures were videoed. 3 are ok to upload onto website. The Spring Banquet video looks good. The 3 Zoom lectures are ok to upload with minimal editing. One can expect 6 lectures to be upon YouTube. The videos should be uploaded in chronological order.

**4. Membership – Joanie Furlong**

Joanie reported via email that there are currently 174 GSM members.

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

**Springbrook Nature Center Environmental Fun Fair – Dave Wilhelm**

See summary report in Appendix E. Patrick P. reported the State Fair license fee has been paid. Looking to test the volunteer sign-up system for booth shifts. Everyone at the meeting will be given access the sign-up system to test when it is ready. Patrick P. is also looking for volunteers for Fair setup and take down.

**Patrick P. made a motion that the GSM will pay for Fair tickets or those volunteers signing up for 2 or more booth shifts. Kate C. seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor, none opposed. The motion was carried.**

David W. reported the GSM had a table at the Springbrook Nature Center's Environmental Fun Fair on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. David Wilhelm, Mary Kay Arthur and Stephen Willging talked to participants about Minnesota Rock, Minerals, Fossils and GSM activities.

**6. Minnehaha Marker – Patrick Pfundstein**

See summary report in Appendix F. Patrick P. reported the Park Board is working on the proposed design. The location is being looked into. Patrick P. is waiting to place a bid until the Park Board approves the design and location.

**7. Video Library – Dave Wilhelm**

David W. reported there has been a minimal number of rentals from the library. The library will continue but the technology may be getting old. The library is not actively looking for new materials.

**8. Field trips – Dave Wilhelm**

David W. asked if there were any field trips planned for this year. It was suggested that Greg Brick may lead a trip in October. David W. asked about the possibility of doing a Devonian Fossil field trip to Rockford, IA. It has been 2 years since the last one. Stephen Willging and Roger Benepe will look into a field trip to Rockford, IA for Sept or Oct. Let David W. know if anyone has additional field trip ideas. Possibly a trip around Hidden Falls or Shadow Falls.

**9. Creating video walking tours for the GSM YouTube channel – Kate Clover**

Kate C. has watched many of Shawn Willsey's "Random Road Cuts" videos and thinks we could do similar with points of geological interest around the area. Perhaps one of Minnehaha Falls, Saint Anthony Falls, or short geo walking tours in downtown St. Paul or Minneapolis. The videos would be about 10 – 15 minutes long. The Board thought it would be a good idea. A team needs to be identified to create the videos. Equipment should not be a problem. If anyone has ideas for a video, let Kate C. know. Also let Kate C. know if you know of someone who has a drone for aerial videoing.

**10. GSM T-shirts & caps – Joe Newberg (postponed until Fall Banquet)**

Nothing new until the Fall Banquet.

### **11. GSM Website - Alan Smith**

The new website has had a developmental set back. It is not available for testing yet. It should be available for Board testing sometime this summer. Alan S. will let the Board know when the new website is available for testing and will set dates by which the testing needs to be completed.

For security purposes, it was also recommended the old paper directories should be destroyed not just thrown in the trash. Mary Helen will work with Joanie on security of member information.

### **12. Aiming for a younger and more diverse membership - Mary Helen Inskeep (See Nov 2023 minutes for ideas discussed at that meeting.)**

Currently the GSM has an online presence on Facebook, YouTube and our own website. Mary Helen I. recommended we also join "Meetup" to attract young people. A "Meetup" account is for posting upcoming meetings and events. Mary Helen volunteered to be the account's organizer. The cost is unknown at this time.

**Deborah N. made a motion that if the monthly cost of a "Meetup" account is less than or equal to \$10/month, Mary Helen I. is authorized to set up a GSM account on the platform. If the fee is greater than \$10/month, the Board will address it at our next Board meeting. Roger B. seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor, none opposed. The motion was carried.**

Mary Helen also suggested looking into working with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4-H organizations in the development of a geology badge. The Boy Scouts and 4-H already have a geology badge. Dave K. indicates the Boy Scout geology badge activity is very minimal.

Mary Helen also suggested GSM participation in outdoor festivals or science themed conventions. The outdoor festivals would require GSM get a tent. Several Board members did not have a positive feeling about participating in these festivals or conventions.

Mary Helen also suggested potential GSM lectures at local libraries during the summer. Stephen W. suggested rock and fossil display like the State Fair at libraries. Mary Helen will look into this.

### **13. Any other items?**

No other items.

### **14. Date & location of next Board meeting (Aug 8 is second Thursday)**

It was agreed that the next Board meeting will be Thursday Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at U Garden. The start time was not announced but will likely be the same as the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting - 6:30p.

**At 8:20p Deborah N. made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Roger B. seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor, none opposed. Meeting was adjourned.**

## Appendix A: from Dave Kelso

Treasurer's Report  
GSM Board Meeting  
May 23, 2024

1. Checkbook balanced for the months of Feb, Mar, and Apr 2024.
2. Income, deposits, for the three months = \$370.00.
3. Expenses for the three months:
  - a. Directory printing/postage = \$307.15
  - b. Lecture honorariums = \$550.
  - c. Insurance = \$425.00.
  - d. Name tags = \$29.58.
  - e. Deposit to investment account (RBCWM) = \$5,000.
  - f. Extra Space Storage rent = \$429.15 (\$143.05/mo.).
    - i. Billed directly to Huntington bank card.
  - g. Newsletter postage/printing = \$120.33.
  - h. ILSG scholarship = \$400.00.
  - i. Website Hostmaster = \$20.99.
  - j. Total expenses for the three months = \$7,282.20.
4. Checking account balance as of Apr 30, 2024, = 10,644.78.
5. Investment account balance (RBCWM as of Apr 30, 2024, = \$11,039.74.
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: 2024/2025 Lecture schedule – from Steve Erickson

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> (Fall banquet) Jared Trost, "USGS Bemidji and Bemidji West (Pearl Harbor)"  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> Kat Cantor "Plan, Core, Scan Store: Facilitating Core Research"  
Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> (Zoom) Jacob Walter, "Earthquake Hazards in Oklahoma"  
Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> Carrie Jennings, "Ground Water Governance in the Great Lakes States – from well-cobbled to equitable and sustainable"  
Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Harvey Thorliefson, "Geological Mapping"  
Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> (Zoom) Tim McMahon, "Shale in a Nutshell: An Overview of Shale Oil and Gas in the U.S. and Texas."  
Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Stephen Delong, "Earthquake Hazards"  
Jan 27<sup>th</sup> Andrew Retzler, "Ordovician Stratigraphy?"  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Holly Dolliver, "Soils"  
Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> (Lab) Jeff Thole, "Minerals and Crystallography"  
Feb 24<sup>th</sup> (Zoom) TBD  
Mar 10<sup>th</sup> (Zoom) Minnesota Mining NRRI?  
Mar 24<sup>th</sup> TBD  
April 7<sup>th</sup> Possibly Jill Mickelson, "From Formations to Foundations: The Geology of Bridge Construction"  
April 21<sup>st</sup> Julie Bartley, "Paleozoic Stromatolites in the Midwest"  
May 5<sup>th</sup> (Spring Banquet) TBD

## **Appendix C: From Daivd Wilhelm**

### **GSM Lecture/Lab Attendance**

**Summary for all 2023/2024:** 12 lectures, 676 total attendance, 56 average attendance, ~25 (4%) new attendees

**Summary for Fall 2023:** 6 lectures, 331 total attendance, 55 average attendance, 12 identified new attendees

**Summary for winter/spring 2024 (excluding lab):** 6 lectures, 345 total attendance, 58 average attendance, ~13 (4%) new attendees

## **Appendix D: GSM 2023 – 2024 Video Report from Dick Bottenberg (Joe Wright and Lowell Hill)**

### **From Joe Wright**

For the 2023-2024 GSM Lecture series there were originally 16 lectures scheduled. Of those five were videoed, five lectures were presented over the internet, three presenters refused permission, and three lectures were cancelled.

I plan to move forward with three of the five we videoed; Micrometeorites, Sediment Records of Extreme Earthquakes, and Digging into The Stories of Sand. The presentation from the fall banquet was not a great overall presentation and the Great Lisbon Earthquake was extremely washed out. I'll try to improve the picture for the Micrometeorites and Sediment Records videos but doubt it will get much better. There were some tripod wobble issues with the Sediment Records video that I doubt I'll be able to correct in post processing.

After the issues with washout Lowell and I got together at the lecture room at the U and spent a couple hours playing with the camera settings and believe we have a good setting for moving forward. Unfortunately, we did not get the chance to try them out as remaining presentations at the U were either cancelled or the presenter did not give permission to video.

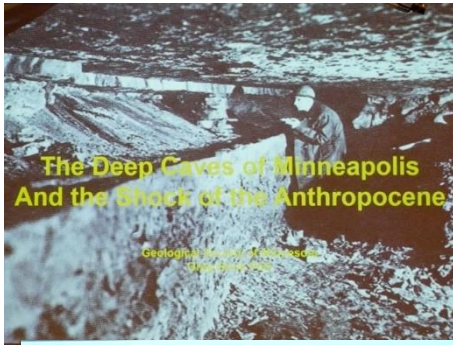
The U Garden videos are always a challenge due to lighting and speaker placement. For the fall banquet we did get the speaker close to the screen but he was still very dark. In spring the speaker was farther away and again dark. In the future having the speaker close to the screen and with some lighting would be the best.

### **From Lowell Hill**

From a video recording perspective, we were going to record the last lecture to validate the camera settings we came up with – but that didn't happen as the lecture was cancelled due to the U of MN shutdown with the protests going on.

The most recent recording would have been Kate's presentation at the spring banquet. The recording at U Garden has historically been a challenge. The video turned out good.

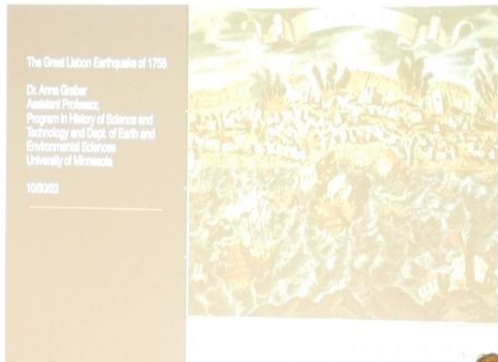
I saw some of the back and forth regarding possibly getting a camera upgrade – and maybe a video camera. In my opinion, I think the recordings with the current Lumix camera will be fine once we get a chance to record another presentation at the U, and that won't happen until the fall. We'd have to go through some of the same experimenting with a new camera to come up with the optimal settings for recording a lecture. I'd wait and see what the next lecture recording shows us before switching cameras.



September 18, 2023 The Deep Caves of Minneapolis and the Shock of the Anthropocene - Greg Brick, Ph.D. Fall Banquet - Video of screen started good but material was poor quality and appeared washed out.



October 16, 2023 Urban Micrometeorites and Everything You Need to Know about Them - Scott Peterson. Video ok.



October 30, 2023 The Great Lisbon Earthquake in 18th-Century Philosophy and Seismology – Dr. Anna Graber. Presentation very washed out, not a good candidate for publishing.



January 29, 2024 Sediment Records of Extreme Earthquakes – Chris Paola, Ph.D. Presentation generally washed out, tripod issues.



May 6, 2024 Digging into the Stories of Sand – Kate Clover Spring Banquet: Presentation clear, presenter in the dark.

<b>Seminar/Lab Date</b>	<b>Seminar/Lab Subject</b>	<b>Seminar/Lab Presenter</b>
09/18/23 Video	Fall Banquet - The Deep Caves of Minneapolis and the Shock of the Anthropocene	Greg Brick, Ph.D.
10/02/23 No Permission	Making magmas: Experimental insights on magma depth and temperature beneath	Emily First, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Geology Macalester
10/16/23 Video	Urban Micrometeorites and Everything You Need to Know about Them	Cott Peterson, Micrometeorite Hunter
<b>Seminar/Lab Date</b>	<b>Seminar/Lab Subject</b>	<b>Seminar/Lab Presenter</b>
10/30/23 Video	The Great Lisbon Earthquake in the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy and Seismology	Anna Graber, PH.D., Assistant Professor of History of Science and Technology, U of MN
11/13/23 No Permission	Deciphering the Details of Dinosaur Worlds: Insights From 35 Years in the Cretaceous Rocks of Montana	Ray Rogers, Ph.D., Professor & Chair, Geology Dept., Macalester College
11/27/23 Cancelled	Tennessee's Mining Industry and Geology-Related Tourism (V)	Ronald Zurawski, State Geologist, Tennessee Dept. of Environment & Conservation
12/11/23 Zoom	T. rex, Triceratops and MOR: The Dynamic Dinosaurs of the Museum of the Rockies (V)	Ashley Hall, Outreach Program Manager, Museum of the Rockies
01/29/24 Video	Sediment Records of Extreme Earthquakes	Chris Paola, Ph.D., CSE Distinguished Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of MN
02/12/24 Zoom	Charting Pathways to a More Sustainable Future in the Ogallala Aquifer of Western Kansas (V)	James Butler, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Geohydrology Section, Kansas Geological Survey
02/17/24 Zoom	Paleo Lab: Fossils Through Time: Fossil Diversity and the 'Big Five' Mass Extinctions	Jeff Thole, M.Sc., Geology Laboratory Supervisor Instructor, Macalester College
02/26/24 Zoom	Tennessee's Natural Resources & Geology Related Tourism (V)	Ron Clendening, B.Sc., Geologist, Tennessee Dept. of Environment & Conservation
03/11/24 Zoom	Tales Told by Trilobites (V)	Thomas Hegna, Ph.D., Associate Professor, SUNY Fredonia, Research Associate at the Buffalo Museum of Natural History
04/15/24 No Permission	Important Events in Precambrian Earth History As Seen Through Minnesota's Bedrock	Eric Nowariak, Precambrian Geologist, Minnesota Geological Survey
04/22/24 Cancelled	PFAS: Contaminant hydrogeology of the East Metro	
04/29/24 Cancelled	From Formations to Foundations: The Geology of Bridge Construction	Jill Mickelson, Principal Engineer, Braun Intertec
05/06/24 Video	Spring Banquet - Digging into the Stories of Sands	Kate Clover

## **Appendix E: From Patrick Pfundstein**

### **State Fair and Mill City STEM Day Report May 23, 2024**

State Fair license fee is paid and we are moving forward. I've started setting up the volunteer website, but I'm relearning the quirks of the site, and don't quite have it up yet. I'll get that done by tomorrow, and send out the link and password to everyone on the board mailing list to either try out (you can delete shifts after making them if you aren't ready to commit to a time/day), or to get first shot at locking down your favorite shift(s).

## **Appendix E (continued)**

Once we've had a week to try it out, we can have Dave include a Fair recruiting message and the sign-up info with the broader membership. I'd like to keep the free tickets-for-shifts-after-the-first-shift as we tried out last year. It a great incentive to get multi-shift sign-ups, and we'll need them to fill the grid. I'll also (once sign up is set) have Dave send out a recruitment to have people sign up for the Fair committee (which currently is pretty much me). Mostly this is a set-up thing, but it is worth having the group look at booth contents. I liked the sparer graphic set up last year (focusing on our core programs of field trips and markers), but for sure we need an updated table rock guide in large format and maybe the lectures in at least table easel form.

Kate and Mary Helen and I also appeared at Mill City Museum's STEM Day with the table rocks (Mary Helen), sand samples (Kate), and Rock ID activity (me). There were steady crowds all day; I felt I talked for three hours without a pause. The audience was far more kid/family oriented than the Fair, but I'm sure we made a great impression, and will likely be asked back next year.

## **Appendix F: From Patrick Pfundstein**

### **Minnehaha Report May23, 2024**

Since the last board meeting, Kate Clover met with MaryLynn Pulscher of the Park Board to discuss panel locations in the park (one in the location discussed previously, near the pavilion; one where the current display discussing a presidential visit is currently placed). This is of some final importance, because we'd need that finalized so the "You Are Here" note on the park map portion of the panel is accurate.

There was also a 'fix' I needed to make to the draft map of the park (the park green layer of the vector file got knocked out of alignment while I was making the previous round of edits). That has been done, the park map file was uploaded to Dropbox, and both MaryLynn and her designer now have edit permissions to the files.

Next step is in the Park Board's hands. In theory they are working on a final draft at which point we would only be proofing details like typos or inadvertently dropped elements. At that point I would send out for a specific bid or bids, because any changes shouldn't take more than minutes to resolve.

(I'm not really doing that now, because bids are perishable, and I'd rather not start the clock until it looks like we are actually approaching production. And I remember several times thinking we were close when we really weren't, including sending a draft out to MaryLynn in November 2020.)

If the timeline from Dick Bottenberg's bid work (5-6 years ago) are still in play, I think I remember it being something like 6 weeks from approval of the printer's set-up to manufacture and shipment, making later July-August the earliest possible installation.

### **YouTube Report May 23, 2024**

My apologies, because I considered most of this unchanged, and didn't realize we had three lectures uploaded and ready for processing. I'll get on that and "release" them on a bi-weekly schedule.

We currently have 924 subscribers (+18 in the last 4 weeks). The River That Flows Uphill is currently our hottest video with 1700 views and 388 hours of watch time. In the past 4 weeks we've had 2.9K views and 822 watch hours, both are in decline; probably due to lack of recent posts.

We can address that last in one way by launching the three 'on hold' lectures, but I also really like Kate's idea of creating our own content. Mary Helen also had a great point (when Kate mentioned her idea to me at the last lecture) that younger viewers tend to like shorter videos, and I personally can vouch for that. (I watch all of the Willsey Iceland updates that are pre-recorded, and far less of his live streams; mainly because the of the difference between 20 minutes and 2-3 hours.)

I've got some ideas for content (from a Minnehaha tour I was shaping a few years ago when I thought the panel might launch), but it would probably be good to talk vetting process such as UploadPrivateView/small-group-review/public-posting. Or possibly 'pitch idea, get feedback, make video, upload private, review, post public.