

Minnesota Center for Mineral Resource Education

Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2010

Attendees:

Harvey Thorleifson, MGS
Cheryl Sill, MESTA
Mike Hultgren, AIPG
Marsha Patelke, NRRI
Don Fosnacht, NRRI
Susan Balgie, DNR

Fred Corrigan, ARM
Ernie Lehmann, Mining Minnesota
Jim Miller, NRRI
David Olson, DNR
Julie Varichak, SME
Maryanna Harstad, DNR

Regrets: Craig Pagel, IMA, Lynn Carlson, ARM

Approval of Agenda - motion to approve by Cheryl, 2nd by Don – no discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes for December 17, 2009 – motion to approve by Cheryl, 2nd by Ernie, no discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Report of the Chair:

- Reviewed our objectives
- Recognized that we are a team representing AIPG, ARM, ARM, DNR, IMA, MESTA, MGS, MnMN, NRRI, & SME
- Expressed appreciation to the team that has done such an excellent job on MMEW over the years
- Recognized that each organization around the table can contribute a finite number of hours on a volunteer basis; this is appreciated, and limited, while being part of the intended roles of most if not all groups around the table
- Review of discussion since last summer on whether we might need to fund some part-time staff hours
- Suggested that we commit to an all-volunteer organization for now, and that consideration of part time paid staff be revisited as part of a planning exercise at a later date
- During ensuing discussion, there was recognition around the table that the commitment of staff time to MMEW in past years by DNR was significant
- Susan and Maryanna were very helpful in outlining the scope of their roles in past years, and ways that they can support the current transition; this was very much appreciated
- There was optimism that if we carefully distribute tasks among volunteers, we will be able to manage the tasks
- There also was recognition that continuity is important, and if we now rotate volunteer roles, it will be essential for the person holding a position to pass on a list of tasks and their timing to their successor, along with needed information

Report of the Vice Chair – Administration

- ✓ Fred provided reports on financial activity for expenses and income
- ✓ Additional donations received
- ✓ Still waiting for final approval of 501c3
- ✓ Financial status is looking good
- ✓ Recommend that no confidential information be stored on our web site
- ✓ Recommend that we go with printable pdf registration form & mail-in check to Fred; agreed

Action Items:

- ✓ Fred will provide needed information on budget to Operations Committee next week
- ✓ Fred will report on status of fundraising and need for funds to April meeting

Report of the Vice Chair – Finance

- ✓ Ernie, Craig and their staff distributed the fundraising letter; response has been good

Action Items:

- ✓ Following the April meeting, Ernie and Craig will make additional contacts, bearing in mind financial needs

Report of the Vice Chair – Operations

- ✓ MMEW Planning Committee meetings were held in January, and will be held in February
- ✓ **Logistics:** The group was supportive of a McAlester site, pending confirmation of parking, and some sort of inexpensive housing, hopefully a dorm, but alternatively discounted hotel accommodation.
- ✓ **Resources:** Cheryl making good progress with her team
- ✓ **Field Trips:** Mike reported on good progress
- ✓ **Curriculum:** Barb coordinating the Curriculum
- ✓ **Credits:** Jim reported on excellent and attractive arrangement with UMD

Registration fee - discussion focused on need to confirm commitment, while keeping fee low; still, this revenue is significant; pleased that the Foundation Ernie is associated with can again offer scholarships, and the Foundation Fred is associated with may be able to do this as well

Motion: motion to authorize the planning committee to set the registration fee at or below \$50, with \$30/\$35 as a suggestion, moved by Fred, 2nd by Don – all in favor, motion carried.

Action Items:

- ✓ Lynn will organize next planning meeting, next week

Other Business

- ✓ Harvey will ensure that Jim & John Heine have the support they need to update web site

Date and location of next meeting

- ✓ Future meetings: **April 8, June 10, Sep 9, Nov 11**
- ✓ *Next meeting April 8, 2010 @ 3:30 pm @ MGS*

Motion to adjourn