



Minnesota Minerals Education Workshop

MMEW Planning Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 9:00 am

Minnesota Geological Survey

--Welcome and Introductions

--Status of Workshop Planning

Finances: As per our last meeting on June 2, contribution letters had not yet been sent. The bank balance was approximately half of what was needed to host the workshop. At that time, we elected to wait until this next planning meeting (close to the registration deadline) to determine the financial viability of the workshop. Current balance in the checking account is \$7427.15. Three contributions totalling \$1450 are not included in this total. We need about \$14,000 to cover workshop expenses (based on the average expenses for all previous workshops combined). The last time we hosted in the Twin Cities (2002), the expenses totalled just under \$13,000.

We were counting on 80 participants (at a registration fee of \$50) to raise an additional \$4,000. However, at this time, registration forms have not yet been mailed. To date, we have received 6 registrations from materials that were originally posted on the website.

QUESTION: DO WE CONTINUE?

Although not in attendance, Harvey Thorleifson conveyed his interest to support the workshop in any way possible so that it might run this year as scheduled. In his role as President of the Twin Cities section of SME, he is willing to post information on their website and suggested going through RegOnline so participants could register directly. Blast e-mails could be used to notify teachers of the new website location and registration procedures.

Also not in attendance, Jim Miller conveyed interest that the Precambrian Research Center take a larger role in managing the MMEW. While nothing could be done to help this year, he would be open to discussions for future years (input via e-mail received after the meeting.)

The general consensus of folks convened at this meeting, however, is to cancel this year's workshop. With only a month left before the scheduled date, we cannot ensure that we will be able to get the information out to teachers in time for them to register. Most teacher e-mail addresses are not accessed during the summer. In addition, due to the lateness of the information, chances are teachers have already made plans for their vacations and/or continuing education. Canceling now will have less impact on the overall program than possibly having to cancel later. In addition, due to immediate and necessary changes in the administrative structure of the workshop, we feel that it would be best to focus our efforts on reorganizing from the ground up.

In Attendance

Lynn Carlson

Aggregate Industries

Patty Christensen

Aggregate Industries

Ken Coats

Aggregate Industries

Fred Corrigan

Aggregate Ready Mix

Maryanna Harstad

Volunteer

John Heine

NRRRI

Mike Hutgren

ATC Associates

Ernie Lehmann

Mining Minnesota

Barb Lusardi

MN Geological Survey

Dean Moosavi

Tulane University

David Olson

Dept. of Natural Resources

Paul Schultz

Tiller Corporation

Martha Zemun

Volunteer

Action items:

--**Notify Participants and Sponsors:** Lynn Carlson and Patty Christensen will compose letters to participants and sponsors letting them know of the decision to cancel this year's event. Sponsors will be refunded their contributions if requested.

--**Notify University of Minnesota (host):** Dean Moosavi will contact the University to "unschedule" the dates. At this time, no contracts have been made for catering or buses. Dean will inquire as to reserving space at the University for next year (once final workshop dates are selected --see later discussion).

--**Set up website:** John Heine has offered to register a domain name for the workshop and to temporarily set up a website for the workshop. David Olson will provide files that were originally housed on the DNR website. These files will be edited to reflect the current status of the workshop and will provide continuing information, as planning proceeds. It is unclear whether we can post a re-direct link from the DNR website to the new website. There is interest in perhaps offering online registration for future workshops.

--**Notify Instructors:** Barb Lusardi will notify instructors of our intent to cancel this year's workshop. We hope to host in the Twin Cities next summer, so perhaps these same folks will be willing and available to participate again next year.

Future Plans:

It was suggested that we establish a committee and deadline to coordinate and restructure the workshop. The suggested committee includes Ernie Lehman of Mining Minnesota, Fred Corrigan of ARM, Craig Pagel of Iron Mining Association (not in attendance), Harvey Thorleifson of the MGS, and a couple of folks who have worked on the workshop for years and who know how it's run--Lynn Carlson and Barb Lusardi (others? Jim Miller should be included in this based on his interest through the PRC). Fred Corrigan indicated that ARM is willing to take the Administrative lead. Ernie Lehmann indicated that whoever "takes over" the financial matters should have the appropriate tax status so that foundations and companies can donate. Apparently, ARM does not have the right tax status, but SME might. Perhaps SME or AIPG could provide the financial support? Otherwise, the suggestion was made that the MMEW apply for its own 501c3 tax status.

Workshop Dates:

John Heine brought up the fact that we lose out having geologists from NRRRI participate in the workshop because of the conflict between the established workshop dates (first Tuesday through Thursday in August) and the PRC field camp (6 weeks starting in July). His suggestion is that we consider moving the workshop so NRRRI folks can participate in the workshop. Next year, the week of June 22 would fit with the field camp schedule. Otherwise, August 3 would be the traditional start date. June 29 would be too close to the start of camp. Any later in August would be too close to the start of school. It was decided that we could poll the teachers to see which dates they prefer June or August. These dates could be included in the notification letter that is being sent this year.

Transfer of DNR-held workshop materials:

Due to changing policies within their own agency, the Department of Natural Resources will no longer be able to participate in the planning and organization of the workshop. Since its inception, the DNR has provided the lionshare of support and staff for the workshop. We will certainly miss all of the talented folks who have, for the last 13 years, helped build the MMEW into a successful educational program.

Maryanna provided a disk containing the digital mailing lists for participants and contributors.

Barb Lusardi currently holds the checkbook and is the only registered signer. Barb is also holding all contributor checks that have not been deposited (pending possible return to various sponsors).