

South Dakota Section of AIPG
Annual Meeting April 17, 2024
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was in person and via Zoom and presided over by the current Section President Tim Cowman. The meeting was located at the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Office, 221 Mall Drive, Suite #201, Rapid City, SD. The meeting started at 4:02 pm. (MDT).

Meeting attendees are as follows:

1. Tim Cowman (Section President); South Dakota Geological Survey
2. Foster Sawyer (Section President Elect); Professor Emeritus, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and Teacher/Researcher Oglala Lakota College
3. Gary Haag (Secretary-Treasurer); Retired
4. Tom Durkin (Section Screening Chair-Web Editor); South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Space Grant Program
5. Brian Fagnan, South Dakota Geological Survey
6. Fred Sawyer, South Dakota Geological Survey (guest)*
7. Joanne Noyes, South Dakota Geological Survey (guest)*
8. Ali Vinke, South Dakota Geological Survey (guest)*
9. Jon Luczak, South Dakota Geological Survey (guest)*
10. Christopher Pellowski (via Zoom), South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

*Denotes a person who is not an AIPG member.

Items Discussed

1. Introductions
 - Tim Cowman stated that since we had some new people at the meeting, we all introduced ourselves.
2. Approval of the meeting agenda
 - Tim Cowman requested a change to the agenda. Tim requested the section website discussion be moved to new business. Motion to amend the agenda by Tim Cowman; second by Gary Haag. Motion carried. There was no further discussion of the agenda items.
3. Approval of minutes from 2023 annual meeting
 - Tim Cowman asked if there were any questions about the 2023 annual meeting minutes. Hearing none the 2023 annual meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Tom Durkin; second by Joanne Noyes. Motion carried. (*Note: On July 3, 2023 Gary Haag sent a copy of the draft meeting minutes to the attendees requesting comments. The only change requested was from Tim Cowman to correct the spelling of Brian Fagnan's name.*)
4. Section Officer Reports (current officer terms expire in 2024)
 - Tim Cowman (Section President); Nothing new to report.
 - Gary Haag (Section Secretary-Treasurer); The South Dakota Section bank account balances are as follows:

Account balances as of 04/29/2024:

- i. Checking: \$3,645.85
- ii. Savings: \$5,097.95
- Total: \$8,743.80

Included in above total:

- i. Savings account interest: \$0.65.30 (Since January 1, 2024)

Not included in above total:

- i. At the time of the meeting, we had not received the 2024 section dues (\$20.00 per member) from AIPG Headquarters. The dues are direct deposited into the Section bank account.

Expenses: The Section had no expenses in 2023.

(Note: No motion was made to approve Treasurer's Report.)

- Foster Sawyer (Section President-Elect); Foster discussed the need to increase our membership. Foster also discussed recruiting new student members. In addition, those students who are now members should be encouraged to continue membership as professionals after graduation. *(Note: At the 2023 annual meeting Foster mentioned there are two USGS offices (Rapid City & Huron) in the state. We should contact these offices and encourage their geologists to be become members. Linda Watts also at the 2023 meeting mentioned that Ben Fischer and another person at GeoTek could be members. Linda will talk to them about becoming members.)* Not sure if any action was taken on these issues since 2023 meeting. We should re-double our efforts to increase membership.
- Tom Durkin (Section Screening Chair-Website Editor); It has been 10 years since the section had a new CPG applicant. The applicant at that time was Brian Fagnan. Tim Cowman received an e-mail from headquarters listing SD Section members. The e-mail contained the following information. It included all membership types: CPGs Active & Emeritus, Early Career Professionals, Professionals, and Student members (see attached spreadsheet).

5. Old Business

Scholarship status revisited. Tim Cowman reported that he sent the scholarship announcement to the Geology/Physical Science Department Chairs at the SD School of Mines (SDSM&T) and Black Hills State in October 2023. No students applied for the scholarship. The question was raised as to why we are not getting applicants? It was mentioned that one SDSM&T student applied for the national AIPG scholarship. Why didn't they also apply for the section scholarship? Christopher Pellowski at SDM&T handles scholarship applications that come into the school's geology department. It is possible our application is not being circulated to students. Christopher mentioned there will be a meeting of geology students in August of 2024. This will give him a chance to do a face-to-face promotion of our scholarship. Tom and Foster will also go to this meeting to promote the value in becoming an AIPG member.

6. New Business

- Tim mentioned the national AIPG conference will be held in Durango, CO from August 10-13, 2024. At the time of our meeting, it did not appear that any section members

would attend the national meeting. Foster said he may attend a portion of the meeting via zoom.

- Presentation of the John Paul Gries award to Brian Fagnan. The award was presented to Brian by Tim Cowman. Throughout his career in geology, Brian has made significant contributions to the understanding and documentation of geological landscapes, particularly in the Black Hills region. His publications include detailed geologic maps of various 7.5-minute quadrangles such as Mount Coolidge, Signal Hill, Sturgis, Tilford, Wind Cave, and Jewel Cave, as well as a geologic map of Wind Cave National Park, providing valuable insights into the complex geological formations of these areas. Brian is currently mapping the geology of Custer State Park at 1:24,000 scale. The results of this multi-year project will benefit state and federal agencies in their understanding of the complex and scenic geology that forms the Park.
- Section Website. With Tom Durkin's retirement from SDSM&T in December the section website will need to find a new home. Presently our website is hosted through the Space Grant website at <https://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/sdaipg.htm>, which is on a SDSM&T server. We will need to transfer the SD Section webpages to another server. Tim has been involved in website management for other organizations and has found that it is best to host the website at a neutral site so that it can continue to be used regardless of transitioning board membership. He found that IONOS is a good website hosting company. All that is needed to pass the website on to a new manager is the user ID and password. WordPress is probably the most popular web content management software these days and we would have that available for free through IONOS. The cost of having the website hosted on IONOS would be about \$100-\$120/yr. (*Note: We will need an AIPG credit card through our Black Hills Federal Credit Union (BHFCU) account to pay the annual IONOS fee. When we meet at the BHFCU to add Foster and Tom to the bank account we will apply for a credit card.*) We would still need someone willing to rebuild and maintain the website in WordPress. WordPress is relatively easy to understand and you don't need to be a programmer to use it. Tom volunteered to continue as the website manager after he retires.
- SD-AIPG fieldtrip ideas.
 - a) Hot Springs/Fall River County
 - b) Slim Buttes/Cave Hills
 - c) Devils Tower/Rare Earth Resources Bear Lodge Project

After some discussion it was decided that this year's fieldtrip would be in Hot Springs/Fall River County. It was also decided that it would be a one-day fieldtrip. The proposed date for the fieldtrip is Saturday, September 7th. As with past fieldtrips we will invite those who are not Section members. Foster will draft an announcement about the fieldtrip.

- Election of Officers

Tim queried the meeting attendees for president elect nominations. Gary nominated Brian Fagnan for president elect but he declined the nomination. Tim suggested nominating Mark Nelson. He is listed as a Section member, but works in Colorado? His actual residency would need to be determined before he is nominated for president elect. Tim volunteered to be nominated for president elect if no other candidates were found.

Gary Haag was nominated to continue as secretary-treasurer. A motion to re-elect Gary was made by Tom Durkin and seconded by Foster Sawyer. Motion carried.

Tom Durkin was nominated to continue as website manager-section screening chairman. A motion to re-elect Tom was made by Gary Haag and seconded by Foster Sawyer. Motion carried.

At this point Tim passed the reins to Foster as the new section president for the next two years. Foster brought up the following items for discussion:

- Foster requested clarification concerning the section scholarship, will there be one in 2024? We will go ahead with a scholarship for 2024.
- Have we looked at expanding our scholarship offering to other schools. USD does not have an earth science major anymore. Other in-state schools do not have a geology or earth science major. The only schools that meet our scholarship criteria are SDSM&T and Black Hills State.
- Timing for nominations of Gries award. Tim stated the request for nominations is sent out in mid-February. Tim will send the nomination template to Foster.
- Section bank account needs to have additional section members added. Gary stated that he is the only member that has access to the Section's bank account. He asked Tom Durkin and Foster Sawyer if they would be willing to be on the account. They both agreed to be on the account. (*Note: This issue was originally addressed at the June 29, 2023 annual meeting. At that time Dick Hammond made a motion to add Tom and Foster to the Section bank account, seconded by Sarah Chadima. Motion carried.*)
- Discussed state licensed professional geologist versus AIPG certified professional geologist. How does it benefit the person to have a CPG? Since South Dakota does not have a PG program having the AIPG CPG provides you with credentials when testifying in court or before a citizen board. It also looks good on a resume!

Other Business.

- During the membership statistics discussion at the 2023 annual meeting, it was discovered that Perry Rahn has been an AIPG member since 1977 (47 years!). He is the longest South Dakota AIPG member. Sarah suggested we present a plaque to Perry honoring this accomplishment. If Perry is able to attend the 2024 fieldtrip, we could present him with the plaque after the trip. I realize this was not discussed at this meeting, but it should be followed up on.

Motion to adjourn made by Brian Fagnan. Second by Tim Cowman. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm (MDT).

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary H. Haag

Secretary-Treasurer
South Dakota Section of AIPG

Attachment: April 17, 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda
Membership Spreadsheet