

South Dakota Section of AIPG
Annual Meeting via Zoom on June 29, 2023
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was virtual via Zoom and presided over by the current Section President Tim Cowman. The meeting started at 11:00 am. (CDT).

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. Linda Watts (Past Section President); GeoTek Engineering and Testing Services, Inc.
4. Gary Haag (Secretary-Treasurer); Retired
5. Tim Kenyon; Retired
6. Kelli McCormick; Senior Lecturer, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
7. Sarah Chadima; South Dakota Geological Survey
8. Richard Hammond; Hammond-Wetmore Drilling
9. Jay Gilbertson; East Dakota Water Development District
10. Tom Durkin (Section Screening Chair-Web Editor); South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Items Discussed

1. Introductions
 - Tim Cowman stated that since we all knew each other introductions were not necessary.
2. Approval of the meeting agenda
 - Tim Cowman asked if there were any questions about the agenda. Hearing none the agenda was approved without a motion or second.
3. Approval of minutes from 2022 annual meeting
 - Tim Cowman asked if there were any questions about the 2022 annual meeting minutes. Hearing none the 2022 annual meeting minutes were approved without a motion or second.
 - **Note:** On April 3, 2022 Gary Haag sent a copy of the draft meeting minutes to the attendees requesting comments. No comments were received from the meeting attendees.
4. Section Officer Reports (current officer terms expire in 2024)
 - Tim Cowman (Section President); There is a geologist position open at the South Dakota Geological Survey. The position will be located in Vermillion, SD. The area of concentration for this position will be Pleistocene geology. The vacancy announcement should be advertised on the State's website in two weeks. In 2022 the South Dakota Legislature approved funding for a new drill rig. The drill rig was purchased but due to a chassis shortage the drill rig has not been delivered. The chassis is now available so the delivery of the drill rig should be sometime this fall.

- Gary Haag (Section Secretary-Treasurer); The South Dakota Section bank account balances are as follows:

Account balances as of 06/29/2023:

i. Checking: \$3,645.85

ii. Savings: \$5,096.00

Total: \$8,741.64

Included in above total:

i. 2023 Section dues received: \$380.00

ii. Savings account interest: \$5.30 (Since January 1, 2023)

Expenses: The Section had one expense in 2022 of \$253.75. It was for rental of the pontoon boat for the July 31, 2022 section fieldtrip.

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

- Foster Sawyer (Section President-Elect); Foster discussed the need to increase our membership. He mentioned that there are two USGS offices (Rapid City & Huron) in the state. We should contact these offices and encourage their geologists to become members. Tim Cowman will encourage his employees about becoming members. 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. Linda Watts mentioned that Ben Fischer and another person at GeoTek could be members. Linda will talk to them about becoming members.
- Linda Watts (Past President); Linda stated that she is moving toward retirement from GeoTek. Planned retirement date is by the end of 2024.
- Tom Durkin (Section Screening Chair-Website Editor); Tom joined the meeting late so Tim Cowman discussed the issue of membership statistics based on Tom's e-mail of June 18, 2023. The e-mail contained the following information. AIPG HQ sent Tim and Tom a list of SD Section members from the last 11 years. It included all membership types: CPGs, Early Career Professional, Professional, and Student members. During the 11-year period, there have been 115 members, but many are no longer active. We have 28 currently active members. Tom stated his "count" may be off by one or two, but sometime during the 11 years there have been a total of 22 CPGs. 17 CPGs are currently active. Of the five that dropped off, Tom knows of one that passed away. We've had a total of 76 student members, but only three are currently members. Of 10 Professional members, six remain active. Of eight Early Career Professionals, only two are active members.

5. Old Business

Scholarship idea-status revisited. Tim Cowman reported that he sent the scholarship announcement to the Geology/Physical Science Department Chairs at the SD School of Mines and Black Hills State. No students applied for the scholarship. Tim mentioned we were requiring a lot of paperwork from students for a \$500.00 scholarship. Tim suggested having a \$1000.00 scholarship every other year. This might get students to apply. Dick Hammond suggested we shorten the application requirements as an incentive. Foster suggested dropping the faculty reference letter and the need for submitting a transcript. It was also discussed that we open the scholarship to more students (i.e., students with majors in soil science, hydrology, ground water or engineering). Tom commented that we should add students who have an

emphasis in GIS. Kelli suggested allowing students with a minor in geology to apply for the scholarship. Sarah suggested we request recommendations from facility and award scholarship based on these recommendations. Jay agreed with having faculty award the scholarship. There was also a discussion about adding other schools and other departments at these schools (Oglala Lakota College, SDSU and USD) and that we would rotate the scholarship among these schools doing one scholarship per school every other year. Foster commented about how the rotation list would be implemented. There were concerns from the meeting attendees that the rotation concept was too complicated and time consuming. Tim Kenyon suggested that we do not fix something that is not broken. Retain the existing process just make it a little simpler. We want the scholarship to go to a student that would be a potential AIPG member. After further discussion it was decided that the present process remain in place with a couple of changes; add Oglala Lakota College to list of eligible schools, scholarship would be \$1,000.00 and awarded every other year, and the requirement for a reference letter from a faculty member be dropped. Sarah made a motion to accept these changes, seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

6. New Business

Section Bank Account-need to add additional section members to account.

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. Dick made a motion to add Tom and Foster to the Section bank account, seconded by Sarah. Motion carried.

2022 J.P. Gries Geologist of the Year Award.

No nominations were received in 2022 and Tim Cowman stated that no nominations were received for 2023. Tim asked the meeting attendees if anyone had a nomination. Tom Durkin said he would draft a nomination for Nuri Uzunlar, Director of the Black Hills Natural Sciences Field Station. Tim Cowman said he would also solicit additional nominations from the section membership via e-mail.

SD-AIPG fieldtrip ideas.

- Hot Springs area geology. Tim Cowman mentioned he has geologists who are presently mapping the geology.
- Custer State Park geology. Tim Cowman mentioned that Brian Fagnan did the mapping in Custer State Park and he could lead the trip.
- Another possible fieldtrip suggested by Kelli was to observe the exploration drilling being done by Dakota Gold in the Lead, SD area.
- Another suggestion was a Harney Peak geology fieldtrip for some time in the future.

After some discussion it was decided that this year's fieldtrip would be at Custer State Park. It was also decided that it would be a one-day fieldtrip. Potential dates for the fieldtrip are September 9th, 16th or 23rd, with the preferred date being September 9th. It was also suggested that we invite those who are not Section members. Tim Cowman will draft an announcement about the fieldtrip. Depending on the number of attendees we may look into renting a van for the trip. If a van is rented the meeting attendees agreed the Section would pay for the van rental.

Other Business.

- During the membership statistics discussion it was discovered that Perry Rahn has been an AIPG member since 1977. 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 fieldtrip, we could present him with the plaque after the trip.
- There was a question about where and when the 2023 AIPG national meeting will be? The national meeting will be in Covington, Kentucky from September 16-19, 2023.

Motion to adjourn made by Gary Haag. Second by Dick Hammond. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm (CDT).

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary H. Haag

Secretary-Treasurer
South Dakota Section of AIPG

Attachment: June 29, 2023 Annual Meeting Agenda