

South Dakota Section of AIPG

Annual Meeting April 9, 2025

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was in person and via Teams and presided over by the current Section President Foster Sawyer. 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 4:08 pm. (MDT).

Meeting attendees are as follows:

1. Foster Sawyer (Section President); Professor Emeritus, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and Faculty/Research Scientist, Oglala Lakota College
2. Mark Nelson (Section President-Elect); U.S. Forest Service
3. Tim Cowman (Past Section President); South Dakota Geological Survey
4. Gary Haag (Section Secretary-Treasurer); Retired (U.S. Forest Service)
5. Tom Durkin (Section Screening Chair-Web Editor); Retired (South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Space Grant Program)
6. Brian Fagnan, South Dakota Geological Survey
7. Fred Sawyer, South Dakota Geological Survey
8. Joanne Noyes, South Dakota Geological Survey (guest)*
9. Ali Vinke, South Dakota Geological Survey (guest)*
10. Matt Hicks (via Teams), SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Water Quality Program
11. Joy Lester (via Teams), Lester Consulting
12. Mark Fahrenbach (via Teams), Retired (South Dakota Geological Survey)
13. Christopher Pellowski (via Teams), South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
14. Joe Watterson (via Teams), Chevron Pipeline Company

*Denotes a person who is not an AIPG member.

Items Discussed

1. Introductions
 - Foster Sawyer requested that since we had some new people at the meeting, we all introduced ourselves.
2. Approval of the meeting agenda
 - Tim Cowman made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Second by Gary Haag. Motion carried.
3. Approval of minutes from 2024 annual meeting
 - Foster Sawyer asked if there were any questions about the 2024 annual meeting minutes. Hearing none the 2024 annual meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Tom Durkin; second by Tim Cowman. Motion carried.
4. Section Officer Reports

- Foster Sawyer (Section President); Foster mentioned that he will be having a conference call with AIPG headquarters concerning ABET (formerly the Assessment System for Accreditation of Engineering Programs). (*ABET accreditation assures confidence that a collegiate program has met standards essential to prepare graduates to enter critical STEM fields in the global workforce. Graduates from an ABET-accredited program have a solid educational foundation and are capable of leading the way in innovation, emerging technologies, and in anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public.*) The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) currently has ABET accreditation for its engineering programs. The conference call mentioned by Foster will concern getting ABET accreditation for SDSM&T's geology program. Foster will update the section membership about the accreditation program after the conference call.
- Mark Nelson (Section President-Elect); No Report
- Tim Cowman (Section Past President); No Report
- Gary Haag (Section Secretary-Treasurer); The South Dakota Section bank account balances are as follows:

Account balances as of 03/31/2025:

- i. Checking: \$2,588.90
 - ii. Savings: \$5,100.83
- Total: \$7,689.43

Included in above total:

- i. Savings account interest: \$0.64 (Since January 1, 2025)

Not included in above total:

- i. At the time of the meeting, we had not received the 2025 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 2024.

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

- Tom Durkin (Section Screening Chair-Website Editor); Matt Hicks is the section's newest CPG. Tom reported Matt Hicks application was the first CPG the screening committee reviewed in 10 years. Tom also reported that the screening committee just received a new CPG application for Michael Marsh. Tom mentioned that the only applications reviewed by the screening committee are for CPG's. All other levels of AIPG membership are not screened by the committee.

To further clarify how the section screening committee works I included the following e-mail correspondence that occurred after the meeting between Tom Durkin, Foster Sawyer and Gary Haag:

"Hi Foster and Gary - At the Section meeting this week, when I was explaining to the group who serves on the Section Screening Committee, I think I may have mistakenly mentioned both of you. If

I did, sorry about that. The three people who currently serve on the Screening Committee are Mark, Tim, and me.”

“Hi Foster - This may be a bit longer than you asked for, but just so you and Gary know, here's the full background on our recent updates to the Screening Committee. Committee members don't have to be officers (either past or present officers), but they certainly can be. For many years (probably close to 20), the Screening Committee consisted of four people: Mike Meyers, Dick Hammond, Derric Isles, and me. However, there was no need for us to meet for the last 10 of those 20 years ... due to the 10-year hiatus that just ended when I received the two new CPG applications from HQ this year. I then realized that Dick and Derric are both retired and I'm not even sure where Mike Meyers is. I then contacted Tim Cowman in January to ask: 1) if he would serve on the committee (which he agreed to do), and 2) if he thought I should try contacting any of the previous three other members to ask if they would continue. Tim told me that Derric is no longer in the SD Section, Mike has not been a member since 2014, and Dick hasn't been active in a while. Tim suggested asking Mark Nelson and if Mark would agree, Tim said he would be fine with just three of us on the Screening Committee, unless I wanted four. Simply to make things easier, I agreed that three would be fine. HQ is fine with three. A couple of days ago, I forwarded the new CPG application from Michael Marsh of Dakota Gold to Tim and Mark to review. We have 30 days to get back to AIPG HQ with our Section Screening Forms and recommendation.”

“Hi Foster - I just checked the Bylaws on the website <<https://sd-aipg.org/about/>> and see that, yes, the Screening Committee is described in Article 5. I can't remember when you formally took over as President from Tim, but perhaps I should have run those ideas by you when I spoke with him in January and we decided on three people for the Screening Committee. Anyway, I see that three is allowed in the Bylaws, so that's good. Thanks.”

Tom discussed the website which was originally hosted through SDSM&T. With Tom's retirement the website needed to be moved. It was decided during the 2024 annual meeting that the section would use WordPress software hosted on the WordPress site. Tom transferred all the section information to the new website and will manage it. Tom worked with Lori Roinstad at the SD Geological Survey in getting all the transferred information uploaded to the website.

5. Old Business

- Scholarship status for Fall of 2024:

First Place Awardee, Cassidy Ewing, \$1,000
Second Place Awardee, Zoe Dodd, \$500

(Note: Since the checks for the 2024 scholarship awards were sent out in 2025, they will be shown as 2025 expenses.)

The next request for scholarship applications will be sent out in 2026.

6. New Business

- Election of Officers: Approval was needed for Gary Haag to continue as Secretary-Treasurer and Tom Durkin to continue as Screening Chair and Website Editor. Tom Durkin made a motion to approve Gary Haag as Secretary-Treasurer, second by Tim Cowman. Motion carried. Mark Nelson made a motion to approve Tom Durkin as Screening Chair and Website Editor, second by Tim Cowman. Motion carried. Please note that we will need to elect a new President-Elect at our next annual meeting.
- AIPG National Conference: The National AIPG Conference will be held in St. Louis Missouri on October 4-7, 2025. Foster Sawyer mentioned that he was not planning to attend the conference. Foster also mentioned that parts of the conference will be available via Zoom. He will send the Zoom links to the section members.
- J.P. Gries Award: There was one nomination for this year's award, Karl Emanuel, North Zone Geologist, U.S. Forest Service. Karl was nominated by Mark Nelson. Karl is doing amazing work with LiDAR. His work is focused on identification of landslides in support of the timber program (he has identified 100s of landslide deposits in the Black Hills) and identification of caves and other karst features, which are eligible for protection under the federal Cave Resources Protection Act. Karl was not able to attend our annual meeting to receive the award. Mark Nelson will arrange to meet with Karl to present him with this well-deserved award.
- Section Field Trip Ideas for 2025: Perry Rahn previously suggested to Foster Sawyer that we spend part of the day at the Gold Mountain Mine and the rest at his cabin near Deerfield. Foster also suggested inviting students and faculty from SDSM&T. With no other suggestions for field trips, it was decided to do the Gold Mountain trip. Tentative dates for the trip will be Saturday September 13th or 27th. Foster suggested that this would be a good time to honor Perry Rahn with a lifetime achievement award. Perry has been an AIPG member since 1977. Foster also suggested that the award could be a nice mineral specimen. We could contact Tom Loomis at Dakota Matrix Minerals to see what he might have for sale. Foster will contact Tom Loomis.
- New AIPG website @ <https://sd-aipg.org/>: Tom Durkin gave an overview of the new website. We were able to look at the new website on-line at the meeting. Tom Durkin and Lori Roinstad did an excellent job getting the new site up and running. While we were on-line at the meeting, we looked at the AIPG Headquarters site to see if there was a link to our new section site. Headquarters still has the link to our old site. Tom Durkin will contact headquarters and have them remove the old link and add the new one to their website. As previously discussed, we now have an annual fee for the new website on the WordPress platform. We discussed how we can pay for this annual fee. We used the section debit card for the first payment and had issues with fraudulent charges shortly after the payment was made. We discussed getting a credit card that would be attached to the section bank account at Black Hills Federal Credit Union (BHFCU), use a prepaid Visa card or a virtual credit card. After some discussion we decided to try and get a credit card attached to our bank account. (*Note: Gary Haag made a motion to get a credit card from BHFCU, seconded by Tom Durkin. Motion carried.*)
- Section Membership: Tim Cowman supplied the group with a spreadsheet showing our present section members and those members who have not renewed. We have a total of 38 section members. Our members are a mixture of Emeritus CPG's, practicing CPG's, professionals, and student members. Part of the membership includes 9 new members. We have 4 members that have not renewed their membership. It was suggested that a section officer contact those members who have not renewed.

- Section Webinar Series: Mark Nelson suggested we think about having a section webinar series via Teams or Zoom. He mentioned that Karl Emanuel presented a webinar on his work for a USFS geology webinar series. Mark also thought Karl would be willing to present a similar webinar for our AIPG section. Mark stated that a webinar series might be a nice way to get our student section involved, highlight neat geology work that is happening in South Dakota, and facilitate networking. Tim Cowman mentioned that the section could use the University of South Dakota as a platform for these webinars. The best time for these webinars would be in the winter. The webinars could be recorded and made available on the section website for those members who could not attend them live.
- AIPG Booth at Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference, April 10, 2025: Mark Nelson and Foster Sawyer volunteered to staff the booth at the hydrology conference. (*Note: AIPG Headquarters pays the conference booth fee and supplies the booth materials at no cost to the section.*)

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

Meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm (MDT).

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary H. Haag

Secretary-Treasurer
South Dakota Section of AIPG

Attachments: April 9, 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda
Membership Spreadsheet