

# Kentucky Section AIPG Business Meeting

## Saturday, March 20, 2021

Zoom Remote Access Meeting

Attendees: **Bill Brab, Megan Cleinmark, Tim Crumbie**, Frank Ettensohn, Faith Fiene, **Edward Lo, Donnie Lumm**, John Popp, **Donny Prater, Richard Smath**.

### Welcome and Call to Order

President Megan Cleinmark called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

### President's Report

Megan reported that she and Edward Lo attended portions of the National AIPG Executive Board Meeting on February 27, 2021. The portion of the meeting that she participated in addressed National AIPG's efforts to promote mentoring and their desire to engage the sections with this endeavor. There was also discussion about their desire to have more sections represented in the national sub-committee meetings. Megan added that the 2021 National AIPG meeting is currently being scheduled as an in-person event but that may change.

Megan added that she met with Star Chapter to discuss their web hosting service and indicated that she will discuss this in more detail later in the meeting.

### President Elect

Donny Prater commented that he does not have a formal report but commented that he liked the mentoring that was discussed during the National meeting. He added that developing a mentoring program under current conditions could be challenging. John Popp agreed that mentoring is extremely important and asked how KY-AIPG can move forward with it. He added that, as a retired geologist, he has concern that his experiences may not be relevant to younger geologists. General discussion was held about the benefits of having a mentor and how it could have assisted them in their professional development. Richard Smath added that he thinks a couple of the sections at the Kentucky Geologic Survey (KGS) work with high school students who have an interest in geology on certain projects. All agreed that this is an important topic needs further attention.

### Vice President

Donnie Lumm reported that his comments relate to student chapter outreach efforts and elected to defer them until later in the meeting.

### Secretary's Report

Tim Crumbie reported that the minutes from the February 13, 2021 meeting were emailed to the Executive Committee members for comment and review on March 16, 2021. The minutes were approved by majority vote (electronic) on March 20, 2021 following minor revisions. Copies of the approved minutes were emailed to the Executive Committee earlier this morning.

Tim also reported that he emailed letters to the following colleges/universities on February 24, 2021 requesting nominations for the annual student awards that are presented by KY-AIPG: Western Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, Murray State University and Morehead State University. Dr. Fred Siewers at WKU responded with a nomination on March 4, 2021, a copy of which has been circulated to the Executive Committee members. Edward

added that Sarah Johnson at NKU and Megan Cleinmark have also submitted award nominations. Additional discussion was tabled until later in the meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report

Bill Brab emailed a copy of the Treasurer's report for the period ending February 28, 2021 to those in attendance. A summary of the report is provided below:

Total Operating Funds as of January 31, 2021	\$24,008.77
Checking Balance as of February 28, 2021	\$24,159.69
PayPal Account Balance as of February 28, 2021	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Operating Funds as of February 28, 2021</b>	<b>\$24,159.69</b>
Net Change from previous report	+\$150.92

Donnie made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 28, 2021 and Richard seconded. The motion passed.

#### Communication Coordinator's Report

Richard reported that he will update the KY-AIPG website once the new meeting date has been established and he will also add information about the next Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) speaker at that time.

#### Past President's Report

Edward Lo reported that the portion of the National AIPG meeting that he attended addressed their diversity initiatives. He indicated that National AIPG has decided not to change the language in their Bylaws to specifically address diversity, but they acknowledge the Bylaws are only diverse in thought and gender (in the younger group). He added that AIPG doesn't have adequate representation of the BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) communities and that AIPG National wants to sign a statement to expand diversity but Dawn Garcia, Golder Associates and the speaker during the KY-AIPG September 2020 DEI meeting, was concerned that AIPG is not doing enough. Discussion was held about targeting under-represented populations by creating videos for high school students similar to what AIPG's Minnesota Section has done. Edward added that this is an ongoing conversation and AIPG National is continuing to work toward the goal of increasing diversity.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Student Chapter Outreach

Donnie reported that he hosted an online Google meeting on Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and 6:00 p.m. Eastern time (5:00 p.m. Central) with Western Kentucky University. He said that nine (9) people were shown online to be in attendance. Faculty representative Dr. Michael May and Michael Suggs, a student contact, also participated. Donnie added that he was later made aware that four additional students were participating on shared connections. Edward Lo also participated bringing the total attendance to 13. Donnie reported that he spent six hours preparing a PowerPoint presentation which included his background and a series of histograms showing student and young professional opportunities and other statistics that he obtained from the American Geological Institute (AGI) website. The presentation lasted an hour and was followed by a short question and answer period. He thought it was a worthwhile effort and indicated that he did not notice anyone leave the meeting early. Donnie said the only drawback was

that he was unable to judge the participants reactions. Dr. May and Michael Suggs sent him messages after the discussion thanking him for his time and effort.

Donnie reported that he has not had contact with anyone at Morehead State University since January 17, 2021 when he sent an email to Dr. Jennifer O'Keefe, who provided him with the name of a student representative. Donnie reached out to the new contact via email on multiple occasions between January 29, 2021 and March 5, 2021 but never received a response. He suggested that someone else on the Executive Committee try to contact them later in the year. Donny Prater indicated that he may be able to assist because he has some connections there. Donnie will provide the contact's information to Donny and pass on the information that he had shared with them earlier. Trent Garrison added that that Dr. O'Keefe is extremely busy and that there may be a different person that could serve as the contact who would have more time to help with this effort.

John Popp reported that on February 23, 2021 he and Bill met with Northern Kentucky University (NKU) personnel at 5:00 p.m. in a virtual meeting. Five students participated in the online meeting and John added that they are currently focusing on student growth, networking, mentoring and career development at the university. He added that the most important thing they are currently focusing on is gaining field and research experience, which ties nicely in with the mentoring that was discussed earlier in the meeting. John said he and Bill did not have a formal presentation but each talked candidly about their careers and experiences both professionally and within AIPG. John said it was a relaxed atmosphere with a good question and answer session and that the students welcomed the opportunity to talk again. He added that they requested that KY-AIPG keep them informed on pending events and developments. Bill echoed John's comments and agreed that the informal meetings are well received. He added that the students were engaging, outgoing and seemed to be very interested in the speakers' professional experiences as well as AIPG. Some of the attendees were: Colvin Geiman, President of the Geology Club, Mackenzie Nelson, Vice President, Estefania Correa (Treasurer) and Owen Messerly.

Bill added that he and Mark Sweet have a tentative meeting set up with EKV later this month, likely either on March 25<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. He said the meeting will be in-person and offer the opportunity to have a more meaningful dialogue with the students.

Megan indicated that she has not been able to contact anyone at Murray State. She reached out to Dr. Gary Stinchomb, who reported that he no longer oversees the geology club and referred her to Professor Christine Witkowski who has not responded after a couple of attempts. Bill asked if she had received a response from Dr. Haluk Cetin and she indicated that he similarly had not responded. Bill suggested calling to see if the response is better. Tim added that he had copied Megan on the student award request that was sent to Murray State and that the email address for Dr. Robin Zhang, Department Chair, was included and that she may be another person to contact.

Edward reported that he noticed that Megan is scheduled to speak during the Lunch and Learn Series presented by the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The event will be held virtually. Edward asked if the meeting could also be used as an outreach opportunity for UK's Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) Chapter. Bill asked if the event is open to the public and if KY AIPG can distribute the event announcement in an effort to promote the event. John added that he would like to invite several women that aren't associated AWG to attend the event so he would like to know more about the event.

February DEI Speaker

Edward indicated that Richard Smath has invited Doug Curl with the Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS), to speak about Story Maps during the April 26, 2021 DEI meeting and added that he is working with John Popp to speak during the March 29, 2021 meeting.

## **OTHER TOPICS OF DISCUSSION**

### Annual Awards

Megan asked if the deadlines for the Annual AIPG awards need to be extended. Two student award and one DEI nominations have been received to date but none have been received for the Lifetime Achievement or Geologist of the Year awards. General discussion was held about extending the deadline dates. It was decided to extend the deadlines until April 2, 2021. Edward indicated that he will post this information on the KY-AIPG social media pages and Donnie suggested that it also be posted on the KY- AIPG website. Bill suggested that any nominations be shared with the Executive Committee so they can be reviewed prior to the next meeting. Megan suggested that Tim forward any new nominations to the AIPG email address and they can be accessed from there.

### Star Chapter Demo

Megan reported that she and Richard participated in a discussion with Star Chapter. She added that the service they offer is a bit expensive but she thought they had some good ideas. She stated that the setup fee is \$779.00 for an Essential Package, plus \$83.00 per month to maintain the site. She said that Star Chapter encouraged KY-AIPG to obtain advertisers and outside sponsorships to offset the cost the service. Megan said that she liked their ideas of getting sponsorships to help fund the cost and the potential to include job boards and mentorship opportunities on their websites. She suggested that a small fee could be charged to post jobs on the section website, as is done on other platforms, which could also increase website traffic. It could be a valuable resource for young professionals and students and also be an opportunity for the Section to create revenue to fund workshops and outreach efforts. Megan added that she found it interesting that Star Chapter includes a blog on the websites where professionals are given opportunities to post about different topics. Overall, she felt the service was too expensive but thought they had some good ideas.

Bill agreed that Star Chapter has some good ideas but asked if they provided any idea of how much income could be generated by allowing sponsors to advertise on the website and if the revenue would offset the cost of their website hosting fee. He added that a lot of the comments that Megan made could be integrated into an updated web page which could be beneficial as an ongoing source of income as opposed to having sponsorships for single events. Edward shared the sponsorship page from the Minnesota AIPG website as an example. Megan agreed that KY-AIPG sponsors should be listed on the website. John suggested that having sponsors listed on the website could also assist students and young professionals in their quest for employment. He posed the question who would maintain the website if it weren't Star Chapter and suggested that someone locally may be able to do the same thing for less money. Megan suggested potentially setting up a website sub-committee to manage this who could recruit student chapter members to assist in this endeavor. Bill suggested using a professional to set the page up and possibly have students or someone local to maintain it. Edward shared his personal webpage that he created using Weebly and said that the only thing he had to pay for is the domain name. Bill added that AIPG National currently handles the hosting and domain names for the AIPG sections and the costs come out of the annual dues. Bill went on to explain that a new website can be constructed essentially in parallel to the existing one, which could continue to run in the background. Once the construction is completed, users could be directed to either website with the other still running in the background. Megan asked if KY-AIPG should solicit quotes to construct a new website or if Edward could dedicate the time to do it. Edward recommended soliciting quotes in the short term because he will not be able to dedicate the time for a couple of months.

Bill added that building a website is one thing but generating the content, which would require a significant time commitment and could be cost prohibitive, would fall on the Section. Richard added that he liked the idea of creating a new front page but it should contain a link to the existing website because it contains a large amount of archived information that should not be lost. Megan suggested that in the interest of time that the discussion be tabled and revisited later.

#### Kentucky State Science Fair

Faith Fiene reported that State Science Fair is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will be held virtually again this year. She will be judging the high school and middle school awards and is proposing a \$50 cash award, a certificate and a copy of the Smithsonian Book entitled *Earth* to the winner in each category. Richard made a motion in support of Faith's proposal and Bill seconded. The motion passed. Faith added that KY-AIPG purchased several copies of the book several years ago so approving this request would be a \$100.00 commitment for KY-AIPG. John added that will be also be serving as a judge for the event. Faith commented that she usually works with Tim and Bill indicated that he can also to provide the checks that can be mailed to the award winners with the certificates.

#### Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS) Update

Trent Garrison reported that he is the current President of the Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS) and Amanda Fuller is the Executive Director. She was elected as the President of the National Association of Academies of Science (NAAS) and they attended the first meeting on March 19, 2021. He and Amanda would like to bring Science Policy Fellowships to Kentucky. He said it would be a lengthy, laborious process but he said they have several people interested in accomplishing the task. He added that KAS has a lot going on and they've accomplished a lot on the Science Policy side of things and hosted a few Facebook Livestreams that feature experts in science legislation if anyone is interested in seeing the videos. Trent added that KAS has formed a good working relationship with Kentuckians for Science Education (KSE) which was a group that was formed in 2012-2013, but they've kind of faded away. He added that they have an extremely active President and they meet weekly and have work groups that have been focusing on policy but now that the legislative session is ending at the end of March, they will switch their focus to science education in Kentucky.

#### Fall Short Course

Discussion about the fall short course was tabled until a later date.

#### Board of Registration for Professional Geologists Update:

Bill reported that spring administration of the ASBOG exam was March 19, 2021. Nineteen people took the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) portion in the morning which was proctored by Mark Sweet and Tammy Sharp. Bill added that nine (9) individuals took the PG in the afternoon which he and Tammy proctored. He said one (1) person took both tests. He reported that the Council of Examiners Workshop which reviews and validates the test, is scheduled for April 9-10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Bill indicated that no one from Kentucky is scheduled to attend the meeting and that it will be the first in-person meeting since the start of the COVID pandemic. The results of the test should be available around the first or second week of May. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021 online via Zoom.

#### Next Meeting

The next KY-AIPG Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2021 at 10:00 am. Edward made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.