

Kentucky Section AIPG Business Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams Web Application

Attendees: **Bill Brab, Tim Crumbie, Ben Currens, Richard Smath.**

Welcome and Call to Order

President Ben Currens called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

President's Report

Ben indicated that he will defer his comments until later in the meeting. He added that KY-AIPG needs to reach out to Kentucky colleges and universities to request nominations for the annual student awards and that he and Daniel Draper have been working on a few things that can be discussed in the next meeting.

President Elect's Report

No report.

Vice President's Report

No report.

Secretary's Report

Tim Crumbie reported that he emailed the draft version of the minutes from the January 20, 2025 KY AIPG meeting to the Executive Committee on March 7, 2025. The minutes were approved by majority vote on March 9, 2024 after minor revisions. The final version of the minutes was distributed to the Executive Committee on March 20th, 2025 after a few additional corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Brab shared the Treasurer's Report for the periods ending Jan 31, 2025 and Feb. 28, 2025. Summaries are provided below:

Total Operating Funds as of December 31, 2024	\$26,597.14
Checking Account Balance as of January 31, 2024	\$26,614.02
Total Operating Funds as of January 31, 2025	\$26,614.02
Net Change from previous report	\$16.88
Total Operating Funds as of January 31, 2025	\$26,614.02
Checking Account Balance as of February 28, 2025	\$35,297.15
Total Operating Funds as of February 28, 2025	\$35,297.15
Net Change from previous report	\$8,683.13

Ben made a motion to approve the January 31, 2025 Treasurer's report and Tim seconded. The motion carried.

Ben made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report ending February 28, 2025 and Tim seconded. The motion carried.

Bill added that he canceled the KY-AIPG PayPal account because they refused to refund the fee they charged to collect the funds for the geology review course, which had been canceled due to low attendance.

Communications Coordinator's Report

Richard reported that he is up to date on the website but has been having minor difficulties in getting the latest version of the minutes uploaded. He's working through it.

Past President's Report

No report.

NEW OR ONGOING BUSINESS

2025 Darwin Lecture-Follow-up

Ben reported that the program went very well and added that Donnie Lumm did a great job of selecting a speaker. Dr. Loren Babcock did a great job and Bill confirmed that the attendance (in person and virtual) was impressive. Ben and Bill agreed that utilizing hybrid presentations like this seem to offer a good opportunity for KY-AIPG.

Review and Skills Workshop

Bill reported that only three people signed up for the course, so it was canceled due to lack of attendance. The money was refunded to those that had registered but Paypal kept their administration and processing fees for each of the three registrants, \$15.69 in total fees were charged to AIPG.

At this point it is not known if the course can be offered in the future, in part because of Drew Andrew's availability. General discussion was held about the feasibility of hosting future sessions virtually or hybrid. Ben suggested reaching out to Drew to see if some sort of training module could be developed to make the workshop more accessible to participants. Bill added that Drew has been looking into teaching the course in multiple states.

Student Outreach

No campus visits have been made this year. Discussion was held about the possibility of offering the resume writing workshop to interested parties virtually. Ben said he will send an email to the Executive Committee to see if this is a viable option and to determine if there is enough interest. Hosting these sessions virtually would allow multiple colleges to participate simultaneously.

Awards

Ben indicated that the time is now to start soliciting nominations from colleges and universities for the student awards. A couple of venue recommendations will be included in the email that will be sent to the Executive Committee about the outreach opportunities. Ben will help identify contacts at each college or university. Richard will also send out the recommendations for Geologist of the Year and Lifetime

Achievement Awards. Tim will try to get the letters out next week but will send a draft version to Ben for review first.

A short conversation was held about the DEI Award and DEI speakers. It was decided that any DEI speaker should discuss diversity, equity and inclusion, how it relates to the profession, and not necessarily talk about the Geosciences. Further, any person that would receive the DEI award should have accomplished something specific to improving DEI. Concern was expressed, however, about the current political climate and how the award winner or speaker would be perceived. Richard reminded everyone that the award winner can be a person or a company. It was ultimately decided that the request for DEI award nominations and a speaker would be circulated with the request for nominations for the Annual AIPG Awards.

Other Discussion Topics

Board of Registration Update

Bill reported that the next Board of Registration meeting is on April 14th, 2025 at 1:00 pm and is open to the public. He announced that Kevin Carey has been appointed as the new Board member to fill the vacancy left by Megan Cleinmark. The previous Board meeting, which was planned to discuss the regulation changes and the fee structure revision, had to be canceled because they did not have a quorum. A quorum is required to file the regulation amendment with the LRC. The Board will need to notify AIPG and the Geologic Society of Kentucky (GSK) of the filing to satisfy the requirement that the geologic community has been appropriately notified.

Open Floor Discussion

Ben mentioned that he realizes that the KY-AIPG has had a lot of speakers from academia, but he does not recall ever having a practicing geologist speak and he thinks it would be a good idea. Bill said that practicing geologists have previously spoken to KY-AIPG but it's been nearly ten years ago. Ben added that he has an idea for a speaker that could talk about drones and the interesting things they are currently doing. Richard added that Frank Etnensohn and Jen O'keefe are working together to develop a microscopic carbonate course. Ben reminded everyone that the membership has changed and when speakers are selected, the topics should be of interest to potential new members because these events could be used as recruiting tools. Bill said when he has set up events in the past, he would ideally have someone from the professional, regulatory and academic communities to get multiple perspectives. He said it is one thing to have a one-to-two-hour lecture, but the in-person sessions tend to last closer to six hours. Ben said he would reach out to the person he has in mind, to see if they would be interested in speaking.

Ben reported that he and Daniel have been working on a survey for the membership to determine what they would like to see from AIPG but they have not finished it yet. He reported that he is still working on the updated website but has been side-tracked for the past couple of months, adding that he should be able to get back on it soon. Richard reminded everyone that there is, or used to be, a form on the KY-AIPG website that allows people to specify their topics) of interest. If the form is still accessible it could be used as a template to build on. If it's not accessible, Bill said to let him know and he can find one of the older ones that he had previously created, which can be updated and republished which would prevent having to create a new one from scratch.

Ben suggested that next year, before the legislative session starts, it would probably be a good idea to have some members volunteer to be on Bill Watch. He added that there was at least one bill this year that will have broad impacts on environmental and hydrogeology sectors, adding that it would be a good idea to keep an eye on legislation that may impact the profession. This effort could be coordinated with other professional organizations. Ben added that this is one of the topics that he and Daniels are considering including in the survey they are working on. Bill said that something similar to this has been implemented in the past but the organization that led the effort has since dissolved.

Tim mentioned that the next KGS Advisory Panel meeting is on April 4, 2025 at the Kentucky Geological Survey. He also reminded those in attendance that the Kentucky State Science Fair is scheduled for March 28-29, 2025 and that Faith Fiene will be judging the event again this year. Ben indicated that he would like to be there at least one of the days.

Next Meeting

Bill proposed to hold the next KY-AIPG meeting at 4:00 pm on Thursday, May 1, 2025. Ben seconded. The motion passed. Ben made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bill seconded. The meeting adjourned at @ 5:03pm.