

# Kentucky Section AIPG Business Meeting

Saturday, May 1, 2021

Zoom Remote Access Meeting

Attendees: **Bill Brab, Megan Cleinmark, Tim Crumbie, Edward Lo, Donny Prater, Richard Smath.**

## Welcome and Call to Order

President Megan Cleinmark called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

## President's Report

Megan reported that she participated in the Spring Advisory Committee meeting with the Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) Environmental Science Technology (EST) program during which they discussed the status of the outdoor classroom. She added that it is still being developed and will not likely be an option for the KY-AIPG fall workshop. She deferred further comments on the matter until later in the meeting.

Megan added that she was able to contact the Murray State University geology program about hosting an outreach meeting and subsequently participated in a Geology Club meeting via Zoom. She will address this topic in more detail later in the meeting.

## President Elect

Donny Prater no report.

## Vice President

Donnie Lumm was not available for the meeting but had previously provided his selections for the Annual KY-AIPG and Student Awards. He added that he would support an awards ceremony in July, preferably in-person.

## Secretary's Report

Tim Crumbie reported that the minutes from the March 20, 2021 meeting were emailed to the Executive Committee members for comment and review on April 27, 2021. He added that not enough votes were received for the minutes to be considered approved so a vote will be needed during the meeting. The minutes were finalized on May 1, 2021 following minor revisions. Copies of the approved minutes were emailed to the Executive Committee immediately prior to this meeting. Megan made a motion to approve the minutes, Richard Smath seconded. The motion passed.

## Treasurer's Report

Bill Brab emailed a copy of the Treasurer's reports for the periods ending March 31, 2021 and April 30, 2021 to those in attendance. Summaries of the reports are provided below:

Total Operating Funds as of February 28, 2021	\$24,159.69
Checking Balance as of March 31, 2021	\$24,355.72
PayPal Account Balance as of March 31, 2021	\$0.00
<b>Total Operating Funds as of March 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$24,355.72</b>
Net Change from previous report	+\$196.03

Total Operating Funds as of March 31, 2021	\$24,355.72
Checking Balance as of April 30, 2021	\$24,356.72
PayPal Account Balance as of April 30, 2021	\$0.00
<b>Total Operating Funds as of April 30, 2021</b>	<b>\$24,356.72</b>
Net Change from previous report	+\$1.00

Richard made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports as presented, Megan seconded. The motion passed.

#### Communication Coordinator's Report

Richard that the KY-AIPG website is currently up to date and the minutes from the March 20, 2021 meeting have been posted.

#### Past President's Report

Edward Lo reported that he has learned that there will be a change in the student organizational leadership at UK and he wants to make sure that going into the summer months, KY-AIPG has the appropriate information that will allow them to interface with the graduate geology students through Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE). He added that he has noticed that Minnesota AIPG covers some of the costs for taking the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam for some of their undergraduate students. Edward asked if KY-AIPG would consider adopting a similar program as it may help increase membership and interest in participating in KY-AIPG meetings. Megan indicated that she liked the idea and suggested that requiring recipients to be AIPG members could increase section membership. She added that assistance could be offered in the form of an award or a raffle and that it could be presented to one undergraduate and one graduate student.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Student Chapter Outreach

Megan reported that Dr. Christine Witkowski at Murray State, invited her to speak to their geology club meeting. She added that their geology club is unique in that it includes geology, environmental science and archaeology. Bill added that GIS is also included their program. Megan added that she thinks the club has only met twice over the entire semester which may be why it has been so difficult to contact them. She added that she thinks the meeting went well and estimated that nine people attended, including the professor. She said that one student joined AIPG during the meeting. She added that the group seemed very interested in AIPG and requested that KY-AIPG host another outreach event in the fall. Megan agreed.

Bill asked if Megan can provide more information about the officers for Murray State's geology club. This information is needed so it can be included in the annual report for the student chapters which is required by National AIPG. He requested information for the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 academic year if available. Bill said he wants to be thorough and current on the reports and indicated that he has completed the report for Northern Kentucky University (NKU) and added that he has submitted a status report for the University of Kentucky (UK) indicating they are currently inactive. Dr. Michael May has filed the report for Western Kentucky University (WKU), and Bill reported that he needs to connect with Dr. Jonathan Malzone at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) regarding their program, which he also thinks is currently inactive. Megan added that Dr. Witkowski is the current student advisor at Murray State University and indicated that she would follow up with them to confirm the current officers. Morehead University is the only college in state that has a geology program, that does not have an AIPG student chapter.

Bill reported that he and Tim visited Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) on March 31, 2021. Dr. John Malzone, Dr. Walter Borowski, and Dr. Haley Cabaniss attended the event as did three students (Abigail

Maxey, Butch Marley Yopp, and Zander Gallutia). The meeting was informal and Bill and Tim both felt it generally went well. General discussions were held about professional experiences, employment opportunities, job requirements and what type of work performed. One topic of discussions centered on how students can obtain their 40 Hour OSHA training prior to graduation which would be a benefit to employers and make students more marketable. Dr. Jonathan Malzone expressed interest in this option and followed up with an email message requesting more information. He was put in contact with Donny who is planning to follow-up with him soon. This venture (facilitated by KY-AIPG) has the potential to be beneficial for all involved, including employers. General discussion was held about how the program could be structured and the potential benefits. Megan added that BCTC is also interested in providing similar training for their students and Bill added that UK is interested in doing the same.

Edward said that he thinks this discussion ties well into an initiative he has been affiliated with this semester called Unlearning Racism in the Geoscience (URGE). He added that sometimes when students interact with experts, certain levels of knowledge are assumed. He said that the reality is sometimes students may not possess the assumed level of understanding and they are too embarrassed to admit it. Edward feels that this would be a good opportunity to interface with the available graduate students over the next couple of months to share this type of information with.

## **OTHER TOPICS OF DISCUSSION**

### Annual Awards

Tim sent email notifications to the following colleges/universities on March 20, 2021, notifying them that he deadline for the submittal of student nominations for the annual KY-AIPG awards has been extended until April 2, 2021: Western Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, Murray State University and Morehead State University. Five of the six universities that were contacted provided nominations.

Megan mentioned that no nominations were received for the Geologist of the Year. One nomination was received for the Lifetime Achievement Award, one nomination was received for the DEI award and five student award nominations were received. All five of the student award nominees were excellent, and general discussion was held about possible options for presenting awards to multiple students. One of the options discussed included decreasing the amount of each scholarship so that more awards could be given while staying within, or close to, the budgeted amount. Edward recommended using a tiered or cascading awards structure where the awarded amount would decrease as more awards are given. Bill stated that using these approaches, the budget could remain consistent with previous years but added that some of the sponsorship funds that were previously received could serve as additional source money for the awards. He added that he liked the idea of the tiered approach for the top three finishers but also asked the Executive Committee to consider giving honorable mention awards to the two remaining candidates which would allow all of them to receive recognition.

Edward also suggested that future consideration should be given to having a People's Choice award which is determined by the number of votes a candidate receives from people who are in attendance at the meeting. He felt that this approach could more people to participate in meetings. Donny suggested meeting the candidates or possibly hosting a short online interview.

All of the nominees were excellent and there was discussion about how all could be awarded. Following further discussion, the decision was made to obtain additional input from Frank Etensohn John Popp, Donnie Lumm, Faith Feine and Charlie Mason before the winners are chosen. A focused meeting will be

scheduled within the next two weeks to determine how many awards will be given and how they will be presented. Edward set up a *When To Meet* poll and distributed it to see when the meeting can be scheduled, preferably within the next two weeks.

Megan suggested that going forward, nominees could be required to provide copies of resumes and that the candidates should be AIPG members. General discussion was held about the established award requirements and what information should be excluded, such as grade point averages.

Richard added that donors should get the appropriate recognition indicating that they in part, made the awards possible. Bill suggested recognizing the sponsors in more of a general manner, making them part of all of KY-AIPG ventures. He added that when KY-AIPG solicits donations, it should be for the entirety of AIPG and not per event so the funds could be used as needed.

#### May DEI Speaker

Edward indicated that he has not yet chosen a speaker for the DEI meeting and added that he is open to suggestions. He added that everyone in the organization can make recommendations so it's a collective effort. Tim suggested that an email be sent out requesting suggestions for potential speakers. Megan agreed and added that a couple of her associates may be willing to speak during one of the events.

He is currently considering asking Dr. Cara Peterman, fluvial geomorphologist & hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Water Science Center in Lawrence, Kansas, to speak. She is a UK graduate and Edward thought it might be interesting to have a federal employee speak.

#### Fall Short Course

Bill and Megan have been discussing the options for the fall workshop which would include groundwater monitoring, groundwater testing and surface geophysics. They discussed possibly holding the course at AST's facility because they are planning to install a monitoring well at their facility, likely within the next several months, to train their employees. Bill said that he's met with BCTC about their outdoor classroom but they are not sure about what their classroom will include. There are currently too many variables to plan on holding the event at BCTC in the near future, AST has already committed to install three (3) wells at their facility to train their employees. He added that they have the facilities and resources to host an event of this caliber (classroom and hands-on portion). Bill prepared a draft outline to share his vision on how the course would be held and briefly discussed the logistics. The course would cover many aspects associated with environmental site characterization and remediation including topics such as regulatory response/requirements, consultant/client relations, surface geophysics, High Resolution Site Characterization (HRSC), overburden and bedrock characterization, and updated Conceptual Site Model (CSM) remedial design. He also suggested soliciting input from the Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS) which would provide an opportunity for them to present some of their work on projects they are undertaking. Bill listed several potential speakers that may be interested in presenting during the course and a suggested structure for the meeting. The event is tentatively scheduled for October 13, 2021, which would coincide with AST's annual open house.

Bill also indicated professional development hours (PDHs) will be offered. Richard indicated that offering PDHs will likely help with enrollment. General discussion was held about the differences between PDHs and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and how participants can assume the responsibility to convert PDHs to CEUs if desired.

#### Kentucky State Science Fair

Tim reported that Angela Wang, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, was selected as the winner of the High School Earth and Environmental Sciences Category with her project entitled *Analyzing Zircons from Magmatic Rocks from the Franklin Mountains to Determine Correlation to Grenville Orogeny or Midcontinent Rift System*. She will receive a copy of the Smithsonian Book entitled *Earth*, a check for \$50 and a certificate. Bill delivered the check and Tim will be coordinating with Faith Fiene to have the awards delivered.

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

Bill reported that the most recent PG Board meeting was held on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom. Several candidates that had applied for certification through comity were approved during the meeting. He added that AIPG National and the PG Board held a meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and they are moving toward computer-based testing, most likely next year. A third-party testing administrator (Pearson) will set up the testing centers at secure locations and will remit the test results to ASBOG, who will still be responsible for scoring and assessing the exam. This approach will essentially eliminate the need to have the exams proctored locally. This will make the test taking considerably more convenient for candidates located remotely. He added that these changes should not affect the fees significantly but there may be a small fee added for proctoring the exam. This process is not expected to speed up the validation or scoring process. It generally takes about two months to complete the review process and disseminate the results to the individual state boards. Bill reported that the next PG Board meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2021.

Megan summarized some of the topics discussed during the meeting, that need to be finalized including: further discussion about the Annual Student Award nominations which will be addressed during a special meeting, scheduling the Fall Short Course, determine when, where and how the KY AIPG Annual Awards will be presented to the winners, additional discussion about the KY AIPG website,

Edward suggested that the awards ceremony could possibly be held at an outside location if a venue is available such as AST, GeoScience or LE Gregg. Bill suggested that it may be difficult for students to attend a ceremony given the school term is ending soon and with the gathering restrictions related to COVID that are still in-place. He suggested that the presentation be postponed until the start of the fall semester.

#### Next Meeting

The next KY-AIPG Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2021 at 10:00 am. Bill made a motion to adjourn, Megan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.