

# Kentucky Section AIPG Business Meeting

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams Web Application

Attendees: Tim Blackburn, **Bill Brab**, **Tim Crumbie**, **Ben Currens**, Frank Ettensohn, Gina Lukoczki, John Popp, **Richard Smath**, Adam Smith.

## Welcome and Call to Order

President Ben Currens called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

## President's Report

Ben reported that he talked to Adam Smith and Sarah Gaddis regarding the pay scale at the state. He is also going to reach out to Tony Hatton, the Commissioner at the Division of Water, to gain his input. He added that he has not contacted Charlie Mason yet but will do so.

Gina reported that on September 19, 2025, the Southeastern Bluegrass Chapter of the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) will be hosting a silent auction fundraiser raiser for scholarships for the AWG Southeastern Bluegrass Chapter (SEB), which supports women in the geosciences. Mostly to support and early career female (and those that identify as female) geoscientists. She added that in 2022, AWG established the Kentucky Geoscience Student Research Scholarship Program that awards \$500.00 scholarships per student, for two students each year typically. The fundraiser is to raise money for this effort for the next two years. The scholarship is co-funded by the AWG Foundation at a one to one match. Every year, SEB contributes \$500.00 which is matched by the AWG Foundation, which is how they are able to provide the two scholarships every year. The event, which is themed *Bourbon and Rocks*, will be held at the Barrel House Distillery located at 1200 Manchester Street in Lexington, Kentucky from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. She added that they are accepting goods, services and funds to support their cause.

At the request of Daniel Draper, who was absent, John Popp suggested that KY AIPG make a donation of \$100.00. Ben made a motion to approve a \$250 donation for the scholarship, Tim seconded, the motion passed.

## President Elect's Report

No report.

## Vice President's Report

No report.

## Secretary's Report

Tim Crumbie reported that he emailed the draft minutes from the last meeting to the Executive Committee on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and the minutes were approved later in the day.

## Treasurer's Report

Bill Brab shared the Treasurer's Report for the period ending July 31, 2025. A summary is provided below:

Total Operating Funds as of June 30, 2025	\$27,537.83
Checking Account Balance as of July 31, 2025	\$26,804.91
<b>Total Operating Funds as of July 31, 2025</b>	<b>\$26,804.91</b>
Net Change from previous report	\$732.92

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

Communications Coordinator's Report

Richard Smath indicated that website is current and has been updated with the minutes from the July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.

Past President's Report

No report.

**NEW OR ONGOING BUSINESS**

Pay Scale for State Employed Geologists

Adam Smith, Supervisor for the Groundwater Section of the Watershed Management Branch with the Division of Water, shared that the pay scale for the Geologist Series at the state is comprised of six (6) primary levels that have multiple pay stages in each level. He added that in 2017 the state added Geologist Registered, Geologist Supervisor-Registered and Geologist Manager-Registered for licensed geologists to the pay scale. Someone graduating from college starts out as a Geologist 1, generally, you have to have a year's worth of experience before you can move up to the Geologist 2 position. To move from Geologist 2 to Geologist 3 it takes 3 years. In 2022, the state started reclassifying the Environmental Scientist Series. The intent was to remove redundant positions. During that process, they ended up bumping up the pay range for this series, but could not do the same for the geologists. The Engineer Series essentially starts where the Geologist 2 position starts. Adam said that people sometimes start working in the Geologist Series until they realize they can be more profitable in the Environmental Scientist Series, so they change tracks because it has more opportunities for advancement. This discourages geologists from going to the state, staying there, or obtaining their PG license. Adam reported that they have five (5) people with geology degrees but only two hold geology positions. The information that Adam shared is available on the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet website. The hiring process is also quite lengthy, which has been detrimental to acquiring new employees.

Tim asked if there is an exemption for professional licensure at the state. Ben clarified that there is an exemption for the practice of geology, when working under a licensed geologist, working in academia, and working for the state in a regulatory capacity. Bill added that the exemption was enacted to allow those already on the career track, to continue advancing without having to obtain the license. Tim posed the question about what would happen if the licensing requirement was removed. Ben responded that there would likely be need for more PGs in state government. Bill added that the effort and expense required to obtain the license would likely result in even larger deficit of state employed geologists. Tim B. asked if there are any incentives in place for geologists to obtain their licenses, like paying for the tests for candidates. Adam said he's sure a plan like that would go a long way with some of the candidates. He added that he and Ben advocate for more geologists to sit for their license.

### AIPG Dues Review

Bill reported that he would be glad to submit the form to National AIPG that we would not prefer to change the dues. Bill made a motion to keep the KY-AIPG dues the same and Ben seconded. The motion passed.

### AIPG Annual Meeting

Ben asked if anyone is planning on attending the annual meeting this year. He is not sure if he'll be able to attend. If no one is planning to attend, he suggested that we consider submitting the section reports electronically. John added that Donnie Lumm occasionally attends the Annual Meeting and he may be willing to go.

Due to the length of the meeting, Ben is going to draft an email to cover the agenda topics that weren't covered during this meeting, in person meetings, campus visits, and potential speakers.

### **Other Discussion Topics**

#### Board of Registration Update

Bill reported that during the August 11, 2025 meeting, the Board reviewed proposed changes that were made to the draft legislation that had been submitted to the Legislative Research Committee (LRC). He reported that after reviewing the changes, he had the impression that the legislation would be rejected if the changes were not accepted, so the revisions were approved by the Board. The revised legislation will be reviewed again on Tuesday September 9, 2025 and Bill is planning on being there.

Bill reported that five (5) new applications for Geologist-in-Training (GIT) and Seven (7) applications for Registered Professional Geologist (RPG) were approved. Four (4) of the RPG applications were for Initial Endorsement (comity) and three (3) were for PG licensure. The next Board of Registration meeting is scheduled for Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Bill suggested that Ben include an item on the next agenda to discuss the compilation of the surveys that KY-AIPG has distributed in the past, to poll the membership on topics for future lectures/short courses.

#### Next Meeting

Ben stated that he mentioned having an in-person meeting at the KGS to Dr. Mike McGlue but has not yet heard back. Bill said he would follow up with Katie Ellis on the possibility of having the in person meeting at the KGS. Based on this, Ben suggested waiting to see what dates are available at the KGS before scheduling the next meeting. Ben made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm