

UGS BOARD MEETING
UGS Conference Room, DNR Building
June 11, 2009

The meeting of the UGS Board was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by chairman Ken Puchlik

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Ken Puchlik, Mark Bunnell, Jack Hamilton, Don Harris, Bill Loughlin, and Tom Tripp.

Absent: Alisa Schofield and Tom Faddies, ex-officio, SITLA.

UGS Staff: Rick Allis, Kimm Harty, John Kingsly, and Dianne Davis.

Visitors: Becky Brusio

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Tripp motioned to approve the as written. Mark Bunnell seconded the motion. The Board voted and the motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Personnel

The UGS has one new staff member since the last board meeting. Her name is Jerriann Ernsten, and she is with the Utah State Energy Program managing the Energy Efficiency Block Grant.

The UGS had a resignation from the Ground Water Section (Mark Yidana, who returned to his home country of Ghana). Also Lucy Jordan in the Ground-Water Section requested to reduce to half-time temporary status. Both full-time permanent positions are essential, so the UGS will be advertising the two positions in the same advertisement. The intention is to keep the same FTE count and the same permanent position count in the Ground-Water Section as a result of the new appointments. Both appointments will be at the Project Geologist level, with the ability to under-fill if necessary

Financial Situation

The Utah Geological Survey has been restricting non-contract expenditure since early in the calendar year when it became clear that there would be major cuts to General Funds, and Mineral Lease revenue would be declining. The goal is for discretionary expenditure cut-backs in FY10 to largely cover the General Fund decline, and for the Mineral Lease carry-forward from FY09 to cover reduced Mineral Lease revenue expected for FY10.

The UGS is at 78% of its expenditure budget with 83% of the year completed. It expects to still be several percent below budget by the end of the year.

In addition to minimizing expenditure, the UGS has been vigorously pursuing opportunities for new funding sources.

Library

Due to the declining trend in walk-in library usage, and the fact that more is done electronically, and the recent expansion of the Utah State Energy Program, a review of likely library needs over the coming decade indicates we can consolidate space without losing library capability or efficiency. The plan is to convert one third of the present library space to five cubicles, and allocate this as USEP “overflow”.

Legislative News

Monthly interim meetings of the legislative committees began in May. Energy topics are likely to be popular in both the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment committee and the Public Utilities and Technology committee. The UGS may be involved with agenda topics during the interim meeting schedule.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled Board meeting is Thursday, August 6. At this stage, no action items seem to be required. The August meeting was inserted two years ago when the Board was needed to meet more regularly through the year to approve SEP subcontracts and/or finalize Rule changes. Nothing is anticipated by August, so Director Allis recommended this meeting be cancelled. The Board discussed if it wished to meet anyway to hear a couple of other talks about aspects of UGS mission/work. After discussion, the board voted to cancel this meeting.

The next meeting will be the Fall field trip. If required, a Board formal meeting could be held during this trip (for example at the UGS Cedar City office) to address any action items that have arisen during the summer months.

UGS Summer Picnic/Meeting

This year the picnic will be on Thursday July 9, noon , at Canyon Rim Park (3100 South, 3100 East). All Board members are welcome to attend. The UGS makes service awards (5-year increments of employment with the state), and the Crawford Award is presented. Normally a Board member makes this presentation. Don Harris and Bill Loughlin said they would probably be able to attend.

ACTION ITEMS

Director Rick Allis gave background information on this award. This is the most prestigious scientific award within the UGS, and it is made annually by the Board.

The Board considered two nominations:

Chris DuRoss and Greg McDonald for UGS Special Study 124.

“Paleoseismic Investigation of the Northern Strand of the Nephi Segment of the Wasatch Fault Zone at Santquin, Utah.” UGS SS-124, published in 2008.

and

Hugh Hurlow for UGS Special Studies 126

"Geology and Ground-Water Chemistry, Curlew Valley, Northwestern Utah and South-Central Idaho - Implications for Hydrogeology" UGS SS-126, published in 2008.

The Board discussed the merits of both publications and agreed that both works were deserving of this award. Unfortunately, only one award can be made each year. When chairman Puchlik called for a vote, a majority decision went in favor of Hugh Hurlow.

ADJOURNMENT

Ken Puchlik entertained a motion to adjourn. Don Harris moved to adjourn the meeting and Jack Hamilton seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 3:30 p.m.

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