



American Institute of Professional Geologists Michigan Section

April, 2005

From the President's Desk

Currently, there are about 320 registered members in the Michigan AIPG Section. At any given meeting we get from 40 to 70 people, about 90% of who are members. Not a bad representation, given our geographic distribution across the State and the diversity of interests and responsibilities. During our short time together we may have the opportunity for substantive conversations with one or two persons, suggesting that the several regular meetings any of us manage to attend each year do not offer an effective vehicle to get to know each other professionally, much less personally.

Part of the advantage of belonging to a professional organization should be that we are able to meet others who practice in the various areas of the profession, learn what they are doing, expand our knowledge base, and develop our career opportunities. In order to facilitate this sharing of who we are, what we know, and what we do, as well as offer a venue to express individual views on Section activities, I am inviting members to contribute to a "Member Profile" column to be added to the newsletter. The column would give any member the opportunity to introduce themselves, describe what segment(s) of the profession they are (or have been) practicing, and discuss a particular professional expertise and/or passion they have enjoyed being involved in.

Since contributing to this profile may be off-putting, in the sense of blowing one's own horn, let me suggest a general format for the column. Further, let me assure you that members are generally curious about how others in this field spend their time and what areas they are interested in. Generally, the column could be formatted as follows:

- Introduction – who you are, member number, years of practice.
- Educational background
- Reasons you choose geology as a field of endeavor
- Work experience and current position

- Most interesting geology related experience(s) – childhood discovery, field trip, area of study, professional epiphany, etc.
- Issues that the Section should be involved in (or not involved in)
- Hobbies or activities you pursue
- Professional information you might be willing to offer to other members, either individually or as a group presentation

I look forward to receiving your profiles. Please e-mail them to me as a Word® document to bbeltman@gwsi.biz and we will publish them, one each newsletter, in the order received. If you are willing to make the effort, I think it will enhance the value of membership to you and the Section.

Bruce Beltman

Bean to Speak at May 19 Meeting

For the May 19 Chapter meeting, *Verification and Challenges of Glacial Geology Theories in Southeast Michigan – With a Focus on Carleton Farms Landfill in Sumpter Township and Woodland Meadows Landfill in Van Buren Township* will be the title of a presentation by Larry Bean, Jackson District Geologist, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHMD), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The meeting will be held at the Jackson Holiday Inn, 2000 Holiday Inn Drive, Jackson, located at the I-94/US-127 interchange.

Larry received a Masters degree in geology in 1987 from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. After which, he worked as a geologist for the Michigan DEQ and its predecessor, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, Southeast Michigan District, from April 1988 to 2004. In 2004 Larry transferred to the Jackson District office and continued to work for the WHMD. He worked for the University of Michigan in Dearborn, Department of Natural Sciences part time as an Adjunct Lecturer since 1997 teaching a glacial geology class in 2002 and 2004, among other assignments.

Mr. Bean will present an evaluation of the glacial geology exposed in large excavations at the Carleton Farms Landfill in Sumpter Township, Wayne County and Woodland Meadows Landfill in Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan. We will see how the observations at these locations verify some conventional theories regarding the glacial geology of Southeast Michigan and challenge other theories. Larry will also discuss ideas for electronically documenting field observations, storage of data, and distribution of the information for further future studies.

2007 Annual Meeting Update

The planning for the 2007 national meeting in Traverse City continues. We are getting close to finalizing the contract with the Park Place Hotel; we have only a few items left to discuss with National before it is ready. Based on the results of the member survey that appeared in the last newsletter and distributed at the March Section, we have a short list of potential field trips. We are roughing in our ideas for the technical aspects of the meeting based on some preliminary information on possible short courses and the most popular ideas for technical sessions and field trips.

We have our first sponsor for the meeting. Fitzgerald Henne & Associates has generously decided to contribute \$2,000 to the meeting. This is a significant first step, since it will provide the Section some much-needed seed money to begin making the required arrangements for the meeting. The Planning Committee is requesting that any member that has suggestions for possible sponsors, exhibitors, or advertisers to please provide the contact information for the entity in question as soon as possible. We have a list compiled, but would appreciate any and all suggestions.

The full details of the status of the planning process are available on the Section website. Anyone

interested in helping out the Planning Committee would be welcome. Please contact me or another member of the Planning Committee if you have any comments, suggestions, or ideas on any aspect of the meeting. We are hoping to put together a great meeting that will benefit all our members. Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming newsletters. The next Committee meeting will be June 20, 2005.

Adam W. Heft, CPG
2007 General Chairman

Planning Minutes: Monday, February 21, 2005

The meeting began at 6:10 pm at the offices of Strata Environmental in Mason. The following individuals were present: Adam Heft, Allan Blaske, Tim Woodburne, Gary Dannemiller, Ed Everett, Joe Sheahan, and Dave Woltz.

The fifth planning committee meeting was briefly summarized; specifically, the status of the website, contract issues for the Park Place Hotel, the decision to add a student affairs chair, the questionnaire placed in the recent issue of the newsletter, and a brief summary presented by each of the chairs.

Adam Heft provided a summary of the conference call in January with National, the Kentucky Section, and the Northeast Section intended to address issues in the annual meeting planning process. Some specific issues that came from the call included National's concern about student involvement and participation in the meetings, transportation issues, and the schedule of required elements of the annual meetings. The issue of looking into the transportation issue was discussed with respect to the 2007 meeting; it was decided to have Matt Vander Eide look into this issue with respect to costs, contract issues, and insurance.

The contract with the Park Place Hotel was reviewed for any additional questions or concerns. No significant deficiencies were noted. Adam Heft will forward a copy of the contract to National for review and approval. A follow-up regarding the cost for the exhibit space was requested: does the specified

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Newsletter Editors Tyrone J. Black, 989-705-3402 (blackt@Michigan.gov) and Adam Heft, 517-887-1100 (hefta@fitzhenne.com).

Committees Awards, Jim Brode (jwbrode@ftch.com); Educational Outreach, Jim Brode (jwbrode@ftch.com); Membership, Mark Sweatman (marks@insightes.com); Regulatory Affairs, Vacant; Screening, Jim Ferritto (ferritti@michigan.gov); Student Chapters, Eric Wallis (Ewallis@WM.com); Quarterly Meetings, Scott A. Cesarz, (sac@msg-dearborn.com); Treasury, Bruce Beltman (bbeltman@gwsi.biz).

Circulation of the Michigan Section Newsletter is to over 360 members, a number of prospective members, several geology departments, and companies for a total over 450. Distribution is by e-mail and US. Copy in PDF format is posted at <http://www.mi.aipg.org>.

Newsletter Sponsors and Advertisements: The Sponsor section is \$15 per name or column inch for copy ready art. Copy preparation at an additional charge is available.

Professional Postings: The Professional Posting section, where you may advertise positions, is \$10 per column inch.

Seeking Employment: Members seeking employment may submit a 50-word listing at no charge.

Articles: The newsletter will feature topics on a quarterly basis, and will have a quarterly deadline for submissions. If you have ideas for topics or articles, query us or submit it!

Authors' opinions in articles are not necessarily the opinions of the Michigan Section or National Headquarters of the AIPG.

cost include costs for the framework for the booths (chairs, table, backdrop, etc.) or is that an additional cost? Assuming that National has no other issues with respect to the contract, we will try to have a contract in place in the next few months.

A brief discussion was held regarding reports by the various chairs; no significant new information was presented. Additional details and planning by each are still to be formulated. Joe Sheahan questioned whether we are restricted to trying to get students only from Michigan universities; the consensus was that there is no geographical boundary to which students could be invited or participate.

Some suggestions regarding possible events, ideas, etc. were made. One possibility was for sponsors, exhibitors, etc. to have a video kiosk where the presentation information could be available to those browsing the exhibit area. A suggestion for an evening event was an evening at Interlochen. Another suggestion was to see about whether insurance for the section officers would be needed; Adam will check with national on this. A request was also made to have Ty Black check the status of the Section membership roster for accuracy.

The questionnaire for the members was discussed. The questionnaire was placed in the February newsletter, but no responses were received by the time of the meeting. Hopefully, we will have responses by the next meeting.

A follow-up discussion regarding the possibility of a rock and mineral show was briefly discussed. Kevin Lund had informed Adam Heft before the meeting that a member that attended the Tucson Gem & Mineral show found that one or two of those exhibitors would possibly be interested in being an exhibitor for our meeting. We will look into this further.

Do geologists protect the public health and the environment?

Geologists provide the services which are used directly or indirectly by virtually every citizen in the State of Michigan whether they are aware of it or not. The public can seek the advice of a geologist regarding the development of a property for a new housing site. Municipalities may hire geologists to provide advice on how best to develop and manage a water supply system. Counties often engage the services of geologists in order to identify a suitable location for a landfill or to characterize conditions surrounding existing landfills. Attorneys hire geologists as expert witnesses in a wide range of civil litigation activities. At most levels of state government, geologists are on staff at the Departments of Labor and Economic Growth, Transportation, and Environmental Quality, which

includes the State Geological Survey to make technical interpretations for the State. These geologists provide information on soil, rock, petroleum, and groundwater, the basic geological elements found everywhere in Michigan. Geologists determine the suitability of those materials for commercial extraction and use in the construction of roads, bridges, schools, and airports. Geologists provide information on geological hazards, groundwater quality, contaminated soil and groundwater site remediation, groundwater supply, and natural resource management.

I am singing to the choir when I say to a geologist that a geologist investigates subsurface site conditions, locates sufficient groundwater supplies for drinking and fire protection, predict groundwater flow, groundwater contaminant movement, and many other activities involved in defining the assessment and use of resources. Clearly these activities directly put geologists work in the public practice along with engineers. Now is a very critical time to refocus efforts to achieve licensure for professional geologists in the State of Michigan. The licensure bill was re-introduced in the House this legislative session as HB 4440, HB4441, and HB4442. I have spoken to many people regarding the licensure and found that that many decision makers do not even know what geologists do to protect the public. In fact, I would say the most common question I have heard from legislators, lobbyists, and engineers regarding the pending legislation is "Where is the ground swell for this?" or "How do geologists protect the public?" I know I have asked many of you to take the time to write to your representatives, encouraging them to support and/or co-sponsor the licensure bill. As a direct result of your efforts, several republican and democrat Representatives have signed on as sponsors to the bills.

However, we are encountering a new adversary in our efforts, the Michigan Oil and Gas Association (MOGA), a well funded Lansing Lobbyist. Unfortunately at a meeting on April 13th, MOGA could not explain why they oppose licensure. They only expressed they were surprised to see the bills in committee and proudly took credit for preventing the licensure of geologists in Michigan for the past 30-years. This opposition was both a surprise and a wake-up call. If you think licensure is important, we need your support more now than ever to continue to develop public support and further the ground swell started in 2004 that resulted in a recent letter of support from Professional Engineers in Michigan.

Why is MOGA interested in the licensure of geologist? MOGA represents members that search for, process, store, and deliver oil and gas to the public each and every day. Members of MOGA rely on geologists to solve the problems related to the handling of oil and gas. Somehow the MOGA

management has determined that licensure of geologists will cost its association members millions. MOGA has not been able to defend its statements with facts to us or legislators. However, MOGA can demand that geologists make a demonstration to them for the need to be licensed. If that sounds unfair, well it is, and I suspect if you would have been in the room with MOGA, (the State of Michigan's former geology museum, now Representative Ward's office,) you might have been angry too. How ironic that MOGA could have the last say about the geology profession in a room that once contained rock and mineral specimens collected by geologists to share with the public.

So that brings me back to my first question, "Do geologists protect the public health and the environment?" I think we need to prepare a White Paper that provides the answer to this question. I know we are all busy and we have asked a lot from AIPG members to contact legislators and the Governor, but in addition to that, I need all the help I can get to prepare a White Paper to clarify the perceived "questionable protection of health and the environment." Frankly, if AIPG members can't get together to write this White Paper and deliver the message to anyone that will hear the argument to license geologists, we may as well make some administrator at MOGA happy and take a seat at the back of the bus and repeat the history of the last 30-years. Personally, MOGA re-energized my need to see this Governor sign a geologist licensure bill. I know my limits, and I cannot do it alone. If you are interested in helping to develop the White Paper, send an e-mail to Kevin@insightes.com.

A White Paper is a necessary step to get the public involved in order for this to succeed. The chair of the committee, Representative Tory Rocca, where the bills currently sit told me he is somewhat skeptical about licensing additional professions and believes the Governor is not interested in adding any new groups to be licensed. He added, until the geologist gain support of MOGA and interest from the Governor, the bills will be stuck in committee. We need to educate the legislators and the Governor as to the need for licensure of professional geologists. Although the matter is still in committee, it is critical that we reach out now to as many representatives as possible in order to raise awareness as to the need for licensure. I urge you to take the time to make yourself heard if you want this bill to move forward. The success of this bill is up to us. A template for a letter to your Representative, Senator, and the Governor can be found on the AIPG Michigan Chapter website at www.MI.AIPG.ORG and mailing addresses for members of the House of Representatives, Senate, and Governor can be found at www.michigan.gov. Feel free to use the template provided on the web page for your letter or

write your own letter. The template suggests that you insert some of your own experiences as a geologist in order to personalize the letter. Lobbyist and legislative aids tell me that a personalized communication is more effective than a rubber-stamped letter or post card. If you support the concept of professional licensure for geologists, you owe it to yourself and fellow geologists to make your wishes known to your elected officials. Download the letter and write today!

Kevin Lund, CPG

Coming Events

May 19, 2005: AIPG Chapter meeting; "Verification and Challenges of Glacial Geology Theories in Southeast Michigan – With a Focus on Carleton Farms Landfill in Sumpter Township and Woodland Meadows Landfill in Van Buren Township" by Larry Bean, Jackson District Geologist, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, Michigan DEQ.

Location: Jackson Holiday Inn, 2000 Holiday Inn Drive, Jackson, MI 49203, (517) 783-2681. The location is at the I-94/US-127 interchange.

Dinner: Buffet style.

Schedule: Cash Bar/Check-in 5:30 to 6:30 PM, Dinner: 6:30 Speakers: 7:30 to 9:00. Prize Raffle.

Cost: Students \$25.00, Members \$35.00, Non-members \$40.00.

RSVP by May 16: Telephone or e-mail registration with Name, Company, Address, Phone, Fax, and Amount Due to AIPG-Michigan Section, c/o Mr. Tim Woodburne at twoodburne@preinnewhof.com or (616) 364-8491. Reservations not cancelled by **May 16** will be billed. Checks to AIPG-Michigan.

Students attending the meeting and looking for full-time employment after graduation or a part-time summer position can bring several copies of their résumé. Leave one résumé at the sign-in desk upon arrival. Résumés obtained at the meeting are available to AIPG members seeking job candidates by contacting Kevin Lund, lundk@michigan.gov.

Newsletter Notice via E-mail

Save us costs and more quickly receive meeting announcements and newsletters. Submit an updated e-mail address to Ty Black at tyblack@freeway.net or blackt@michigan.gov.

Posting: Environmental Professional

Insight Environmental Services, Inc., is accepting resumes for a staff scientist. Applicants must have a BS degree in an environmental discipline with 2 yrs job experience. Position involves soil & groundwater sampling, environmental site assessments, regulatory compliance, data tabulation & report writing. Submit resume via fax: (517) 545-3421 or e-mail: sue@insightes.com.



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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

May 19, 2005

Michigan Chapter American Institute of Professional Geologists

Meeting Topic:

Verification and Challenges of Glacial Geology Theories in Southeast Michigan – With a Focus on Carleton Farms Landfill in Sumpter Township and Woodland Meadows Landfill in Van Buren Township

Larry Bean, Jackson District Geologist, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, MI DEQ

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Guest Speaker: Larry Bean received a Masters degree in geology from Wayne State University in Detroit Michigan, 1987. He has worked as a geologist for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, Southeast Michigan and Jackson districts, from April 1988 to present. He worked for the University of Michigan in Dearborn, Department of Natural Sciences part time as an Adjunct Lecturer since 1997 teaching a glacial geology class in 2002 and 2004, among other assignments.

Contact: Contact Tim Woodburne at twoodburne@preinnewhof.com or (616) 364-8491 with reservations no later than May 16, 2005

If you have an interest in these areas this is a must attend meeting to hear first hand what is coming up.