

Minnesota Minerals Education Workshop

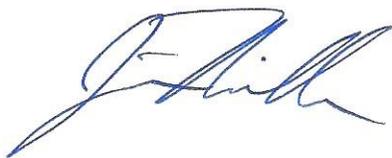
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 69 participants registered for the 17th annual Minnesota Minerals Education Workshop (MMEW) held June 17-19, 2014 at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) in Marshall, MN. This is in line with the average attendance to previous MMEWs of 68 participants. Attendees were largely K-12 earth science teachers from throughout Minnesota, but also included college educators, retired teachers, and non-teachers. The workshop involved 21 instructors and volunteers from various academic institutions, K-12 schools, state agencies, and mining, exploration, and geo-engineering companies.

The first day of the workshop was devoted to participants attending four out of 15 short course offerings on a variety of geologic and mineral resource topics. All participants attended a noon-hour talk by Minnesota of Department of Natural Resources Director of Lands and Minerals, Jess Richards, on the importance of mining in Minnesota. He used the theme of science-based decision making to tie together topics including the state's role in mining and the significance of School Trust Lands. Teachers were presented with educational resources at the end of the day, which included gifts of geological dictionaries, Minnesota fossil kits (assembled by Dean Kjerland), various maps, posters, hardness kits, and a jump drive loaded with a variety of teacher resources. Most registrants attended a picnic at Camden State Park that evening and participated in a trail walk led by Carrie Jennings (MNDNR).

The second and third days of the workshop were devoted to field trips highlighting the geology and industrial mineral resources of southwestern Minnesota. On Wednesday, two busloads of participants visited Morton Outcrops Scientific and Natural Area, road cuts near Middag Knutea, Yellow Medicine River bluff, road cuts near Memorial Park in Granite Falls, the Martina-Marietta gneiss quarry, and an optional stop at Big Rock Wildlife Management Area. On Thursday participants visited the Lake Benton tunnel valley and Pipestone National Park.

Financially, the 2014 MMEW was a success. Total expenses for the workshop were \$19,564, which was about \$2500 under budget. Fewer instructors requested travel reimbursement than expected and limiting printing costs by posting most educational material on-line accounted for the bulk of the difference. Scholarships totaling \$1470 were provided by the Iron Mining Association of MN, Mining Minnesota, and Aggregate Ready Mix of MN to 49 participants for discounted lodging at SMSU dormitories. Feedback received in surveys completed by nearly all participants was again favorable and contained many helpful comments and suggestions for improving future workshops.



Jim Miller
2014 MMEW Co-Chair



Hannah Friedrich
2014 MMEW Co-Chair