

**HYDROGEOLOGY DIVISION BYLAWS**  
Established by Council on November 3, 1959

**ARTICLE I**

***Organization, Name, and Purpose***

1. Organization. This Division of The Geological Society of America, Inc., is organized in accordance with Article IX, Divisions of the Society, of the bylaws of that Society and is governed by the provisions of that article.
2. Name. The name of the Division is the Hydrogeology Division of The Geological Society of America, Inc.
3. Definition. Hydrogeology is that branch of geology which is concerned with the character, source, occurrence, movement, availability, and use of water. The Hydrogeology Division emphasizes and focuses on the geologic aspects of hydrogeology, recognizes the role of geology in the hydrologic cycle, and the importance of hydrogeology to society and science.
4. Purpose. The purpose of the Division are: (1) to bring together scientists interested in hydrogeology, (2) to facilitate the presentation and discussion of their problems and ideas, (3) to promote research and the publication of results on hydrogeologic studies, (4) to cooperate with other Divisions and Sections of the Society and with other scientific organizations in fostering, aiding, furthering, and promoting research in hydrogeology, and (5) to advise and assist the officers and committees of the Society in matters pertaining to hydrogeology.

**ARTICLE II**

***Membership***

1. Categories. Any Member, Fellow, Honorary Fellow, or Affiliate of the Geological Society of America who is in good standing may become a member of the Hydrogeology Division. To effect Division membership, an applicant shall express interest on the GSA application or membership renewal forms or in writing to the secretary of the Division or the executive director of the Society. All Division members in good standing are eligible to vote and to hold office in the Division.
2. Voting Rights. Individual Members in the Division, in good standing, all have full and equal voting rights and are entitled to one vote on Division matters, except as outlined in the Bylaws and in the Rules and Regulations of the Division as described and outlined in Article VIII. An individual whose current dues to both the Division and Society have been paid is in good standing.

***Finances***

1. Responsibility. The Society shall be financially responsible for normal expenses of the Division. All other financial obligations or commitments of the Division must have prior approval of the Council. The Division General Fund is managed by the Society, whereas special funds, such as the DEIBirdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lecture and other award funds, may be managed by the Geological Society of America Foundation.

2. Dues. The Division may collect annual dues or special assessments from Division members when recommended by its management board and approved by a majority vote of the voting Division members at the Annual Business Meeting or by ballot.

3. Contributions. The Division may solicit and accept contributions of funds to be used and expended under supervision of its management board and subject to Council approval.

4. Birdsall-Dreiss Bequests. The \$10,000 bequest from the estate of John Birdsall to the Hydrogeology Division, and the \$5000 bequest from David Freyberg in memory of Shirley Dreiss, and all subsequent donations to the Birdsall and Dreiss funds are to be kept intact, and only the proceeds will be used in accordance with standard procedures of the GSA Foundation, except that the management board will have the power to utilize portions of the principal in the case of a clear emergency and only by unanimous vote of the Management Board, or by amendment of the bylaws in accordance with established procedure.

5. Kohout Bequest. The \$91,994.15 bequest from the estate of Francis A. Kohout, to the Hydrogeology Division and all subsequent donations to the Kohout fund are to be kept intact, and only the proceeds will be used in accordance with standard procedures of the GSA Foundation.

6. Diodato Bequest. The \$9,000 of the \$10,000 bequest from David M. Diodato to the Hydrogeology Division and all subsequent donations to the Diodato funds are to be kept intact, and only the proceeds will be used in accordance with standard procedures of the GSA Foundation. An initial \$1,000 was designated as "Temporary Funds" to be used in 2011.

7. Winter Bequest. The \$6,000 bequest from the Michelle M. W. Hall in honor of her father Thomas C. Winter, to the Hydrogeology Division and all subsequent donations to the Winter fund are to be kept intact, and only the proceeds will be used in accordance with standard procedures of the GSA Foundation.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

##### ***Management Board and Election of Officers of the Division***

1. Management Board. The management board shall consist of the Division officers. The immediate past chair of the division serves as an ex officio member with no voting privileges. The management of the affairs and the property of the Division shall be the responsibility of the management board of the Division. The management of the Division shall be in accordance with the bylaws of the Division and Society. At the annual business meeting, the management board shall submit a report of the preceding year's activities of the Division, which shall include the reports of the chair and secretary and reports of the various committees.

2. Officers. The officers of the Division shall be a chair, a first vice-chair, a second vice-chair, secretary, a section representative coordinator, and a DEI officer, and the second-year student representative. The chair and vice-chairs shall serve terms of one year. The second vice-chair shall be elected and automatically progress to first vice-chair, chair, and past chair in the second, third, and fourth years after their election. The student representative shall serve for a term of two years, starting in year one as ex-officio and progressing to voting member in year two. The other officers shall serve terms of three years. The terms of office shall begin immediately following the GSA Connects meeting at which the results of the election are announced.

3. **Nomination and Election of Officers.** The nominating committee of the Division shall nominate candidates annually for second vice-chair and student representative and once every three years for secretary, section representative coordinator, and DEI officer (one officer with a three-year term comes up for election each year). When approved by the Division chair, these nominations shall become the regular ticket and shall be submitted by the secretary of the Division to the executive director of the Society, who shall have prepared and distributed to the voting members of the Division a ballot which shall also have space for write-in nominees.

4. **Student representatives.** The Hydrogeology Division has two student representatives that serve staggered two-year terms, so that a first-year representative would be elected each year. Each student representative must be a student at the time of election but may graduate during the two-year term. The first-year representative is an *ex-officio* (non-voting) member of the management board working closely with the second-year representative. The second-year representative is a division officer, a voting member of the management board, and represents the Division within GSA.

5. **Qualifications.** Nominees and officers must be members in good standing of the Society and the Division.

6. **Election Procedures.** The election of officers shall be in accordance with the election procedures of the Society and shall be under the supervision of the Society. All provisions governing the election of officers of the Society which are applicable to the Division shall govern the election of officers of the Division. In the event of a tie vote for elected office, the management board shall decide the winner.

7. **Re-election.** No person shall be eligible to serve more than one consecutive term as chair, first vice-chair, or second vice-chair of the Division, unless under extreme emergency and with the unanimous approval of the management board and the president of the Society. The secretary shall be permitted to serve for two consecutive terms unless nominated for a third consecutive term, in which case the nomination must receive unanimous approval by the management board. The normal progression in office is from second vice-chair to first vice-chair to chair to past chair. Normally, these offices are only held once by any person. In accordance with Article VI, Section 3 of the bylaws of the Society, the chair and vice-chair shall not be eligible for re-election to their respective offices until at least three (3) years have elapsed from the expiration of their terms of office.

8. **Impeachment.** Any officer of the Division who fails to perform the duties prescribed in the bylaws, or who is convicted of a felony, or who brings discredit to the Society or Division in any way, may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the other members of the management board of the Division. Any officer of the Division may make a motion for the impeachment of any other officer of the Division. The officer who is the subject of an impeachment must be provided an opportunity to present arguments against the impeachment prior to any vote on the motion.

9. **Vacancies.** Any vacancy occurring during the term of any elected officer of the Division shall be filled by appointment of the management board and such appointee shall serve until the next annual business meeting of the Division.

10. **Expenses of the Management Board.** No member of the management board may be reimbursed from the funds of the Division for their traveling expenses when attending meetings of the Division. The management board may authorize expenses for attendance of any member of the Division, including members of the management board, for attendance at the annual Division chairs' meeting of the Society or other functions of the Society or Division as deemed appropriate. Travel expenses may be paid for by the Division on authorization of the management board for any special function of the

Division, such as the Distinguished Lecture Series, or any meeting or function deemed in the best interest of the Division by the management board.

11. Appointed Members of the Management Board. Each Adhering Associated Society shall be permitted to appoint one Representative to the Management Board. These need not be Geological Society of America members. A Council Liaison to the division is appointed by the President of the Geological Society of America.

## ARTICLE V

### *Powers and Duties of Officers*

1. Management Board. The property and affairs of the Division shall be managed by the management board as defined in Article IV.

2. Chair. The chair shall preside at meetings of the Division and the management board. The chair shall submit a report to the management board of the activities of the Division during the corresponding term of office and on future plans.

3. First Vice-Chair. The first vice-chair shall assume the powers and duties of the chair in the event of the absence or disability of the chair. Such absence or disability is to be determined by a majority vote of the Management Board.

4. Second Vice-Chair. The second vice-chair shall assume the chair whenever both the chair and the first vice-chair are not available. Such absence or disability is to be determined by a majority vote of the management board.

5. Secretary. The secretary shall keep records of the proceedings of the Division and shall act as secretary of the management board, maintain liaison with GSA headquarters, and shall serve, ex officio, as a member of all committees. The secretary shall account to the Council of the Society or the GSA Foundation for all funds advanced by the Society.

The secretary shall notify the officers and the members of the committees of their election or appointment and shall arrange for issuance of notices of all Division and management board meetings and of election results.

The secretary shall collect and disburse all funds of the Division and shall keep records of all receipts and disbursements and other financial transactions of the Division.

6. Past Chair. The past chair shall serve as an advisor to the chair.

7. Student Representatives. Student representatives are elected to a two-year term. The first-year student representative works closely with the second year representative and is an ex-officio member of the management board with no voting privileges on proceedings of the management board. The first-year representative serves on the on the Schwartz Award Committee. The second-year student representative is an officer of the Division and a voting member of the management board. The second-year representative represents the Hydrogeology Division within GSA.

8. Council Liaison to Division. The council liaison to the Hydrogeology Division, appointed by the president of the Society, is an ex-officio member of the management board without voting privileges on proceedings of the management board.

9. Representatives of Each Adhering Associated Society. Each Adhering Associated Society to the Division appoints one representative to the management board who both represents those societies and acts as a liaison back to their respective society.

10. Webmaster. The Management Board may nominate and appoint, a non-voting webmaster to maintain the Division website and online Division community, and liaise with GSA Headquarters on matters of Division Communications.

11. Section Representative Coordinator: The Section Representative Coordinator will lead Division efforts to identify and communicate with Section Representatives and will facilitate Division endorsement of hydrogeology sessions at Section Meetings.

12. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer: The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer shall serve as an advisor to the Division on diversity and inclusion practices.

## ARTICLE VI

### *Committees and Division Representatives*

1. Committees of the Division. The standing committees of the Division are as listed in Section 2; and the chair, on the advice of the management board, may appoint special committees as from time to time are deemed necessary. The chair of the Division, with the concurrence of the management board, shall establish whatever committees are required to help the Division function effectively as a component of the Society. All committee members, including the chair of said committee, shall be appointed by the chair of the Division, unless stated otherwise in the Rules and Regulations of the Division. Only the chair of the committee need be a member of the Hydrogeology Division, but all committee members must be members of the Society. All committees, except for the standing committees, shall be abolished as soon as their principal objectives have been met or at the discretion of the management board. Committees of the Division shall be established for a one-year duration, unless otherwise specified in the Rules and Regulations of the Division. If a new committee is established, then the Division chair shall provide the newly established committee and the management board with a clear statement of the objectives of the committee. All such committees shall be advisory in character and shall report to and act under the direction of the management board. The chair, or a representative designated by the chair from the members of the management board, shall be an ex-officio member of every committee. Thus, members of the management board are not normally appointed as committee members.

2. Standing Committees. The standing committees of the Division shall include:

Program Committee. A program committee to plan and arrange for the technical sessions of the Division at the annual meeting and such other programs as may be directed by the management board. A program committee consisting of two voting affiliates of the division shall be appointed annually by the chair with the approval of the management board. The Joint Technical Program Committee Representative shall serve as the Division's representative on Council's Joint Technical Program Committee. The Vice Joint Technical Program Committee

Representative will assist the Joint Technical Program Committee Representative, and will become the Joint Technical Program Committee Representative the following year.

Nominating Committee. A nominating committee to nominate candidates annually for chair, first- vice chair, and second vice-chair of the management board, and every two years for secretary, and to facilitate the nomination of members of the Division for other Society-wide appointments (e.g., Fellow of the Society). The Nomination Committee will consist of the three most recent past Chairs of the Division.

O.E. Meinzer Award Committee. The Committee will consist of the three most recent Meinzer Awardees and two members appointed by the Chair of the Hydrogeology Division. Each member will serve a three year term, and the Chair of the Committee will be the Meinzer Awardee in their third and final year of service on the Committee.

George Burke Maxey Award for Distinguished Service. The Committee will consist of the three most recent Maxey Awardees. Each member will serve a three year term, and the Chair of the Committee will be the member in their third and final year of service on the Committee.

Birdsall-Dreiss and LaMoreaux International Distinguished Lecture Committee. The Committee will consist of a Birdsall-Dreiss and LaMoreaux Awardee from each of the previous three years and two members appointed by the Chair of the Hydrogeology Division. Each member will serve a three year term, and the Chair of the Committee will be a former Birdsall-Dreiss and LaMoreaux Awardee in their third and final year of service on the Committee.

Kohout Early Career Award Committee: The Committee will consist of the three most recent Kohout Awardees and two members appointed by the Chair of the Hydrogeology Division. Each member will serve a three year term, and the Chair of the Committee will be appointed by the Chair of the Hydrogeology Division.

Schwartz Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Education Committee: The Committee will consist of the most recent Schwartz Awardee, the first year student representative, and an additional Division member appointed by the Chair who will serve as Chair of the Committee. The Chair will preferentially appoint an early career professional whenever possible.

The newly elected Chair of the Division, with the advice of the management board, shall make appointments to fill any vacancies on the standing committees within four weeks after the conclusion of the annual business meeting of the Division. The functions, purposes, and rules and regulations governing the standing committees are established in the Rules and Regulations of the Division according to Article VIII of these bylaws.

3. Duties. The duties, functions, and purposes of each standing committee shall be determined by the management board and codified in the Rules and Regulations of Division. The functions, purposes, and rules and regulations of the other committees are to be determined by the chair of the Division with the concurrence of the management board as outlined in Section 1. The chair of each standing committee shall report the activity of the committee during the preceding year to the management board at its annual meeting and to the membership at the annual business meeting, or at such times as the management board may direct. All actions of the committees are subject to the approval of the management board of the Division and the bylaws of the Society.

4. Division Representatives. In order to facilitate effective management of the Division and communication and interaction between the Division and other components of the Society and (or) other related scientific societies, the chair may appoint members in good standing of the Division, to serve as representatives to other Divisions, Society sections, and other scientific societies, as well as a newsletter editor or other such Division function as deemed necessary by the chair and management board. The responsibilities of the Division representatives shall be as defined in guidelines as provided in the Rules and Regulations as outlined in Article VIII and as provided by the chair and management board. No appointments shall exceed one year, unless renewed by the incoming Division chair. The members of these offices shall all be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the chair of the Hydrogeology Division.

5. Responsibility. Reports, recommendations, or other actions by appointed committees, other than the nominating committee, shall be subject to the approval of the management board. After such approval, the secretary of the Division shall report appropriately to the executive director of the Society if the attention or action of the Council is required. Appointed committees shall present annual reports which shall be summarized in the annual report of the management board.

6. Tenure. Committee appointments shall expire at the close of the next annual business meeting of the Division, unless otherwise specified in the Rules and Regulations of the Division. Vacancies on committees may be filled by interim appointment at any time by the committee chair, with the approval of the Division chair. Committee members may serve for up to three consecutive years.

## **Article VII**

### ***Meetings***

1. Annual Business Meeting. The annual business meeting of the Division shall be held during the annual meeting of the Society. Except when actions are governed by specific provisions in the bylaws, conduct of the business of the Division at the annual business meeting shall follow Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).

2. Special Meetings. In addition to the annual business meeting, the chair, with the concurrence of the management board, may call a special meeting of the members of the Hydrogeology Division at any time and place, provided such meetings shall be held in conjunction with a function of the Society and have received GSA Council approval. The purpose of a special meeting may be to conduct any business affecting the welfare of the Hydrogeology Division, except that the installation of new officers must occur at the annual meeting of the Society.

3. Quorum. A simple majority of the officers of the Hydrogeology Division shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the membership of the Hydrogeology Division or of the management board. At any meeting of any committee the committee members present shall constitute a quorum. Any meeting may proceed or be adjourned without the presence of a quorum, but any vote or action taken during or as a result of any meeting shall be considered legal and binding only if a quorum is present.

4. Open Meeting Rule. All in-person meetings of the board or committees of the Division shall be open to Division members to observe all or part of the proceedings, provided that such observers may participate only upon invitation of the person presiding over the meeting.

5. Meetings of the Management Board. The annual meeting of the management board shall be held immediately prior to the annual business meeting of the Division. Special meetings of the management board may be called at any time by the Division chair or by a majority of the officers. Meetings of the management board may be conducted in person, by telephone, by fax, by correspondence, by e-mail, or by any combination of means of communication that the chair may direct. The annual meeting of the management board must be an in-person meeting and held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the society.

## Article VIII

### *Hydrogeology Division Awards*

1. *Meinzer Award.* The O.E. Meinzer Award is the primary award of the Hydrogeology Division. Nominations for the award will be solicited from current division members for the author (or authors) of a published paper (or body of work) of distinction that has significantly influenced the intellectual direction of hydrogeology or broadly enhanced the knowledge of the discipline. From these nominations, the Division management board and appointed Division committee of awards will come to a consensus on the awardees. The awards will consist of both a plaque as well as an honorary membership to the division should the awardee not be a current member. The final award recipient names will be sent to GSA (for ratification at the GSA Spring Council meeting, no later than 1 April.).

2. *Birdsall-Dreiss and LaMoreaux International Distinguished Lectureship.* The Birdsall-Dreiss and LaMoreaux International Distinguished Lecture recognizes exemplary scholarship, significant outreach, and extreme service to the Society, Division, and profession. From these nominations, the Division management board and appointed Division committee of awards will come to a consensus on the awardee(s). The award will consist of a year-long lecture tour for the following calendar year, plaque(s), and the awardee(s) shall automatically be elected to Fellowship in GSA. The election to Fellowship will occur during the year of service so that the recognition of the new Fellow(s) is made at the Annual GSA Meeting near the conclusion of the Birdsall-Dreiss and LaMoreaux International Distinguished Lecture tour.

3. *George Burke Maxey Award for Distinguished Service.* Presentation of the award will be considered annually in recognition of distinguished personal service to the hydrogeology profession and to the Hydrogeology Division. Nominations for the award will be considered annually. From these nominations, the Division management board and appointed Division committee of awards will come to a consensus on the awardee. The awards will consist of a plaque.

4. *Kohout Early Career Award.* Presentation of the award will be considered a to a distinguished scientist (35 or younger throughout the year in which the award is to be presented or within 5 years of their highest degree or diploma) for outstanding achievement in contributing to the hydrogeologic profession through original research and service, and for the demonstrated potential for continued excellence throughout their career. Nominations for the award will be considered annually. From these nominations, the Division management board and appointed Division committee of awards will come to a consensus on the awardee. The awards will consist of a plaque and an honorarium of \$1,000 and a travel grant of \$2,000 to the annual meeting.

5. *Schwartz Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Education.* Presentation of the award will be considered annually to an individual (not multiple or group awardees) in recognition of distinguished personal service to the hydrogeology profession and to the Hydrogeology Division with respect to mentoring and education. Nominations for the award will be considered annually. From these

nominations, the Schwartz Award Committee will recommend a selectee to the Division Management Board and the Management Board will come to a consensus on the awardee. The award will consist of a plaque.

*5. Research Grants.* The Division shall sponsor annual GSA student research awards in the field of hydrogeology. These awards will be based on rankings by GSA's Committee on Research Grants, and the awardees will receive certificates of achievement and a travel grant the annual meeting in the year of the award should Division funding be sufficient. GSA through the Committee on Research Grants will administer the award in accordance with its normal policies and practices, including but not limited to mailing and processing of application forms, and notification and distribution of the award to the recipient.

## **Article IX**

### ***Division Communications: Newsletter and Website***

*Communications.* The Division will need to communicate not only to reach its own members, but also to members of the Adhering Associated Societies as well as other Geological Society of America members. Communication of the Division shall be structured in such a manner so that the Adhering Associated Societies can easily indicate the activities of the division to their members.

*Newsletter.* The division shall have a newsletter published on a regular basis as prescribed by the management board, which shall be distributed to all division members by means determined by the management board.

The newsletter editor shall be appointed by the management board and shall serve at the discretion of the management board.

*Website.* The division shall maintain a website hosted by the Geological Society of America's division web page.

The management board may, at its discretion, appoint a division web manager to maintain the division website. If the management board appoints a web manager, the web manager shall serve at the discretion of the management board.

## **ARTICLE X**

### ***Rules and Regulations and Amendment of the Bylaws***

1. Rules and Regulations. The management board of the Division, by a majority vote, may adopt, rescind, or amend rules and regulations supplementing the bylaws at any time. These are called the Rules and Regulations of the Division. The permanent adoption of changes to the Rules and Regulations must be approved by a majority vote of the management board only at the annual meeting of the management board following any temporary changes of the Rules and Regulations made during the previous year. Changes in the Rules and Regulations may also be made by a majority vote of Division members present at the annual business meeting of the Division. Changes in the Rules and Regulations, other than those proposed and adopted by the management board, may be proposed by any

voting affiliate of the Division and must be received in writing by the secretary of the Division at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting.

2. Bylaws. Bylaws of the division may be adopted, rescinded, or amended according to the following process: (1) approval by the management board, followed by (2) approval by majority of those division members who voted, and then concluded with (3) submitted to Council for ratification. Voting for step 2 may take place either in person at the division's annual business meeting or by using the GSA online voting platform.

The management board of the Division may, by a majority vote, propose actions dealing with the bylaws. Bylaws may only be adopted, rescinded, or amended by majority vote of the voting members of the Division. A ballot vote proposing a change of the bylaws shall be held if favored by a majority of the management board or if petitioned by two percent of the voting members of the Division. Such a vote shall be supervised by the Society and held in accordance with the procedures of the Society. Amendments approved by the Division shall be reported to the executive director of the Society and become effective following ratification by the Council.

Any amendment may be proposed to the management board by any member of the Division not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting of the Division by a petition signed by two percent of the voting membership of the Division in good standing, and shall be set forth in the notice of the meeting and may be adopted by a majority of the voting membership present in person or lawfully represented according to the rules of the Society.

*Bylaws amended: 1972; 1978; November 7, 1979; May 14, 1980; November 4, 1981; May 19, 1983; November 7, 1984; November 12, 1986; November 7, 1995; by vote of the membership, 2003 and approval by GSA Council February 9, 2004; October 18, 2005 (automatic Fellowship for Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lecturer); October 2007 Language amended to conform with new GSA policy on who is eligible to vote and hold office; October 2010 Added Vacancies section under ARTICLE IV(#9). October 2011 Added Kohout Early Career Award, Diodato Student Travel and Beer Fund, capitalized "d" in all references to Division, and corrected several typographical errors under ARTICLE VI. April 28, 2012, Article VIII, Rules and Regulations of the Division, added the name George Burke Maxey to Item 5. Distinguished Service Award Committee. October 2014 amended bylaws to include a student representative on the Management Board. October 2023 by vote of the membership and subsequent approval of Council to add to the Management Board a second student representative, a section representative coordinator, and a DEI officer, with the second year student representative, section representative coordinator, and DEI officer serving as division officers. October 2024 by vote of the membership and subsequent approval of Council to clarify that the second year student representative does not have an automatic seat on the Society's Student Advisory Council, to add the Schwartz Award and Committee, and to clarify that the Birdsall-Dreiss and LaMoreaux International Distinguished Lectureship were intended to be held by one set of awardees each year.*