

Minutes
Environmental Education Alliance Board of Directors
September 19, 2003
Oxford College

President Petey Giroux called the meeting to order at 10:25.

Welcome

Petey welcomed everyone. Members introduced themselves and the organization they represented. The following members were present: Petey Giroux, Carla Rapp, Paul McClendon, Vicki Seastrom, Theodosia Wade, Angela Peterson, Deron Davis, John DiDiego, Kitty Esco, Jane Whaley, Walter Lane, Christi Heidt, Lynn McCoy, Dodie Sanders, Heather Merbs, Kim Morris-Zarneke, Richard Osorio, Deborah Riddleberger, Karen Garland, Cindy Reitinger, and Laura Bryant.

Theodosia welcomed the group to Oxford College and provided an overview of the Oxford Institute for Environmental Education and an introduction to the Oxhouse facility.

Meeting Logistics

Kitty reminded members of the next board meeting on December 11, 2003 and invited the group to meet at her office site at Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area near Forsyth.

Inspiration

Paul offered a heartfelt message for the group to continue its efforts to make a difference in environmental literacy among Georgia's citizens. His message was inspired by the miracle of the birth of his son, Noah, which reminded him of the "Circle of Life" and the need for us to always have hope for the future and continuing energy to work for a better life for future generations.

Minutes

Lynn filled in for Eric Lindberg, who was unable to attend. Kim made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting as amended. Heather seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Deborah reported a balance of \$31,083.30 and suggested moving \$500 from the EE Summit to Workshop and Training, a new committee with no allotment in the current budget. Lynn made a motion that the money be moved. Carla seconded the motion, which carried. Walter made a motion to accept the budget as amended. Theodosia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Board Status

Petey initiated a discussion of changes in the status of current members. Ann Campbell's term is up, but she would like to remain available to help as needed, especially with the upcoming conference. Chris Martin has resigned due to a change in his job responsibilities. Jennifer McCabe has re-entered college and would like to continue as a non-voting student member, working with Theodosia on the College Affiliate Team. Ginger Perdue has resigned due to time constraints. Meredith Devendorf has resigned due to time and distance required to attend meetings. Petey suggested the board consider implementing a policy, to take effect with the next meeting, defining financial support for travel expenses to enable the board to maintain geographic diversity among its members. Kitty will work during her team meeting to establish these guidelines.

Vicki reviewed the by-laws concerning board composition, election procedures and terms of board members. She reminded members to send her the names of potential board members for consideration by the nominating committee. Petey reminded everyone that the board position follows the person not the organization. Kim agreed to post the call for nominations on the web site.

Members received an updated EEA Board of Directors Contact List.

Old Business**Advisory Board Update**

Deron suggested the board consider utilizing the advisory board members for strategic planning. The advisory board would propose annual plans, which would then be brought to the operating board for approval. This would ensure annual planning, which is difficult for the board to accomplish due to the heavy work load involved in day to day operations of the Alliance. This was just an update from the Advisory Board Committee. The EEA Board voted previously to have an Advisory Board and it would be made up of members who had retired from the EEA Board in good standing. The Advisory Board plans to hold its first meeting in December, 2003.

EIC Update

Deron reported receipt of a \$25,000 grant from EETAP, which will be beneficial as EIC schools continue implementation and move into the data collection phase. The project is proceeding well in all 14 schools, and the board recognized him for his leadership.

David Stokes Workshop

John asked members to assist in publicizing the November 8, 2003 "Bats Eat Bugs" workshop opportunity at GWF headquarters and distributed flyers to all members. Schools may schedule David for a one hour assembly in their schools or for the entire day at \$635. Kim will provide workshop information on our web site.

OCC Update

Karen asked members to assist in publicizing the November 7, 2003 Outdoor Classroom

Council Symposium at Rock Eagle and distributed samples of the creative flyer to all members. 4,800 flyers have been mailed. She is hoping for attendance of approximately 300.

Conference Update

Richard stated that a call for conference presentations will go out soon around the theme of "Teaching, Research and Service." The conference will be March 12-14, 2004 at The Retreat at Lake Blackshear. He noted the need to involve more higher education entities for their research base. Walter suggested considering publicizing the proceedings to encourage their participation. Richard has begun identifying conference chairmen and partners. Partners should have a statewide presence as well as an environmental focus. Responsibilities of partners include conference promotion and assistance with conference committees and mailings.

The Link-EEA Newsletter

Paul reported the theme of the next issue is the "Outdoor Classroom Council Symposium." It will go out within the next two weeks. The theme of the following issue will be "Habitats" to coincide with the theme of National Geography Week. Volunteers have been secured for all components of this issue. The winter issue theme is the "EEA Conference." Paul was commended for the quality of the newsletter.

Georgia Project for Excellence in Environmental Education

Richard reported that the first cohort will graduate soon and move into their practicum. He reported that he is seeking new funding, as funding through GA DNR EPD will end in approximately 8-10 months. The course schedule for 2004 will be released in November, with courses offered only once. John asked that Richard consider a mini-course format, or an awareness session at the conference for those who may not be ready to commit to the certification process.

Lunch

The meeting was suspended for lunch and team meetings.

EEA T-Shirts and Membership Brochure

Kim unveiled T-Shirt design options and members voted on their preference. Two all cotton shirts, dusty blue and hunter green, and one recycled fiber in beige will be printed with the EEA logo on the back and the dragonfly from the logo on the left front. All printing will be off white. 1,000 shirts will be printed by Screenline, who donated the set-up fee. T-shirt availability will be added to our web site.

Kim distributed the revised membership brochure. She asked for editing remarks and input on refining and clarification of our goals. Suggestions were noted.

River Poster

Petey asked that members watch for an announcement from her of time and place for poster pickup in Peachtree City. If pickup is not possible for some who ordered, posters

will be temporarily housed in her office at EPD.

Resource Guide Update

Petey reported in the absence of Peter Gordon, who was unable to attend. The guides will be available soon from Georgia Power, who is printing them. Distribution, so far as is possible, will be through the RESAs, in order to save mailing costs. Petey will draft a template letter for the distributing RESA to include in delivery to further ensure understanding of and widespread use of the guides in schools. Kristie Hastie, working with Peter, has put much time and energy into insuring good distribution of these guides and we thank Krisite for all this effort.

New Business

K-12 Framework for Environmental Literacy in Georgia

Richard spoke on behalf of this idea, which has evolved over time and has come to fruition as an initiative that he wishes to coordinate. He asked for support from EEA for development of the framework, as a part of capacity building for environmental literacy among Georgia's citizens that has been a staple of EEA's focus from the beginning. Paul made a motion that the board add as an initiative EEA endorsement of investigation of the possibility of an NSF grant in support of the establishment of benchmarks for environmental education K-12. Theodosia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Team Reports

Executive Committee

Vicki reported that the nominating committee is seeking nominations to fill 6 board vacancies.

Electronic

Kim asked for input on the need for updates to our web site. Paul reported one provider had quoted \$1,000 to enhance the capabilities of the web site to include such features as online conference registration via credit card. Carla cautioned the board to thoroughly investigate security features and costs involved in the event of a future change in providers. Petey recommended allowing adequate time to research the issues for possible implementation in time for the 2005 conference. Paul volunteered to do the research and report back at the next meeting on the feasibility of implementation in time for the 2004 conference.

Internal

Kitty reported options considered by her committee for financial support of members

who travel considerable distances to attend board meetings. She made a motion that for board members who travel 2 ½ hours or 150 miles, lodging will be provided, if requested, not to exceed \$100. Theodosia seconded the motion. After discussion, Carla amended the motion to read that for board members who travel 2 ½ hours or 150 miles, and whose employers do not pay travel expenses, lodging will be provided, if requested, not to exceed \$100. Jane seconded the amended motion, which carried unanimously.

Information Management

Petey reported for Kim Bailey, who was unable to attend, that Kim has requested board members to share their databases with her in an effort to reach as many people as possible and further streamline data information and reduce duplications.

Newsletter

Paul reported that the next issue is in good shape and can also include information on internships and grants. He encouraged members to send that information to him.

Membership

Heather reported that in the past complimentary memberships have been given to those people the board felt should receive one. At the present time a single complimentary membership is held by NAAEE. Membership stands at 376, which is down, but should increase to approximately 400 following the OCC Symposium. She noted that membership is not growing significantly. Approximately 33% are K-5 teachers, 15% 7-12 teachers, 2% post secondary, 21% education center personnel, 16% government personnel, 3% from the business community, and 15% from not-for-profit entities. The percentages do not add up to 100% due to overlaps in member categories.

College Affiliates and Pre-Service

Carla and Theodosia distributed minutes and reported on their August 7, 2003 meeting, which focused on the need to enhance communication with colleges about EEA's mission, and strategies for bringing them into the EE loop, especially via their pre-service programs. The PLT pre-service package will be redesigned and presented by EEA. Carla distributed a list of Georgia's pre-service providers and asked members to identify personnel, of whom they have personal knowledge, who could serve as contacts in each college. The plan is to set up a symposium for them concerning the importance of EE in pre-service programs.

Conference

Richard will e-mail us for needed help. Suggestions were made for a catchy theme for the conference.

Workshop and Training

John encouraged members to enroll in the Stokes workshop.

Monarchs Across Georgia

Laura reported she is working on 2 grant requests to fund a teacher trip to Mexico's

Magic Circles for monarch migration and for Monarchs Across Georgia training of trainer workshops. Petey reminded everyone to send her a copy of grant proposals 2 weeks before the grant deadline so she can sign off on them on behalf of EEA.

Petey and Carla distributed flyers to members for a joint PLT and Project WET facilitator workshop October 28-29, 2003 to be held at Zoo Atlanta.

Lynn distributed information packets to members for the third annual Outdoor and Wildlife Exposition to be held Friday and Saturday, February 27-28, 2004 at Spence Field in Moultrie. Organizations who provide educational activities for children will not be charged for their booth space.

Kitty reminded members that the next EEA Board of Directors meeting will be Thursday, December 11, 2003, 10:00-3:00, at Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area near Forsyth.

There being no further business, Petey adjourned the meeting.