

**California Environmental Education Interagency Network  
Meeting Minutes**



**Date:** January 18, 2018  
**Location:** CalEPA  
**Meeting Leader:** Ed Wong  
**Note Taker:** Heather Holm

**Attendee's in-person:**

Janet Mann	CDE
Brian Brown	Project WET
Ed Wong	CARB
Heather Holm	California State Parks
Sandy Derby	Project Learning Tree
Annie Kohut Frankel	California Coastal Commission
Kathy Schulz	DWR
Zachary Farrell	CARB
Jeff Onsted	DOC
Laura Drath	CDFW
Shannon Gordon	CDE
Susan Retired	OEHHA, UCD Instructor, OEHHA, UCD Instructor
Jenny Mulholland-Beahrs	California Outdoor Engagement Coalition
Eric Canteenwala	USEPA, Region 9
Christy Porter	CalRecycle

**On the phone:**

Chris Hutton	NAAEE
Tom Drake	AEOE

**1. Meeting called to order at: 9:35 am. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Reviewed Agenda and Passed Around Sign-In Sheet**

**3. Reviewed Meeting Minutes**

Reviewed November 2017 meeting minutes. Shannon made first motion and Sandy made the second motion to approve minutes. Minutes approved by quorum vote.

**4. Reviewed Action Items from November 2017 meeting.**

- a. Leslie Taylor provided Box access to DOC/CCC (Completed).
- b. Shannon will work with Annie to identify training opportunities for members (Ongoing).
- c. Shannon asks other members to think how they might be able to offer NGSS trainings at future meetings (Ongoing).
- d. Ed uploaded "Internal CEEIN Roster" to Box (Completed).
- e. Members should add year started with CEEIN under "Member Since" column in "Internal CEEIN Roster" (Ongoing).
- f. All members to insert one paragraph describing their background in "CEEIN Member Backgrounds" (Ongoing).
- g. Ed will follow up about process for coordinating CEEIN Strand workshops at their annual education conference (Ongoing).
- h. Draft MOU announcement. Update will be provided under Leadership and Legislation Committee (Ongoing).
- i. "What's New in Your World" section returning to agenda in January 2018 (Completed).

## 5. Guest Presentation:

Jenny Mulholland-Beahrs, Director of the California Outdoor Engagement Coalition (COEC) gave the presentation. The COEC was launched in June 2015, followed by the launch of the Institute for Parks, People and Biodiversity. The COEC is part of the Institute. Mission is to expand equitable access to the outdoors for all Californians through partnerships and collective impact. Membership in the coalition is free. Members must commit to align with COEC vision, mission, and commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion; share data once a year; participate in quarterly meetings; and promote each other's work. COEC priorities are to 1) engage in equity, diversity, and inclusion measures, 2) advocate for equitable access to the outdoors, and 3) achieve collective impact by bringing together cross-sector partners in geographic regions to fulfill specific projects. COEC website is at <https://outdoorengagement.berkeley.edu/>.

## 6. Committee Reports:

- **Administration and Organization Committee Update:**

Member survey: A couple of months ago we discussed the limited participation of members and partners in meetings and projects. A suggestion was made to conduct a member survey to determine the reasons for the limited participation. However, there were concerns about the kind of survey results we were seeking and how we would address the results. Shannon thinks we should take more of an individual approach and reach out to missing members. Question is who do we feel is missing? Janet suggested having more of a mentorship approach to make new members feel more comfortable and connected in attending. Decision made to discontinue survey discussion.

Compendia background: Ed will describe at next meeting.

- **Outreach, Diversity, and Partnerships Committee Update:**

2018 CSTA: Will be in Pasadena November 30-December 2. Annie contacted CSTA about deadlines.

- **Leadership and Legislation Committee Update:**

2017 MOU Announcement discussion: Shannon would like to put forward a vote at a future meeting regarding whether all members agree to continue using the following statement on the CEEIN website, bookmarks, and in the draft announcement about the 2017 MOU).

“The California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN) is a state government consortium of environmental educators.”

Currently, CEEIN is not mentioned in the final version of any bills or current chaptered legislation. Our current MOU does not provide a single statement to define what CEEIN is.

She is requesting suggested alternative statements regarding what CEEIN is and a vote this vote based on internal discussion about the definition of an educator. Some member agencies have concerns about the use of the term “educator.” Suggestion to bring language proposals to next meeting to discuss and for members to vote on at March meeting.

Benefits and Accomplishments of CEEIN (a historical document started in 2011) was circulated as a handout for this meeting (it is also loaded on box.com). Shannon and Ed requested: If people have changes or additions, please upload to Box.com.

## 7. New Business and Important Announcements

- Chris Hutton (reporting for Christiane Maertens)  
California Water H2O Challenge: Developed an in-class challenge for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in 13 counties. Students design and submit solutions to water challenges. Must align to CA NGSS. Worked with West Coast K12 Alliance. Eligible classes must enroll for the contest by January 21. First 30 to enroll will receive a grant.
  
- Zachary Farrell  
Volunteer Youth Outreach Program: Works with Civic Spark Program, a Governor's initiative AmeriCorps program. Main focus is to work with Sacramento area middle school and high school classes on civics and climate science project-based programs. Looking to develop local partnership, including SMUD, Breathe California, local colleges, etc., to create a continuous supply of volunteers to help develop workshops and ensure sustainability and continuity of the program. Is asking CEEIN for suggestions for schools they can reach out to or partnership opportunities.
  
- Sandy Derby (reporting for Greg Ira)
  - ChangeScale Training: Attended three-hour workshop that developed an environmental education toolkit. The website is <http://learningforaction.com/environmentaleducation>.
  - DWR Training - Climate Change In-Service: Greg was very impressed. Would like Elissa Lynn to talk about their approach with CEEIN. Kathy suggested a climate change presentation at a future CEEIN meeting.
  - New California Naturalist Staff Person: Sarah Angulo. Leads summer outings for the Sierra Club. Sandy will invite Sarah to attend our next meeting.
  
- Heather Holm
  - BEETLES EE Leadership Training: Heather and a co-worker attended the BEETLES Environmental Education Leadership Training in December. She shared a short video clip providing an overview of the BEETLES program: <https://youtu.be/VRzpjDNUmsA>. The focus is to get students more engaged and curious about science and nature through hands-on, experiential learning. California State Parks is going to be providing several BEETLES training sessions as part of already scheduled interpretation training courses this spring.
  
- Eric Canteenwala
  - Air Quality Sensors Demonstrations and STEM Education: Air casting app when paired with an air quality sensor measures current air quality and maps it to a graph. Graph corresponds to local air quality index. US EPA is developing guidelines for low cost air quality sensors and has a curriculum tied to NGSS that encourages citizen science. US EPA also has instructions for a DIY air quality sensor.
  - [EPA's President's Environmental Youth Award](#) for K-12 Youth. This prestigious presidential level award recognizes K-12 youth that have completed outstanding environmental projects in their community. Winners are invited to an annual award ceremony in Washington D.C. **Deadline: Extended to March 30, 2018.**
  - [EPA's Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators](#) for teachers. This award is for K-12 public school teachers that have a passion for environmental education and have employed innovative approaches to use the environment as a context for learning for their students. Winners are invited to attend an annual award ceremony in Washington D.C. and will receive a \$5,000 stipend for professional development and classroom materials. **Deadline: Extended to March 30, 2018.**

- [EPA's Environmental Education Grants RFP](#) is now open! EPA is awarding local environmental education grants between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to schools, non-profits, and universities for projects that promote environmental and conservation stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. Funding can be used for salaries, field trips, materials and more. **Deadline: March 15, 2018.**

## 8. What's New in Your World? Updates:

Annie: Workshop presentation for the California Council for Social Sciences was approved. ACHIEVE is offering a free NGSS review of materials. Will provide feedback and if achieve the top two levels then will place curriculum on their website. Annie submitted one of the Coastal Commission units. Annie will send more information to CEEIN. Attended BayCLIC workshop that discussed extreme events and environmental and climate literacy. Coastal Cleanup day is in all counties except Tehama, Sutter, and Trinity, so Annie is looking for suggestions or contacts in those counties.

Shannon: CREEC website is in transition due to changing contractors. Region CREEC Coordinators can still advertise your opportunities or events in their region, please visit [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org) for the contact information for the CREEC Coordinators in each region. CDE's environment-science listserv is still active so Shannon can forward emails that are statewide announcements (opportunities or events open to everyone in the state). History-Social Science instructional materials have been adopted and list posted to CDE website; includes materials that incorporate the EP&Cs.

Susan: Doing seminar series on toxicology and public health. Has 42 undergrad and grad students signed up. Ed asked if she would consider presenting a 10 minute session at one of the upcoming meetings.

Heather: California State Parks has received funding to expand the Summer Learning Program and PORTS in an effort to expand access to lower income student populations. Eligible schools will receive transportation funding.

Christy: Entering into a contract with a County Office of Education to develop a 5E module at the high school level using the EEI Curriculum and the Environmental Principles and Concepts. Jill Simmons on staff has retired. There are two vacancies in the EEI program; will be advertising for one of the positions in a couple of months. Expect to advertise the position as an Education Programs Consultant. Anyone who applies must be on a State List.

Sandy: Big news in 2017 was that the Project Learning Tree Program (all PLT States) became a program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). For the past 40 years PLT has been a program of the American Forest Foundation. Now we have a new home for the future but the change is good. The SFI team is headed by Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI, and many of the same past PLT D.C. leadership. California PLT received a 2018 grant from the American Forest Foundation (last funding from AFF) and the support will go to strengthen collaborations with UCANR programs - specifically the California Naturalist Program and CA 4H.

Brian: Trying to fill a giant hole in his budget due to loss of Reclamation funding. Writing grant applications. Have 32 out of 50 proposals in for workshops. Working to bring in more scientists. Flood Plain ecology institutes have another round coming up and DWR is funding. Project Wet is taking the NGSS correlations and working to reformat activities. A Project Wet foundation board member is an astronaut and will be going to the International Space Station; he has received permission to do some Project Wet activities while onboard.

Jeff: Interacting with college students doing some formal mentoring on how to get a job with the state. Has a couple of student interns coming on-board. Shannon Pridmore is working with the CA Geologic Survey and doing a lot of outreach education to students. Did presentations at CSTA on new education portal and GIS mapping resources. Realizing need professional help to get materials structured to be useable for educators.

Ed: Bay Area Air Quality Management District has excellent public school education program. Youth for the Environmental and Sustainability Conference, 500 students presented sessions or lead meetings in 2017. The February 24, 2018, conference will be at Laney College in Oakland and they expect 750-1000 students. This year's CalEPA Earth Day will be Wednesday, April 18.

**9. Action Items from this meeting:**

- a. Shannon will take the lead on drafting new proposed language to replace language in the CEEIN Handbook, website, etc. (a definition of CEEIN) and to continue MOU Announcement approval. This is follow-up on discussion surrounding the use of the term "environmental educators".
- b. Members to consider definitions of CEEIN to vote on (Ongoing).
- c. Shannon will work with Chris Hutton to get announcements regarding the California Water H2O Challenge circulated throughout the CREEC Network's email lists; due to CREEC website transition, it will be posted on Region pages of the CREEC website.
- d. Ed will place Eric's awards and grant information into minutes and send out with minutes email (Completed).
- e. All members check their information and resources on the CEEIN website and email Annie any corrections (Ongoing).

**10. Formal Meeting Wrapped-Up at: 12:00 PM**

**Next Meeting:** February 15, 2018, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Natural Resources Building, 1416 Ninth St., Conference Room 210 (2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Meeting Lead:** Kathy Schulz

**Note Taker:** Shannon Gordon