

California Environmental Education Interagency Network
January 21, 2010
Minutes

California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street, Conference Room 230, Sacramento, CA 94814
Meeting Leader: Kay Antunez
Note Taker: Donna Pozzi

Attendees:

Kay Antunez, CAL FIRE
Ed Wong, CARB
Natalie Lee, OEE
Cheryl Williams, OEE
Susan Knadle, OEHHA
Mike Brugh, CDE/CalServe
Sandra Salazar-Thompson, CA Water Boards
Anne Stephens, CDE
Donna Pozzi, State Parks
Mark Spencer - StopWaste.Org (presenter)

9:30 Welcome, Introductions, Agenda review

Kay reviewed the agenda and explained that she created a simple agenda format since the old one with all the boxes was no longer suitable due to accessibility requirements for the web.

Prior to giving committee reports, the group shared some updates. Cheryl and Natalie explained that their office is in transition; their old CIWMB email addresses are still good for now. Participation from Dept of Fish and Game is up in the air as is the case for a few other departments and offices. This is not likely to change due to budget shortages. When there is a new administration next year, it will be time to update the MOU and revitalize participation.

9:50 Minutes - November 2009 meeting: Chris Graillat

The minutes for the November meeting (CEEIN does not meet in December) will be available in February.

Action item: Chris to distribute draft minutes for the November 2009 meeting.

10:00 Committee Reports

Administration: Cheryl is the chair, working with Melissa from Boating and Waterways. Cheryl will work with Anne to update the CEEIN website. CEEIN's paper archives were

discussed since the decision was made last year to only keep electronic records from this time forward. There is one large box of well organized material that will be stored at CDE.

Kay stated that some agencies are no longer active in CEEIN and we should try to make it a priority to get them to re-commit. Cheryl said she will try to update the membership roster.

Action items: Cheryl and Anne to update CEEIN website.
Anne and Cheryl to coordinate storage of archives at CDE.
Cheryl to attempt to update membership roster.

Communications: No report from the committee but the group discussed CSTA which will be in Sacramento this year (Oct 21 - 24). CEEIN members were encouraged to submit session proposals that could all be marketed as a CEEIN strand; 8 sessions are needed for a strand. We could also have a CEEIN booth/exhibit or those agencies that are having exhibits could request to be next to each other. The sessions could all be scheduled to occur in the same room. Sessions should combine technical information and curriculum. Proposals are due to CSTA Feb 1.

Natalie said there would likely be a longer session by Andrea Lewis and Jerry Lieberman on EEI. Presenters who are members of CSTA get free admission. Mike said he would like to co-present with someone and he would involve students and teachers in the session.

Action item: Everyone to consider submitting CSTA proposals by Feb 1.

Leadership, Legislation, Diversity: Anne shared that CDE, USFWS and Sierra Club have partnered to apply for a NFWF 5 Star Nature Restoration Grant to implement a Schoolyard Habitat Program in West Fresno. Anne also gave an update on the CREEC 2010-2011 RFA; it has been delayed in the deputy superintendent's office and has not yet been posted. They hope it will be available in February.

There was a discussion about NCLI and a possible leadership role for CEEIN in coordinating the State Environmental Literacy Plan (SELP) that will be required by NCLI. What steps can we take to move things along? While NAAEE, AEOE, CREEC and others are all playing a role in the discussions, there is no organized leadership in California. Kay said a grassroots effort is needed and CEEIN could be a leadership force to make that happen. Donna mentioned the idea of each agency contributing funds as we did for Environmentality and hiring a consultant to assist in putting together a stakeholder group. But one of the problems is the bureaucratic challenges of putting in place contracts, MOUs, invoices, etc. with all of our respective agencies. It's a lot of work! Mike suggested using a non profit organization or a subvention grant. Working with a county office of education was another idea. Mike and Anne agreed to look into that.

Related to diversity, Mike shared that Julie Chavez Rodriguez (granddaughter of Cesar Chavez) is now working for the National Park Service (as a deputy press secretary) and she is gathering examples of youth doing service learning to support parks.

Kay said the USFS Consortium is looking for summer interns as part of a diversity-outreach effort. She'll send the information to everyone.

Action items: Mike and Anne to look into working with a COE as a means of CEEIN contracting for a consultant to begin work on SELP, i.e. stakeholder coordination. Kay to send out info from USFS Consortium.

Environmental Education Initiative: Natalie reported that the first 76 units had been approved and the next 9 would be submitted for approval in March.

Units will be posted on the web as they are done. The fundraising feasibility report said that it was feasible to raise the monies that will be needed; next step is to hire a fundraiser.

There was a discussion of the plans for professional development. Natalie had sent out the preliminary consultant report on professional development to the CEEIN list serve but for some reason it did not go through. She will re-send it since everyone is interested in the useful information it contains about professional development strategies. Natalie said they're looking at on-line distribution of the materials. A scope of work is being sent out for the PD contract; it will be sent to all UCs and CSUs that have education programs as well as all county offices of education. The goal is to introduce the materials to 50 districts in the 2010/2011 school year.

Action item: Natalie to send out to CEEIN members the consultant report on EEI professional development.

10:45 Guest Speaker: Mark Spencer, StopWaste.Org
 "GreenStar - GreenSchools" programs

Mark runs education programs for the Alameda County Waste Mgmt Authority. They have funding from Measure D that was approved by the voters so they have the resources to implement a variety of programs. Mark is working with San Francisco, San Mateo and San Jose on the Green Schools Certification Program for the Bay region. The difference with this program as compared to others is that it focuses on what students and teachers can do; other programs are aimed more at administrators. Schools earn points which lead to certification and recognition. Mark walked us through his series of handouts to explain how it works. (Kay agreed to get Mark's handouts and send them out electronically.) At the classroom level there's self certification. At the school and district level, verification is required. The food/mile calculator enables students to calculate how many miles their food has travelled. The paper calculator shows how much paper is used in the school (something Mark pointed out that most schools don't know) so they can analyze savings of double vs.

single side copies or costs of varying percentages of recycled content of paper. Also compostable food trays vs. Styrofoam. The EPA WARM Model has been adapted for 3rd graders to analyze green house gas production in relation to waste generated.

Mike suggested that it's also very important to involve parents, in addition to students and teachers. He appreciated all the feedback and asked to hear more from CEEIN in the future. Here's Mark's contact: mspencer@stopwaste.org

Action item: Kay to obtain Mark's handouts electronically.

11:30 Adjourn - Next meeting Feb. 18. At Cal-EPA; same room