

California Environmental Education Interagency Network Meeting
January 21, 2016, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Cal/EPA, Training Room 1

Meeting Leader: Ed Wong

Note Taker: Annie Kohut Frankel

Attendees:

Laura Drath, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Brian Brown, Water Education Foundation - Project WET

Greg Ira, University of California - California Naturalist Program

Susan Knadle, OEHHA retired, U.C. Davis

Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission

Ed Wong, California Air Resources Board

Lesley Taylor, California Department of Education - Green Ribbon Schools Program

Brian Cahill, California State Parks

Shannon Gordon, California Department of Education

DeAnn Tenhunfeld, California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Lesa Johnston, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Antonio Leaks, California Air Resources Board

Kathy Schulz, California Department of Water Resources

Bryan Ehlers, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

Rae Bell, State Water Resources Control Board

Adina Merenlender, University of California – California Naturalist Program

Calling in:

Linda Desai, Placer Nature Center - Project WILD

Tom Drake, California Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education

1. Check-in and Catch-up

- Ed Wong called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- New members introduced: Kathy Schulz and Rae Bell
- Reviewed action items from November 2015 meeting.
- The group reviewed the November minutes. The minutes were approved. Shannon moved to approve and Brian Cahill seconded.

2. Blueprint for Environmental Literacy Update - Bryan Ehlers

The BEL Steering Committee had its first meeting yesterday. Bryan, Lesley, and Shannon attended. There are 25 members with about half having served on the BEL task force. They include representatives from CDE, Cal/EPA, county superintendents, district

superintendents, school principals, the History-Social Science Project, the non-formal community, the Natural Resources Agency (Emiko Birchill). Membership will evolve as needs evolve.

There is an executive committee with members from Cal Recycle, CDE, and Ten Strands. Ten Strands raised \$500,000 to fund the BEL steering committee.

The steering committee is undertaking a two-phase process. 1. Get organized. Which tasks in the BEL are primed for action? Which can be built on existing efforts? Which can be done in a timely manner? 2. Do the tasks identified in phase 1.

Six items came out of the meeting as areas to begin. Six work groups were formed to meet regularly.

- I. Create a plan to integrate environmental literacy in statewide education initiatives (e.g. NGSS professional development, assessments).
- II. Create a fundraising plan. Where are there existing streams of funding? Public or private.
- III. CREEC Network focus. How to use regional coordinators and the database to get resources to educators.
- IV. Seek synergies with existing regional and statewide efforts. Seek models of networks that are working.
- V. Raise awareness of the BEL. Create a communications tool kit.
- VI. LCAP focus. This is the big funding stream to pursue. A total shift in the k-12 paradigm is needed to see environmental literacy as integral to education. Create boiler plate language/talking points for speaking to school boards about LCAP funding.

Three overarching themes were identified: 1. Keep an eye out for where changes in legislation might be helpful or necessary. 2. Cultural relevance awareness. Local needs and local cultures. 3. Professional development.

Question: Is there statewide funding for professional development? Answer: There are subject matter projects with a lot of professional development funds. Environmental literacy should get integrated into existing subjects to access those funds.

3. **Committee Reports and Discussion**

• **Administration and Organization**

- Ed discussed status and reviewed importance of CEEIN MOU.
- A new coordinator for the CEEIN workshop strand at the CSTA conference is needed.

- Handbook edits were discussed. The final version will be presented at the next meeting.
- **Communications and Outreach**
 - Antonio is interested in possibly making a short CEEIN video. Asked members to consider an audience and goal for that.
 - Ed shared the Senior Pass Program (America the Beautiful, The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Series) and asked CEEIN to start thinking about a possible CEEIN campaign around that opportunity.
- **Diversity, Leadership, and Legislation**
 - Lesley is the lead person at CDE for how they can get information about greenhouse gas reduction funds for k-12 schools. She will be updating CEEIN on what programs are eligible and realistic for schools.

4. What's New in Your World

Brian Cahill – Parks is transitioning its reservation contractors. PORTS is expanding to Pt. Lobos with a feed from on board a kayak.

Lesla – This weekend Fish & Wildlife has booths at the Sportsman's Expo, with the Keep Me Wild campaign.

Laura – Her office will also be at the Sportsman's Expo, as well as Vietnamese New Year events.

DeAnn – We are launching our new and improved website. Go to LearnAboutAg.org starting January 25 and sign the "guest book" as a visitor to our site. We appreciate all of the views and sharing of our site. There will also be a drawing for those who stop in for a visit!

Newly updated Plant Nutrients curriculum is currently being promoted. The curriculum includes four units for all grade levels K-12. The units will be available to all educators via download or orderable online. We hope to reach new audiences by having science centers, including Sacramento's Discovery Museum and Science Center use the curriculum in their after school and summer programs.

New curriculum to check out: Invasive Species, Energy and Agriculture: Careers in Sustainable Energy

Greg – UC California Naturalists is at 30 partners statewide with approximately 1,250 volunteers certified who have logged over 50,000 hours. The state conference will be September 9-11 at the Pali Mt. Retreat and Conference Center, Running Springs, CA (in the San Bernardino mountains). Visit <http://calnat.ucanr.edu/2016conference/> for details. The April CEEIN meeting will be held at Effie Yeaw Nature Center with the theme of Citizen Science please join us for a morning full of citizen science practice.

Adina – There will be two plenary sessions at the September UC California Naturalist conference: Jose Gonzalez with Latino Outdoors and Alina Bokde with LA Neighborhood Land Trust.

Shannon – There will be an RFA soon for one year of CREEC grants.

Brian Brown – Project WET is seeing almost double the usual requests for workshops, including EEI/WET workshops.

Lesley – The 2016 nominees for Green Ribbon Schools will be publicly announced at a press event in February, which will include a Blueprint for Environmental Literacy component.

Rae – She met recently with Inside the Outdoors. They just received the Governor’s award and she is helping them seek out additional resources for their programs.

Linda – Aquatic WILD NGSS correlations are now available at the www.projectwild.org website. Project WILD will be represented at CSTA in October by our Southern California regional Coordinator, Lauren Bergh.

A Project WILD facilitator workshop is scheduled for March 5th at the Pacific Grove Natural History Museum.

Tom – The statewide AEOE spring conference will be April 29-May 1 at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu. 60+ environmental education workshops - Enjoy a keynote address by Chris Duffy (creator and host of You’re the Expert on WBUR), live music, entertainment, exhibitors, job fair, and networking! Registration includes the conference, five meals, and lodging or camping. Day rates also available. For more information visit: <https://aeoe.org>

Action Items

- Shannon will send the BEL steering committee member list to CEEIN.
- Shannon will check with CDE about sharing BEL update emails with CEEIN.
- Lesley will post EE/statute tracking spreadsheet to Box for CEEIN to complete.
- Ed will email 2007 and most recent version MOU to CEEIN for review and add to next agenda.
- If you haven’t yet done so, let Ed know if you plan to attend/call-in on Chico Field Trip.
- Need a volunteer to coordinate the CEEIN workshop strand at CSTA conference.

Next Meeting

February 18, 2016 – Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park Headquarters in Chico

Meeting Lead – Ed Wong

Location Contact – Anne Stephens/Ed Wong

Note Taker - Susan Knadle

Coordinate with Ed for vanpooling from Cal/EPA Loading Dock at 8 AM