

California Environmental Education Interagency Network Meeting
February 19, 2015, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
California Environmental Protection Agency Building
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Meeting Leader: Ed Wong
Note Taker: Christy Porter Humpert

Attendees:

Carolyn Schimandle, California State Parks
Lesley Taylor, California Department of Education
Shannon Gordon, California Department of Education
Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission
Brian Brown, Project WET
Judy Nottoli, Air Resources Board
Ed Wong, Air Resources Board
Chris Breazeale, California Department of Education
Michelle Robinson, California Department of Water Resources
Lesa Johnston, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Calling in:

Carolyn Kolstad, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Susan Knadle, Retired OEHHA
Brook Gamble, California Naturalist Program

1. Check-in and Catch-up

- Ed Wong called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
- Minutes – The group voted on the minutes after the guest speaker because at the beginning of the meeting, a quorum of member agencies was not present.
 - Revised November minutes were approved.
 - January minutes – Shannon had a minor change that she will provide to Lesley. The minutes were approved with the changes.

Action Items from January 2015 meeting

- Lesley updated November 2014 minutes (DONE)
- Lesley, Annie, and Ed discussed potential use of Box.com for CEEIN documents (DONE)
- Shannon prepared a PowerPoint presentation about CREEC for February 19 meeting and provided PDF version for email (DONE)
- Christy is developing an NGSS activity for March 19 meeting (IN PROGRESS)

- Shannon prepared a transmittal memo to send to MOU from SSPI to other signatories and share with Michelle, Paul, and Christy (DONE)
- Susan checked July 2014 minutes and for CEEIN Handbook detailed changes (DONE)

2. Committee Reports and Discussion

• Administration and Organization

- Gateway Science Museum in Chico – Ed is talking with Anne Stephens about a possible full-day field trip for 2016
- CEEIN Handbook – Susan was able to send Ed some detailed notes regarding specific changes to the handbook. Ed is soliciting a volunteer to take the lead on editing and managing the CEEIN handbook. Responsibilities include incorporating changes that were discussed last year and presenting these changes to the group. Bring to the group for final approval. Carolyn Schimandle from Parks volunteered to perform this job.
- MOU update – Ed thanked Chris and Shannon for continuing to keep the new MOU moving. Paul Penn (new CalEPA manager) will likely take the MOU forward to Secretary Rodriguez for signature. Ed is looking forward to a contact at CDFA.

• Communications and Outreach

- The following members have submitted workshop proposals for the CSTA Conference, October 2-4:
 - Brian Brown, Project WET (1)
 - Annie Kohut Frankel, Coastal Commission (2)
 - Christy Porter Humpert, EEI (1)
 - Chris Breazeale, CDE (1 NGSS update)
 - Ed Wong, ARB (1)
 - Shannon alerted us that there may be a presentation proposal from the Environmental Literacy Task Force (Nate Ivy)
 - PORTS staff at Parks may have submitted a proposal

Ed will contact CSTA to notify them that these proposals are all part of the CEEIN strand.

- Cal/EPA Earth Day event will be held on April 22 – CEEIN members are invited to participate by having a booth. Ed is coordinating.
- Lesley announced March 14-15 Soil Born Farms School Gardens workshop. She will have a table there and offered to set out CEEIN member materials. Sac State Earth Day celebration, estimated 8,000 attendees, will be on April 16th.
- Twitter – Annie is tweeting about once a day. Send Tweets to Annie and include “Tweet” in the subject line.
- Annie requested the most current CEEIN roster from Ed.

- **Diversity, Leadership and Legislation**
 - No items

**3. Guest Presentation – Shannon Gordon (CDE)
**California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Outreach
and CDE Listserves****

Shannon is now the Statewide CREEC coordinator and is housed in the STEM Office at CDE. The CREEC website is an online database (resource directory). CDE's environmental education (EE) program is authorized by statute. Environmental License Plate Fund funding is to go out to local entities. Environmental education is defined as materials that are balanced and objective with the intent to safeguard the quality of the environment.

Ed asked about the definitions of nonformal, informal, and formal provider. Shannon provided the following definitions:

Formal – school with a teacher in the classroom

Nonformal – field trip or extension of school day off site. Teacher is present.

Informal – Not associated with school (for example, a family going to a museum outside of school)

EE grant program – goals are to promote high quality EE programs for educators. CREEC connects schools and teachers with EE resources, including curriculum. One goal is to affect teachers and students and to use the EEI curriculum and to further EEI and to ensure that professional development opportunities incorporate the Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&Cs).

The EEGP (EE Grant Program) funds CREEC. The most recent Request for Applications (RFA) was in 2013.

There is \$530,000 for the entire program – mission is to identify local education agencies (LEAs) within the 11 regions and promote high quality environmental educational resources.

A variety of types of agencies, organizations and institutions could apply in the most recent RFAs. One application was funded in each of the 11 regions. The regions are based on the CCSESA Regions – nearly same funding in each region.

Regional coordinators assist in creating and advertising educational opportunities. They service K-12 teachers and reaching students is the priority.

CREEC coordinators are hired by an authorized agent, such as a County Office of Education – they are not hired directly by CDE. Some regions have multiple coordinators because of large geographic area. All coordinators are part-time.

Qualifications include teaching experience. The regional Scope of Work is developed by the authorized agency so that it has a regional focus. There was a total of \$376,500 in grant funding. The amount awarded to each region averaged \$32,525. The next EEGP RFA is currently being developed.

CDE has an EE listserv. Information is also disseminated on the CREEC website. Providers, including agencies, can create an account as a resource provider. The development of the website was a gift of the Fox Family Foundation. Providers can designate themselves as either statewide provider or as regional provider. Regional events should only be announced through regional mailing lists/newsletters. Providers can work with multiple regional providers.

4. Presentation on the Use of Box.com

Lesley Taylor explained to the group how CEEIN can share documents with Box.com, which is a system for securely sharing files. Minutes, agendas, rosters, host list, etc. can be shared on Box.com. Only the most current version will appear, but older versions are stored there as well. Guest presentations can be stored there as well. Members will be checking to see if it is a blocked site on their network. Members may need to access the site personally if there are firewall problems. IT may also be able to unblock if necessary.

5. New Business

Michelle made a motion to change the CEEIN quorum from eight (8) to six (6). The motion was seconded and there was unanimous vote to change the size of the quorum.

6. What's New in Your World

Lesley (CDE) - The California Green Ribbon Schools will be announced by Superintendent Torlakson tomorrow in El Monte. In a few weeks, Lesley will attend and present at the Green School National Conference. On Earth Day, in the evening of April 22nd, the Sacramento City Unified student green-teams will make Project Green presentations.

Christy (CalRecycle) – The Office of Education and the Environment is teaming with the State Indian Museum to sponsor a teacher training at their facility. This will be the Indian Museum's first teacher training on any topic.

Shannon (CDE) – Shannon is working on the Environmental Literacy task force recommendations and editing the pre-publication California version of NGSS.

Annie (Coastal Commission) – The Coastal Commission received more than 2,500 entries to its annual Art and Poetry contest. They are now being judged. Whale tail grants were approved – \$385,463 in competitive grant funding. The quality of grant applications was great and many were not funded due to limited resources.

Brian (Project WET) – Project WET is working with the DWR climate team to put together a series of workshops on how climate change is affecting water management in California. April 25 is first workshop. Brian is also working on a floodplain ecology institute with Deb Bruns that will be held in Stockton, Fresno, and Chico. Another Project WET facilitators' training will be held on April 17th in Santa Clara. There will also be a facilitator training in Tahoe to highlight release of kids' book sometime in May. A workshop with SMUD on March 7 will integrate a water audit.

Lesla (Fish and Wildlife) – Fish and Wildlife's Education Office has moved back to the Resource Building on 9th St. Carol Singleton is now the Project Wild contact for California. She can answer any general questions. Project Wild info may be accessed at the national website (it has been removed from California Fish and Wildlife website). Fish and Wildlife will participate in Earth Day celebrations throughout the state. They will also participate in State Scientist Day on May 13th. Californians can contribute to the Sea Otter tax campaign through the state tax form.

Judy (Air Board) – The Air Board will be participating in a Teachers Resources Fair at IMAX in Sacramento on March 7th.

Chris (CDE) – The 2014 science safety handbook is now available on the website. Phase 2 NGSS rollouts will start in April and continue through December. CEEIN members can participate as Chris' guest to have the \$250 fee waived. The rollout workshops are a great way to see what the message is to the field from CDE and COEs. On April 16-17 there will be a Train the Trainer meeting for those who are committed to working at least half of the roll-out events. Phase I was all about awareness. Phase II focuses on transition and talks about ways to start implementing NGSS, even without new materials. CDE is recommending to teachers to interweave the SEPs and CCs into the current content, which will provide the three-dimensionality. Students are still being tested on previous science content. Chris will send a link to safety the handbook and also send a list of Phase II rollouts. An NGSS hub is being developed on My Digital Chalkboard. Chris suggested that CEEIN members consider calling out which SEPs, DCIs, and CCs can be covered in existing materials, rather than pigeon-holing by linking to specific Performance Expectations.

Michelle (Water Resources) – DWR has a new Deputy Assistant Director, Ed Wilson, in Public Affairs - an appointed position. Ed had been at the Dept. of Conservation. He brings media and broadcasting experience to the office.

Carolyn Schimandle (Parks) – Brian Cahill has stepped in to temporarily fill in Donna Pozzi's position. He was previously the Assistant Deputy Director for Operations. Shannon Gordon (CDE) presented to the group of district interpreters, as did a representative from the California Naturalists.

Carolyn Kolstad (US Fish & Wildlife) – Carolyn is also heading to the Green Schools National Conference. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is in the process of translating the habitat guide to Spanish and it will be ready for review in the next six

weeks or so. It will then be posted online. BLM is planning a Youth Summit and has asked FWS to partner in planning the event. There will be one in Northern and one in Southern California and it will include a career fair. Possibly Nov 3 in north and following week in the south.

Brook (California Naturalists) – Brook did a presentation at the State Park Interpreters' meeting. There are many new California Naturalist programs being created, including Sierra Foothills conservancy, USC Sea Lab. She is also talking with Anne Stephens to create a Chico program. The California Naturalist Program is looking for a venue for their next big meeting. They need to accommodate around 500 participants and prefer a Southern California location.

Susan (retired OEHHA) – Susan is in the middle of a seminar series at UCD Department of Toxicology. A book with her chapter was recently published. She has been preparing presentations for Dept. of Toxicology meetings.

Ed (Air Board) – nothing to report

Action Items

- Lesley will finalize approved Nov. 2014 and Jan. 2015 minutes and send to Annie for posting on the Coastal Commission/CEEIN web site
- Lesley will send Box.com invitations to members
- Ed will follow-up with members who submitted workshop proposals for the Oct. 2-4 CSTA Conference in Sacramento
- Ed will follow-up with Annie on updating the Roster for posting
- Ed will meet with Carolyn Schimandle and pass her the draft changes to CEEIN Handbook for further development and eventual completion
- Chris will send Ed the link of the 2014 Science Safety Handbook for distribution
- Chris will send Ed the Phase II NGSS roll-out dates for distribution

Next meeting will be in the Cal/EPA building in room 230 on March 19th. Christy Porter Humpert will be the host and Sandy Derby will be the note taker.