



Date: March 20, 2014
Location: CalEPA Room 230
Meeting Leader: Christy Porter Humpert
Note Taker: Ingrid van Dijk

Attendance:

Christy Porter Humpert, CalRecycle
Donna Pozzi, California State Parks
Michelle Robinson, Dept. of Water Resources
Margaret Minnick, Air Resources Board
Lesa Johnston, California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Judy Nottoli, Air Resources Board
Susan Knadle, retired Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Ed Wong, Air Resources Board
Ingrid van Dijk, California State Parks
Brian Brown, Water Education Foundation/Project WET
Esther Tracy, State Water Resources Control Board

By phone:

Brooke Gamble, Cal Naturalists
Adina Merenlender, Cal Naturalists
Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission
Lynn Campbell, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Minutes:

January 2014 minutes were approved without corrections or comments.

Review of Action Items from February Meeting:

- Annie contacted Assemblyman Stone's office and invited a representative to attend this meeting and that was accomplished.
- Anne was going to try to get a table/booth at the Green Schools Summit, no word on that yet.

New Action Item:

200 CEEIN brochures needed by Christy. Michelle will arrange to get them to her.

Committee Reports:

Administration and Organization

No report given since there were no representatives present.

Communication and Outreach

There are now 85 followers on Twitter. Please let Annie know if any highlights that can be posted, anything interesting

Legislation and Diversity

Nothing to report other than AB 1603 discussion later on the agenda.

Guest Speaker:

Phil Romig – Sacramento County Office of Education
Demystifying the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the Environmental Education Connection

Studies have shown that 86% of California educators believe sciences are important.

Informal educators may have upper hand in adjusting to the new standards. The alignment to NGSS is staggered across the state. Some teachers are jumping in while others are hanging back as they are still adjusting to the Common Core Standards. Correlating the curriculum is slowly moving ahead. Some who have tried it have cautioned to go slow, don't jump in too fast.

Phil showed a powerpoint presentation explaining how the 3 elements/dimensions (practices, core ideas, crosscutting concepts) of the standards work together in the development of the curriculum. Much of the framework stage is student driven, the students answer the questions and brainstorm about the necessary elements for planning, constructing evaluating, etc.

There is a major shift in emphasis in the NGSS with each element equally weighted vs. the previous standards that were driven by the testing and meeting certain score standards. It is not just about the content anymore. This can be a difficult change for most teachers.

The performance expectations should reflect all three of the dimensions of the model. Below the element boxes there is information that shows the connections to the Common Core State Standards. Common Core needs to be supported by NGSS for the success of that program.

The NGSS was adopted in September 2013. There has been resistance, life science teachers are now being asked to teach on sciences (earth and physical) outside their areas or expertise. This has caused issues. Schools/districts can work on this how they want to in most cases. A Plan B is being developed for small schools/districts to deal with the issue.

Engineering has been added to the new standards and is an important element with the needs in the world today – clean energy, clean water global environmental changes, etc. the integration of science and engineering empowers students to use what they learn in everyday lives.

Recall vs. think: New standards call for more thinking on the part of the students, more analyzing, problem solving, justifying, etc. These methods help build the brain.

A graph was given out that showed the connection to Common Core, the commonalities among science, math and language arts.

California Department of Education is looking to informal educators for input to write complete California framework. NGSS Study Group Rollout – training for workshops, provides somewhat intensive and in-depth study.

Science parameters have changed and grown. We are all engineers, we all make solutions and take data and come up with solutions. Science goes on all the time. The terms science and engineering need to be redefined to put teachers and students in line with the standards and their concepts. Everyone is a language learner in science. Learning is global, not discipline specific.

EEl is a transitional tool into NGSS. EEl will not be re-written.

Kim Angulo , Assembly Fellow from Assemblyman Mark Stone
Kim explained AB 1603, which deals with Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Program. It is designed to give grants to public institutions and non-profit education programs. CEEIN is mentioned in it as having an advisory role in who may get funding. Criteria are set up for prioritizing who would get grant funding. The monies come from the general fund and private donations. There is an emphasis for organizations that work with underserved and at-risk populations to involve them in outdoor recreation and educational activities.

A hearing has tentatively been scheduled for April 8th.

What's new in your world:

Annie:

- Workshop for educators at Humboldt Coastal Nature Center on March 22, 20 signed up
- Workshop with BLM at Rancho Palos Verdes on April 22nd
- April 23rd, at Ty Warner Sea Center, an educator workshop

- Working on judging and art poster contest

Ed:

- Preparing for Earth Day on April 22nd. There will be a big event at CalEPA, big crowd expected.
- EEI will have a table at the Summit in April.

Judy:

- Home Energy and Efficiency Expo on April 12th, need student volunteers to help with the event. They will get some perks for helping (t-shirt, breakfast and lunch, Starbucks gift card)

Michelle:

- Gearing up for workshop, will be judging projects submitted by students.

Donna:

- PORTS received a prestigious award for museum education.
- Working on training DVD for the new standards, possibly in cooperation with Sacramento County Office of Education.

Susan:

- Involved with a seminar series at UC Davis on public health and toxicology.

Esther:

- Involved with Earth Day preparations.
- International Water Day this Saturday (March 22)
- May 14 is State Scientist Day, celebration at the State Capitol

Brian:

- Working on Project WET workshop to be presented at the Green Schools Summit
- 3-4 more workshops coming up in April.

Lesa:

- Virtual archery event with scores being uploaded on computers and competitions held.
- Trout festival coming up in June.
- Project WILD will be leaving the department and will be administered out of an office in Texas for the time being. They hope to get it back again in the future. They will receive funds for guides.
- Developed a youth "Fishing License" with general fishing rules and safety tips on them, good educational tool.

Adina:

- Launching a science webinar in the Naturalist Series. There are 4 seminars, see their website for details, for those who are training to be naturalists or already are one.
- Statewide meeting in planning stages, look at web page for line up, will be held at Asilomar in October.

Lynn:

- The two boards of the SNC and the new Delta Conservancy met in Sac last week and signed a resolution to work together – this will have interest for the public and educators, we hope, as we work towards the common goals of providing ecosystem health and water reliability to the citizens of CA. More info: <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/our-region/sierra-water-supply-connection>
- I am working with the SNC to create a page on our website that is directed to children, families and educators regarding EE activities and opportunities in the Sierra Nevada Region;
- I am working with Sierra based groups that offer EE opportunities to teachers, and I believe a few have signed up to the CREEC database to extend their outreach to educators outside of the region;
- The SNC is also hosting the next Great Sierra River Cleanup, and we already have many

participating schools. There is a free training (and lunch) in Auburn on April 17th, call Marji Feliz (530) 823-4679 to sign up. More info here: <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/our-work/rivercleanup>

- And I will be at the CAL/EPA Earth Day event that Ed has organized for us on April 22nd - hope to see you there!

Action Items:

Christy needs about 200 CEEIN brochures for an event. Michelle will arrange to get them to her.

Next Meeting: April 17th @ Water Education Foundation; Lead: Brian Brown, Notetaker: Anne Stephens