

California Environmental Education Interagency Network Meeting
March 17, 2016, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park
9980 Greenback Ln, Folsom, CA 95630

Meeting Leader: Brian Cahill
Note Taker: Christy Porter Humpert

Attendees:

Brian Cahill – California State Parks
Heather Holm – California State Parks
Shannon Gordon – California Department of Education
DeAnn Tenhunfeld, California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
Antonio Leaks, California Air Resources Board
Susan Knaedle, OEHHA retired, UC Davis
Christy Porter Humpert, CalRecycle
Ed Wong, California Air Resources Board
Judy Nottoli – California Air Resources Board
Linda Desai – Placer Nature Center Project
Carolyn Kolstad, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lesa Johnston, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Gretel MacLeod, California Science Teachers Association
Jessica Sawko, California Science Teachers Association

Calling in:

Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission
Sandy Derby – UC ANR, Project Learning Tree
Kathy Schultz, California Department of Water Resources

1. Check-in and Catch-up

- Brian Cahill called the meeting to order and introduced State Parks Superintendent Barry Smith, who welcomed the group. Barry gave a brief overview of his district, which includes Folsom Lake and Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.
- The group reviewed the agenda and the minutes from the February meeting. Because there were a number of edits to the minutes, Shannon Gordon offered to make the edits and post them on Box.com. The revised February minutes will be brought before the group at its April meeting for approval.
- The group reviewed action items from the February 2016 meeting. All action items had been completed.

2. Presentation on the PORTS Program

Heather Holm introduced the group to the Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program. This live videoconferencing program is designed to engage students and serves over 40,000 students annually. PORTS helps to teach a variety of academic standards while allowing students to access state park experts, regardless of their geographic location or economic status. The CEEIN group participated in a sample PORTS videoconference from Pt. Lobos State Park. Interpreter Berndt Stolfi interacted with the group from his kayak near Pt. Lobos. The real-time interaction inspired the group and served as a model of how technology can be used to bring the real world into classrooms.

3. Stow It, Don't Throw It!

Annie Kohut Frankel gave an overview of the “Stow It, Don't Throw It!” program, a youth-driven marine debris prevention program that focuses on monofilament fishing line. Students assemble personal-size fishing line recycling bins and distribute them to anglers and boaters at marina, boat shows, etc. The program was started by an Eagle Scout and now has national participation.

As an aside, a member of the group announced that the Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education will be holding its annual conference in Southern California April 29-May 1. There will be a session that addresses environmental education and the Next Generation Science Standards.

4. Committee Reports and Discussion

• Administration & Organization

- Ed Wong reminded the group that the committee sign-up sheet, the CEEIN roster, and host list are posted on Box.com.
- The group clarified that the revised MOU will be prepared by the Admin. Committee
- Ed confirmed that the leads for the committees are as follows:
 - Admin and Organization: Ed Wong and Lesley Taylor as co-leads
 - Outreach, Diversity, and Partnerships: Annie Kohut Frankel
 - Leadership & Legislation: Shannon Gordon

• Outreach, Diversity and Partnerships

- No updates from this committee

• Leadership and Legislation

- Shannon reported that she had not heard back from our US EPA representative regarding participation in this committee. However, Christiane Maertens from NAAEE has offered to help track federal legislation.
- There is a folder in Box.com to track past and future legislation.

- Shannon asked each agency to complete a draft of the “Statutory Mandates” spreadsheet that is in Box.com. It summarizes each agency’s statutory mandate to do environmental education and will assist with revisions to the MOU and implementation of the Blueprint for Environmental Literacy.

5. What’s New in Your World

Annie – The Coastal Commission partnered with CalRecycle’s EEI staff at the San Francisco Maritime Museum to train over 30 teachers. The Coastal Commission just chose winners for their annual Art & Poetry contest. Annie submitted a proposal for the CSTA conference with Kurt Holland.

Kathy – There is an upcoming Water Education Festival at UC Irvine with an expected attendance of over 7,000 people.

Sandy – Project Learning Tree has submitted a proposal for the CSTA conference.

Ed – Cal/EPA’s annual Earth Day event will be on April 20th. Upcoming events for the Air Board include State Scientists’ Day and an event in Port Hueneme.

Susan – Susan will be participating in a “Partners in Environmental Toxicology” event at Picnic Day at UC Davis in April.

Carolyn – USFWS has been converting their guides to digital versions that can be used in e-readers (not .pdfs). Her program is now on Facebook. She will be attending the Green School National Conference.

Shannon – There will be a Blueprint for Environmental Literacy meeting at CDE later this month. CDE’s STEM office will be increasing its staff back to prior 2015 levels by the end of this month.

Linda – Project Wild recently lost its Central Coast director. Project Wild events are posted on the Department of Fish and Wildlife website events calendar.

Judy – The SMUD Solar Regatta will be held May 13-14.

Lesa – Lesa explained how there are seven regions for the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and each has its own mission and focus. The majority of Lesa’s time is spent on the archery in schools program. The Dept. sponsors a “virtual” statewide archery competition. Participating schools post their results online and scores are compared by judges.

Jessica – CSTA is participating in a campaign to communicate information about NGSS. They are also participating in CDE’s Blueprint for Environmental Literacy implementation group. CSTA is helping to create communication toolkits to help increase awareness of science education. Jessica announced that CEEIN members can send announcements for events to her for posting on the CSTA website if the

registration fee is less than \$100. She also asked that CEEIN members review their resources listing on the CSTA website to ensure that the information is up to date. Jessica encouraged CEEIN members to have a nonprofit table at the CSTA conference. She also encouraged members to submit proposals for the NSTA regional conference that will be held in California in April 2017.

DeAnn – Ag in the Classroom participated in Ag Day at the Capitol on March 16th. They have lots of new material for teachers, including their recent issue of “What’s Growing On!” that features the Top 10 California ag commodities. Recent publications also include an almond lesson plan and “Ag Bite”, which is a short activity. DeAnn has been working with the San Diego after school program. She says that after school programs are hungry for resources.

Christy – Christy announced that there will be a “BioBlitz” held at the California State Capitol grounds on April 12th. She will soon send out an announcement with further information about the event and seeking volunteers. Christy also reminded CEEIN members about the limited supply of EEI Curriculum hardcopies through the end of the current school year.

Brian – State Parks is sponsoring an “Interp-Tech” conference in Pacific Grove which will be held April 23-26. They are also experimenting with a Google app that “looks inside buildings” and includes both still and video images. State Parks is using the Periscope app for one-way communication to reach audiences that they have never reached before.

Action Items

- 1) Each agency member should complete a draft of the “Statutory Mandates for Environmental Education” spreadsheet that is found in the “Legislation” folder in Box.com prior to the next CEEIN meeting.
- 2) The Admin. Committee will begin revisions to the CEEIN MOU.
- 3) Christy will send out information on the upcoming BioBlitz.
- 4) Shannon will make updates to the February minutes and post on Box.com and send out to the group for review.
- 5) State Parks will lead CEEIN members on an optional tour of the Folsom Powerhouse following the meeting.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on April 14, 2016, at Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Greg Ira will be the meeting lead and Brian Brown will be the note taker.