

California Environmental Education Interagency Network Meeting  
Thursday, April 16, 2015 9:30-11:30 AM  
Water Education Foundation  
1401 21st Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95811



Meeting Leader: Brian Brown (916 719-6850 cell)  
Note Taker: Susan Knadle

Attendees:  
Brian Brown California Project WET  
Carolyn Schimandle California State Parks  
Shannon Gordon California Department of Education  
Linda Desai Placer Nature Center, Project Wild  
Christy Porter Humpert CAL Recycle  
Lesla Johnston California Fish & Wildlife  
Michele Robinson California Department of Water Resources  
Susan Knadle Cal/EPA, OEHHA retired; UC Davis Department of Environmental Toxicology

On Phone:  
Annie Kohut Frankel California Coastal Commission  
Sandy Derby Project Learning Tree, California Coordinator  
Brook Gamble California Naturalist Program

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- Time**
1. **Check-in and Catch-up** **9:30-9:40 AM**
- Welcome and Introductions
  - No additions to Agenda made; Sign-up Sheet passed around
  - Minutes March 2015 Meeting were approved.
  - Action Items from March 2015 meeting:
    - Ed will make sure the roster changes are reflected in Box- DONE
    - Annie will upload a calendar framework/template to Box for members to update - DONE
    - Members will email Chris if interested in attending a CA NGSS roll-out meeting - ONGOING
    - Action item for next meeting –Shannon will send link to website for dates of rollout of NGSS – we can only go if county Oks and we don't need meals. Tell chris that we will be “flies on the wall”.
2. **Committee Reports and Discussion** **9:40-10:00 AM**
- Administration and Organization
    - Everyone is asked to continue sending Annie your announcements for Twitter
    - MOU Update – Ed has been working on it
  - Communications and Outreach
    - Workshop submittals for October 2-4 CSTA Conference should be

- o sent to Ed
- o Cal/EPA Earth Day is April 22 – Ed has been the coordinator
- Diversity, Leadership and Legislation
  - o Stone bill update – there has been no action on this bill

**3. Guest Speaker: Linda Desai, Placer Nature Center & Project by WILD in California**

**10:00-10:30 AM**

Placer Nature Center is on the north side of Auburn, by Sugar Pine, nearer Route 49 than Interstate 80. It has been there 24 years, started in 1991 or 1992. Regional Project Wild is located there in an abandoned farm site on California State land that is now a California Conservation Corp site. It has a specimen garden site with drought-resistant plants, fruit trees, etc. There also is a 1 mile long trail that was originally a par course.

The mission is to deliver environmental education information. They work with school groups, families, and summer camps to connect people to local environment. They have an Exhibit Hall and groups spend part time there talking about water from the Sierra's snow pack, but most of the time is spent walking on the trail that used to be a par course.

They also go to schools: there is no need to pay for transportation for schoolchildren, and they can use their playgrounds for activities.

They also have a Nature Bowl and astronomy classes by a famous asteroid hunter. They received money from First 5 for activities for preschoolers, and parents really like First 5 Saturdays. They also have workshops for caregivers and do a lot of Project Wild activities.

They have a lot of volunteers to help out and it is a great site for workshops for other groups.

The Council for Environmental Education (CEE) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife have transitioned the administration and coordination of Project Wild to a series of Regional Partners throughout California. In this partnership each of the six Regional Coordinators will manage their separate Facilitator teams and outreach plans while CDFW will continue to provide guides and support materials for their training events for the Project Wild activity guides and curriculum, which include:

*Project Wild*, K-12 curriculum (started in 1983)  
*Project Wild Aquatic* K-12 curriculum, *Project Aquatic Wild 2013*,  
*Growing up Wild*, an award winning preschool program  
*Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife*, which serves as a guide to engaging students with service learning and environmental issues. *Taking Action*, which was developed in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund, also provides inspiration and practical models for involving students in environmental action projects.  
*Flying Wild*, targeted for middle-schoolers, allows a whole school approach focused on birds

Project Wild is getting revised and the new version will come out in late 2015. Science and Civics activities have been added to Aquatic Wild and Project Wild

Project Wild regions are based on locations where it was active and had facilities, but they do not coincide with CREEC or any other environmental education program. They are located in Chico, Fresno, Humboldt, Pacific Grove, Santa Anna Zoo – which is supported by Caroline at the California Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The goal of Project Wild is to teach children to think, not what to think. It is coordinated with Common Core State Standards. The activities in the *Project WILD K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide* have a preliminary correlation with the Performance Expectations (PEs) of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The Correlation of Project Wild with the Next Generation Science Standards contains a table which shows the “ongoing correlation” that is evolving based on feedback from educators who are incorporating the new standards into their instruction using Project WILD activities (<http://www.ProjectWild.org/documents/ProjectWild-NGSScorrelations10.6.14.pdf>).

Project Wild website is on the California Fish and Wildlife website.

4. **Next Generation Science Standards Group Activity** **10:30-11:00 AM**
  - Brian led the group in a Project WET activity to analyze how an activity integrates with and supports teaching of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). As with the presentation in March, CEEIN members had the opportunity to become more familiar with the SEPs and how to relate them to their own programs and materials.
  
5. **What’s New in Your World** **11:00-11:25 AM**

### **Lesley Taylor:**

The 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools will be announced at 11am on Earth Day via webcast: <https://www.youtube.com/user/usedgov>. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson nominated [a program maximum] five schools and districts this year: the El Monte Union High School District (Los Angeles County), Los Cerritos Elementary School (Long Beach), Carmel Middle School, Susan Miller Dorsey Senior High School (Los Angeles), and Marin Country Day School. Look for a CDE press release announcing the confirmed selectees on the afternoon of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and follow along with us on Twitter @CAGreenRibbon.

2015 California Green Ribbon Schools will be recognized in the regional ceremonies for the California School Recognition Program in May/June [dates and locations TBD].

Sacramento City Unified students will present their Project Green recommendations on Earth Day at Camellia Basic Elementary (6600 Cougar Drive, Sacramento, CA 95828). Project Green students use the results of a complete site audit to recommend one

capital improvement that would improve the sustainability of their school. Projects are funded by local bond revenue.

**Other Items:**

The NAAEE conference is in San Diego at the San Diego Sheraton October 15-18, 2015. Proposals needed to be submitted by March 27, but registration opens in June.

A proposal was submitted for the NAAEE conference in October with the working title, "The California Report: ELP and Green Ribbon School Lessons from the Golden State." The presentation would report out on the work of the State Superintendent's Environmental Literacy Task Force and California Green Ribbon Schools.

The Governor has stressed the drought – replacing lawns, funding for districts to replace water inefficient appliances, like toilets.

**6. Action Items**

Brian is going to forward Box invites to Linda and cc Leslie and let her know about box.com "edit" issues.

Linda is going to check with Carol Singleton to see if she can put all activities in the whole state of California that CDE has going on at various regional CREECs on the California Fish and Wildlife website. It would be nice to also have State Park activities

**Wish list** - Shannon is going to see if anything can be done so that if CREEC coordinator lists some activity, it will still link to the provider.

Brooke will use CREEC to list all activities in Project Wild

Single state-side calendar of events –Shannon. Discussion about how to solve the problem that each group can't take ownership and one State person would like to see a complete list of all events that are going on in the State without going to each Provider separately. If keywords were used it would be able to be found by the Provider. If Project Wet was a keyword and a Provider, even if the CREEC coordinator listed it, no one else can also link to it because the CREEC coordinator is not the Provider. The keywords might solve that.

**7. Meeting Wrap-Up**

**11:25-11:30 AM**

Next Meeting – May 21, 2015, at USFWS in Auburn

Meeting Lead and Location Contact – Carolyn Kolstad

Note Taker – Lesa Johnston