

California Environmental Education Interagency Network Meeting



Date: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:30-11:30 AM
Location: Water Education Foundation

Meeting Leader: Annie Kohut Frankel
Note Taker: Ingrid van Dijk

Attendees:

Annie Kohut Frankel	Coastal Commission
Sarah Gatzke	State Water Resources Control Board
Shannon Waters	Coastal Commission
Chris Breazeale	Calif. Dept. of Education
Christy Porter Humpert	CalRecycle
Anne Stephens	Calif. Dept. of Education
Sandra Thompson	State Water Resources Control Board
Brian Brown	Water Education Foundation/Project Wet
Ed Wong	California Air Resources Board
Lesa Johnson	California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Michelle Robinson	Dept. of Water Resources
Leslie Landon	State Water Resources Control Board
Ingrid van Dijk	California State Parks

On phone:

Brook Gamble	UC California Naturalist Program
Laurie Monserrat	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Check-in

April minutes were approved without changes.

April action items were reviewed, some were completed and some carry over to next month.

Dept of consumer Affairs Earth Day Contact: Connie D. Johnson, Recycle coordinator
916 574-7737

UN Congratulations Regarding Passage of California Human Right to Water Legislation

<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/09/26/18722446.php>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12605&LangID=E>

Committee Reports and Discussion

Administration and Organization:

Anne shared regarding moving CEEIN website from CDE to Coastal Commission?. The question was also brought out regarding who should maintain the CEEIN account. Annie will talk with Anne further about this.

Roster was passed around for updates to emails and addresses, etc. Ed

volunteered to update the electronic version of the roster.
The representative for Conservation Corp has fallen away, Ed is working on getting a new representative on board.

Communications and Outreach:

Environmental Task Force is working with various groups, including the Glen Price Group, to ? They are still looking for a second co-chair.

Diversity, Leadership and Legislation

Federal budget has proposed cuts to NOAA education programs, including BWET.

Guest Speaker – Shannon Waters, California Coastal Commission

Plastic Pollution in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and the Japan Tsunami of March 2011

Shannon participated in a research boat trip with other citizen scientists to look at plastic pollution in the oceans. The trip was sponsored by 3 organization/companies: 5 Gyres, Surfrider and Algalita Marine Research Institute.

There are 5 gyres in the ocean and much floating pollution accumulates in the center of the gyres. Most of the plastic in the form of small pellets (nurdles) and small fragments of plastic.

Expedition Goals: surface trawls for plastic, collect the nurdles, collect and catalog tsunami debris, collect marine life and have sea water samples tested for radioactive materials.

The consensus was reached that our focus needs to be on looking at how to prevent the trash from getting into the oceans rather than trying to clean it up once it gets there. This involves environmental education at all levels.

Lots of plastic fragments are eaten by animals thinking they are food. Animals have been found dead with lots of plastic in their stomach. Plastic bags are eaten by animals thinking they are jelly fish.

The expedition spotted three pieces of debris that are suspected to be from the tsunami: a boat with Japanese characters on all three main pieces, a tire with Japanese characters and a piece of tatami mat (flooring in traditional Japanese homes). All three of these items had become home to a variety of sea life.

Nurdles are the pellet form of plastic that will be processed into other plastic products like bottles, containers, etc. Nurdles are processed with additives that vary depending on what they will be used for, such as being flexible plastic or hard plastic. The nurdles absorb toxins from their environment, acting like sponges. The sealife eat the nurdles and thus become contaminated by those toxins. Humans may eat the affected sea life. Additives in the plastic itself can leach into the environment. The toxins found in nurdles tend to be very bad for the endocrine system.

An expedition in the Great Lakes in 2012 found an abundance of micropellets, tiny plastic beads too small to be captured by the waste water filters. They seem to come largely from facial exfoliators. There are alternatives available so check the labels and avoid products with the micropellets.

A solution to this pollution situation is education!! Behaviors need to change. We can all start with personal changes – bringing our own bag when we go shopping, helping with beach clean-ups, using reusable water/drink bottles, refusing plastic straws, pick up plastic litter on the street. Manufacturers need to chip in and develop more recycling programs, environmentally friendly packaging, reducing waste. New York is banning microbeads in beauty products. Some states and/or cities are banning plastic bags and Styrofoam.

5 Gyres Institute has Waste Free School contests. They also have school kits available on line for \$200 <http://5gyres.bigcartel.com/product/5-gyres-surfrider-foundation-marine-plastic-education-kit> .

Surfriders has Rise Above Plastics program.

Algalita holds Plastic Ocean Pollution Solutions Youth Summits.

A blog was mentioned (Deep Sea News, <http://deepseanews.com/>) which has covered the research on radiation levels along the Pacific coast.

Discussion – California Water Boards

Leslie Loudon, bond program manager with the Water Board, shared about the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools. This program is in the early stages of planning. She is also busy repurposing some old bond money. The focus of the program is schools, mostly in southern California. It is anticipated that solicitation will open in the fall of this year for the approximately \$25 million available.

A big emphasis is on capturing storm water. There needs to be an educational element to the program. They're meeting with lots of school organizations and landscape people to get this moving. The intention is to have multiple projects within districts. There are grants available with school districts, public agencies, non-profits and federally recognized tribes can apply for. Disadvantaged schools are being strongly considered.

There will be a public workshop in June to get feedback and input for developing guidelines on incorporating curriculum into the project to make them educational.

Ed requested the statutes involved with this program.

What's New In Your World

Brook – UC Press partnering on the advanced topics webinars put on by California Naturalist, one held today.

There is an open call for posters, deadline for poster proposals is June 16th (http://calnat.ucanr.edu/2014Conference/Call_for_Posters/).

Early registration for the California Naturalist Statewide Conference in October ends June 30th. Scholarship application deadline is June 1st.

Annie – shared about “Know Your Watershed” program in Santa Barbara County – water-related EE organizations teaming up for outreach to schools. She also shared an email from Jessica Sawko about Gerald Lieberman’s new position with EEI to monitor the NGSS curriculum framework. Jessica also included the draft guidelines for the updated Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve (Science Framework).

Michelle – Worked the Scientist Day at the capitol and there was a good response. She is also working on the state fair exhibit which is focusing on irrigation. Michelle is currently the contact person for water safety materials and school education materials.

Lesia – Also went to Scientist Day. She told of a youth poster contest for Invasives Species Action Week. <https://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/ActionWeek/PosterContest.html>

Ed – Staffed CARB table at the EEI Resource Fair on April 9; had a very successful Cal/EPA Earth Day/Take Our Children to Work Day on April 22 due to participation of many CEEIN members and partners; attended a Pilot Workshop in Visalia on May 3 conducted by Project WET titled “California Water in a Changing Climate”; on May 7, gave presentations on Air Quality and Climate Change to five Environmental Studies classes at De Anza College in Cupertino; and participated in State Scientist Day on May 14.

On May 16, will staff a CARB table at the SMUD Solar Regatta at Rancho Seco Park in South Sacramento County.

Brian – Project Wet workshops have gone well though occasionally somewhat challenge as the age levels weren’t what had been anticipated and adjustments needed to be made. There was an emphasis on climate change. There’s a USGS workshop in San Diego on May 16th.

The national Project Wet conference (Sustaining the Blue Planet) will be held in Montana in late June. Members of the advisory commission will be attending.

He is getting ready for the Floodplain Institute workshops which will be held this summer.

Sandra – Water Board, together with Delta Science Council and UC Davis will be holding a Data Summit in early June. They will pull together data sets with regards to water in the state. She also passed out a “cootie catcher” with educational information about droughts.

Anne – STEM Symposium will be held in September in San Diego. Call is out for presenters, deadline to apply is May 30th.

Chris – nothing to add, thanks for letting him come.

Christy – Shared about webinars being recorded and shared on their training page on the web. The are upcoming trainings on Long Beach aboard ships on May 24 and June 26.

Shannon – Coastal Cleanup Day is scheduled for September 20th.

Action Items

- Discuss committees and handbook at June meeting.
- Ed will update the CEEIN roster in Excel.
- Ed suggested getting Shannon's PowerPoint on the plastic pollution put on the CEEIN web page.
- Contact Anne about high school teachers who may want to participate in the Watershed Science Institute 3 day float trip. This is by invitation only, not a general open opportunity.
- Annie will talk with Anne regarding who should maintain the CEEIN web account.
- Leslie will send flier of DROPS to CEEIN members – DONE

Next meeting June 19 at Cal/EPA Room 230. Lead is Anne Stephens, Note Taker is Susan Knadle, Location Contact is Ed Wong.