

California Environmental Education Interagency Network
June 16, 2011
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street, Conference Room 230, Sacramento, CA 94814

Meeting Leader: Susan Knadle OEHHA
Note Taker: Donna Pozzi
Call-in Leader: Susan Knadle

Attendees:	Lana McAllister, Energy Commission
Michelle Robinson, DWR	Annie Kohut Frankel, Coastal Commission
Mike Brugh, CDE	Noemi Walzebuck, CalEPA
Anne Stephens, CDE	Donna Pozzi, DPR
Kay Antunez, CalFire	Katrina McLaughlin, OEHHA
Bobbie Winn, DFG	Kyle Vogt, DFG-Intern
Susan Knadle, OEHHA	Bryan Ehlers, CalEPA
Christine O'Dea, ARB	Chris Parry, Coastal Commission - phone
Natalie Lee, CalEPA	
Cyndy Paulsen, CalRecycle - phone	

AGENDA

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review

Guest Speakers:

Ray Burnell, Director of Education
Powerhouse Science Center

Ray gave a presentation on the plans in process for development of the "Powerhouse Science Center" to be built in and around the old powerhouse along the Sacramento River on Jiboom Street. This new science center will be replacing the current Discovery Museum located on Auburn Blvd. The vision for the Powerhouse Science Center is to energize learning of sciences and environmental stewardship. There will be many interactive exhibits with hands-on experiential learning stations. Educational opportunities will also be available outdoors on the grounds of the campus. They strive to reach out to all ages, from "K through grey," helping them grow, learn and become better stewards of their part of the world and beyond; teach how to think globally and act locally. Another goal is to magnetize scientific entrepreneurship and be an innovation hub to the community – to help refresh careers as well as ignite new ones. Learning labs will be available and instruction given on-site. It is also their purpose to be a community resource and team up with other agencies, organizations and universities and to give greater public access and more learning opportunities: team up vs. coming to the rescue. The campus will use green energy (wind, solar, hydrogen cells) and practice green waste management processes.

Jason Morris, Vice President of External Affairs and Programs
Nature Bridge

Jason presented a general background for Nature Bridge, formerly known as the Yosemite Institute. Nature Bridge has been involved in environmental education for nearly 40 years, starting with one campus in Yosemite NP and expanding and growing over the years to four campuses. They work with all ages of school children with the largest percentage being middle school age. Nature Bridge endeavors to engage the kids, immersing them in nature. A main goal of their program is to introduce children to parks and the natural environment and build in them a sense of stewardship.

Nature Bridge currently has a project that involves meeting with agencies, universities, corporations and other entities to study what barriers there are in environmental education, what opportunities there are for leverage. They are grappling with broad questions facing us today with regards to environmental education: How can we work together with other groups or agencies to make a bigger and better impact? What are the barriers? How can we get more schools involved in such programs? How do we keep the collective impact from collapsing? How do we make EE essential and not supplemental?

Their study is ongoing and conclusions have not been developed yet. Jason welcomes CEEIN input and will email everyone. He is willing to meet with CEEIN again in Sept or Oct to share the results of Nature Bridge's "Building the Field" project.

Minutes

April and May minutes not approved, see action items.

Action Items Follow-Up

- Brochure inventory showed 200 on hand, will need to place print order, quantity to be determined. If any changes needed contact Michelle Robinson by June 27th
- Minutes from April (Susan's) and May (Michelle's) still need changes. Some discussion on format of minutes, to be taken up by Administration Committee.

Committee Reports:

- Administration: Committee has not met lately. Jim Greco will be joining this committee.
- Communications: Natalie will be leaving this committee. Everyone was reminded to use only the current email address list.
- Leadership, Legislation, Diversity: Bobbie is now part of this group as is Jim Greco. The group met recently, joined by representatives of Cal Alive who shared news about their new climate change program.

Education and the Environment Initiative

- In production – on web, more fully digital applications
- Website is being redesigned, more content also being added.
- Implementation is going well; there are 20 – 21 early adopting school districts.
- On-line professional development is being planned for late in the calendar year.
- Still waiting on the NOAA grant.
- New brochures are being targeted to specific audiences (i.e. teachers, water agencies, general audience, etc.)

New Business – not dealt with due to time constraints

What's New in Your World – not shared due to time constraints; people should send in reports electronically.

Meeting Wrap-Up/Clarify Action Items

- Bryan asked for everyone to spread the word about GEELA nominations; he also is looking for judges; contact Brian for details.
- Mike will share publication on service learning: *Learning that Lasts*
- Anne will share publication on conducting evaluations.
- July speaker is teacher from Delhi who has developed a very innovative program: Valley Eco Connection.

Adjourn