

RIEEA Board Meeting

September 13, 2016

Board Members Present: Jim Murphy, Elisabeth Bux, Sam Polon, Kelly Shea, Andrea Stein, Rachel Holbert, Paul Dolan, April Alix, Denise Poyer, Lauren Parmelee, Bridgette Kubis Prescott

Other Participants: Jeanine Silversmith, Meghan Davies, Mark Pagliarini, Matt Shenck, Emily George, Patti McAlpine, Shari Bitsis, Kassi Archambault, Lisa Maloney, Krystal Noiseux, Egidia Vergano, TeeJay Boudreau

Location: RI Resource Recovery Corporation, Johnston, RI

Coffee and Conversation: Summer Camps

Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report (Bridget)

- \$11,894 in account
- Income:
 - Flatbread Fundraiser, PLT Grant, NAAEE, individual and organizational memberships
- Expenses: Environmental Literacy Assessment Planning Summit, Storage Unit for Flower Show materials, PD scholarships, ELP coordinator

Membership Update (Jeanine)

We received four new individual memberships and one new organizational member (RIDEM) since last meeting. We now have a total of 39 individual and 49 organizational members.

New Member Introduction

Organizational Committee Update (Elisabeth)

- Our last Strategic Plan ended in 2015. In review it was determined that RIEEA achieved all goals set in the plan except one.
- The Environmental Literacy Assessment Planning Summit achieved desired goal, which was to outline the way to create an assessment tool that correlates student achievements to Environmental Education. Experts in EE and education assessment from around the country attended. It was decided that the assessment will look at K-12 only and not the general population of the state. This assessment will be timely due to the education landscape focused on EE.
- At the RIEEA Organizational Meeting we adopted the four initiatives that came out of Summit and were reported by New Knowledge Organization:
 1. Leadership and partnership – having a group of people focused on state and federal level
 2. Striving for excellence in practice of EE and Environmental Literacy

3. Monitoring status of K-12 EL – traditional assessment tool
4. Environmental Literacy supporting a better RI – reaching out and building partnership with non-traditional EE groups
 - The estimated length of time to do this is 3 to 6 years (3 years to initiate; 3 to run).
 - New Knowledge believes RIEEA is well positioned to achieve these initiatives and will work with RIEEA to move these forward, including identifying funding sources.
 - They estimated that it will take a \$1 million budget.
 - Paid staff should be attached to each of the 4 initiatives.
 - It was noted that RI colleges and universities will be important partners in these initiatives, including working with pre-service students.

Possible funding opportunities:

- Appropriations from congress in relation to ESSA
- PISCES Foundation – approached RIEEA about supporting formal education as it relates to NGSS. Wants RIEEA to apply this fall to update ELP to align with NGSS. Updated ELP will help continue to build Case for Support and moving the 4 initiatives forward. While these grants tend to be small (\$5-10K), RIEEA may be eligible for larger grants from them.
- Continue to work with NAAEE.
- Rasmussen grant identified by New Knowledge for a \$500,000 two-year grant. A Letter of Intent is due tomorrow (9/14/2016). This grant would create capacity to hire staff.
- It was decided that the October Board Meeting, at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, will be a closed board meeting from 9 am to 1 pm to discuss organizational priorities and will include a potluck lunch. There is \$800 left from the RIF grant, thanks to help from NAAEE. We will ask RIF if we could use these funds for a facilitator at that meeting to begin organizational planning. We have already identified a facilitator to use.
- A core team of four RIEEA members will attend regularly monthly ESSA meetings with RIDE to make sure that EE is part of the conversation.
- GroundWorks Providence received an EPA EE grant. RIEEA will be assisting in part of this grant. More information will be provided at the November meeting.

Motion – Appoint Emily George to the RIEEA Board. Passed unanimously.

Motion – Appoint Kelly Shea as PD committee chair. Passed unanimously.

Motion – Submit Letter of Intent to Rasmussen. Passed unanimously.

Flower Show Committee (Emily and April)

- We will be selling all the elements that are currently in storage so that we can close storage unit. The committee is exploring ways to either sell entire content or items one at a time. Jeanine will put the information on the listserv. It was suggested that we send information to schools, especially PTAs, and bridal expos.

- Several vendors have filed a claim in small claims court to recoup some of their losses from non-payment by the Flower Show. It is estimated that RIEEA lost about \$800. Jim and Sam will look into filing a claim for RIEEA as well.

Marketing and Communication Committee (April Alix)

- RIEEA will be looking to use the video from KACEE (the RIEEA of Kansas) that has been edited for RIEEA to set up a fundraising site for the giving time of Nov, Dec. It was suggested we set a goal of \$3 to \$5K. It was also suggested that RIEEA should reach out to a few orgs. that match donations of their employees, such as CVS, Pfizer, and Harvard and other corporations.
- Sam Polon has taken over Instagram.
- We are currently looking for a new ListServe.
- Marketing and Communication Committee will be meeting soon to discuss how to make our website even more user friendly.

Professional Development Committee (Kelly Shea)

- 4 scholarships totaling \$375 given out since last meeting
- There is a balance of \$334.50 in the scholarship account
- Flatbread Fundraiser brought in \$519.75. \$23.22 was spent on creating a RIEEA banner, so net is \$496.23. It was suggested that these funds could go into the PD scholarship fund. We will put it on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- Roundtable Potluck will be at Save The Bay on October 26.
- PLT –
 - Facilitator training by national staff in August not quite what we expected
 - K to 12 teacher training and Early Childhood trainings went very well.
 - Had another workshop for Central Falls teachers on August 31.
 - Submitting a proposal for a Model Program Initiative (MPI) Grant with the 5 other New England states. Project will enable Jeanine and 2-3 other board members to attend trainings on fundraising and communications/marketing.

NEEEA Updates (Sam Polon & Rachel Holbert) August meeting –

- Received breakdown of what each state dues are used for, as well as up to date budget docs.
- Improving communications of board
- Issue of paying dues was discussed – other states have had problems paying
- 2017 conference will be done by NEEAA board as opposed to the state org in line, which would have been Vermont. Will be held in Devens, MA, and accessible by train to more urban populations.
- Created committees.
 - Sam will be chairing the Finance and Fundraising Committee.
 - Rachel will chair the Communications/Marketing committee
- 2016 Conference will be at Wisdom House in CT Nov 4 to 6.
- Keep checking website for conference registration.

Announcements

- GEMS-Net has Fall Teacher Training Workshops. Sign up through Kelly Shea.
- NBS is having 32nd Harvest Fair Oct 1 & 2.
- WRWS Bikathon on Sept. 17.
- Children's Friend is looking for committee member. Contact Sam for information.

Next meeting: October 11, 2016 at Norman Bird Sanctuary