

Approved 10/10/17

RIEEA Board Meeting 9/12/17

Coggeshall Farm, Bristol, RI

9:00 Coffee and Conversation-Topic High School Programs

9:30 Call to Order

Attendance: Rachel Holbert (President), Krystal Noiseux, Bev Migliore, Cindy Corsair, Letty Hanson, Jeanine L., Jim Murphy (Board), Molly Allard (Vice President), Paul Dolan (Board), Pete Stetson, Josh LaPlante (Board), April Alix (Board), Lauren Parmelee (Board), Bridget Kubis-Prescott (Treasurer), Amanda Baez (Board), Shannon Rosay, Kelly Shea (Board), Jeanine Silversmith, Lisa Maloney, Jen Kelly, Kassi Archambault, Emily George (Board), Sam Polon (Board), Meg Warburton, Brandy Lapinski

-Motion to approve August minutes (Sam, seconded Molly, approved unanimously)

-Membership Report (Elisabeth, reported by Rachel): 1 new individual member (Karen Wargo), 1 organizational renewal (Netwalking)

-Treasurer's report-

Income: \$288.29 (9 PLT registrations, \$5 donation, \$25 for individual membership, less \$11.71 in PayPal fees)

Expenses: \$2,244.54 (Staff, \$100 PD scholarship, \$50 office supplies, \$180 legal & professional fees, \$189.54 PLT grant expenses)

-Motion to nominate Krystal Noiseux and Cindy Corsair to join the Board (April, seconded by Bridget, approved unanimously). Board now full at 17 members.

-Project Learning Tree Report (PLT) (Jeanine): August workshops went well. RIEEA notified National PLT that it will step away from coordination role but publicize the opening for a new state coordinator if necessary. TeeJay from Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) is considering stepping in as State Coordinator and has begun communicating with National PLT and Susan Cox. Organizations were able to be compensated for the August workshops with between \$600 and \$700 left over.

-Groundwork Rhode Island (GWRI) Grants (Amanda): Four fall programming proposals were received and programs will begin soon. Several schools, including a Middle School, will be receiving programming. There may be funding for one spring project remaining. Jeanine will be reaching out to awardees for details and coming to see programs in action to document best practices.

-Initiatives 1 and 2 (Jeanine, Bridget, and Molly): Meeting on 9/13 to review "Blueprint" from marketing consultants Worldways Social Marketing. Potluck on 9/27 will serve as next meeting for Initiatives 1 and 2.

-Initiative 3 (Kelly): Designer Susan Gracia has produced a couple of drafts of the 'State of the State' Environmental Education survey. A final pilot version is expected in September. Board requested to provide 5 names each of teachers who may be willing to take pilot survey, especially High School teachers and teachers outside of the GEMS-Net network. True survey will be released in April or May. Public, private, and charter schools can all be surveyed.

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-Initiative 4 (Josh): Meeting on Thursday 9/14 at 4:00 pm at The Greene School to plan the larger October meeting. The goal of the October meeting is to form an advisory council for developing the Environmental Literacy Assessment. Jeanine will be meeting with Simone Palmer from RIDE on October 6 at 10 am to fill her in on the work of Initiative 4.

-Diversity (Sam): At the most recent meeting the Diversity Committee looked at their goals document and talked about the results of the Diversity Survey. Representatives will soon be introducing themselves to respective initiative chairs. Anyone is welcome to join this committee.

-Funding Search (Jeanine): Three board members sent information about funding research tools to Jeanine. Elisabeth and Jeanine will meet to make a recommendation about the value of joining an online funding research service.

-Operations (Rachel): The Operations Committee met to discuss three major issues:

1. Job Descriptions were last updated in 2010, and require some revision as well as the creation of documents for Board members and Officers to sign
2. Contractor Performance Evaluations were finalized. Contractors will be reviewed by President (Rachel) and a second Officer greater than one month before the end of each contract.
3. Bylaws require revisions including the language around contractors, a change in terminology from "Executive Board" to "Board" when discussing the larger board of 17, and the inclusion of new job descriptions. Marisa Desautel has volunteered to help with these revisions.

-Discussion about Annual Meeting topics. Ideas discussed included Pathway Endorsements, empowering youth to pursue careers in environmental education, the "short stories" model, and the possibility of expanding the meeting into a small conference. Jeanine will compile a list of board members who are interested in joining the Annual Meeting Committee for further discussion.

-Discussion about the desirability of RIEEA Board Members applying to attend other conferences, particularly NAAEE, and giving presentations.

-Advocacy (Shareen, reported by Jeanine): The House draft budget does not include much funding for existing environmental education programs. Senate funding is slightly higher. If a continuing resolution is passed, programs will continue at a lower funding level. Elisabeth will be participating in a Twitter party organized by NAAEE to help raise awareness.

-Announcements:

- Kelly will be presenting her Masters research at a conference in Spain
- Schoolyard Habitat Program applications are due Friday 9/15; one project will be funded
- The Rhode Island College STEAM Central program will be presented in Westerly on 10/21/17; Jeanine will table to represent RIEEA
- The RI Resource Conservation and Development Council Small Scale Forestry Program will be presented at the South Kingstown Land Trust Barn on 9/23/17
- The Woony River Ride is on 9/16/17

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- Pete Stetson will be presenting the Power of Data Program to teachers interested in computer mapping programs in Spring 2018. He has started a consulting business to help teachers design mapping programs for their school.