

# *Environmental Education Commission*

## **Meeting Minutes**

August 8, 2017

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Louisiana Room, Baton Rouge Office

1:04 PM

### **I. Call to order**

Angela Capello called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

### **II. Roll Call/Sign-in**

Commission Members Present:

Jill Cowart, Denise Bennett, April Newman, Angela Capello, Brian Salvatore, Dean Blackett, Dinah Maygarden, Cole Ruckstuhl, Heather Egger, Heather Niemic, Kea Sherman

Staff present:

Brian Gautreau, Thomas Gresham, Venise Ortego.

### **III. New Member Welcome**

New Commission member Brian Salvatore was welcomed.

### **IV. Minutes from last meeting**

The minutes were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

### **V. Financial Report:**

Venise provided a financial report. She explained the structure of the budget for new members.

### **VI. Coordinator's Report:**

Venise provided the coordinator's report. A complete report was provided in the Commission's Packet.

1. The EE symposium planning progress: A contract has been signed with the Marriott Hotel for February 23 and 24, 2018. There is a need to raise more funds (~\$5,000) for the symposium. Shell has not yet provided 2017 funding – still waiting to hear from them. Heather asked 3 questions about the symposium 1. Why not use Pennington? Venise replied that Pennington was booked for those dates; also banquet space is needed for the symposium. 2. Would the Marriott allow a discount? Venise said she has tried to get a discount, but the only discount allowed was the cost of the brochures. Last year Marriott broke the contract, so this was their concession. There are limited venues to choose from in Baton Rouge. 3. A question regarding funding from Shell. The application has been completed and response is pending.
2. Grants Program: Grants Committee will release proposal announcement in late August; not all will be awarded. The total award is \$40K. 75% can be awarded. The total amount rewarded has been scaled back.
3. LSSS Working Group Meeting took place at Pennington on August 2. 43 people participated. Cain Center provided lunch. Co-facilitators and hosts with LEEC staff were: Jill Cowart, Brenda Nixon, Angela Capello, Morgan Crutcher (CRCL), Susan Russell (KLB).
4. Other events LEEC staff have participated in include:
  - a. Thomas presented at “Tales from the Bayou” at West Baton Rouge Museum summer History Camp in June and presented Whooping Crane Data Lesson at The Teachers’ Institute in July.
  - b. Brian attended the Teacher Leader Summit in June.
  - c. Brian and Thomas volunteered with LUMCON at Meet the Fleet in May.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **A. Watershed Webs Grant:**

- a. Updates: Dinah and Thomas reported on the field experiences completed as part of the NOAA BWET grant – including a field experience for Big Buddies in July on Dawson Creek at LDWF Headquarters. Ten students attended.
- b. Extension – Additional Student Experiences will be ongoing during the fall semester as part of the extension of the grant. These include a field experience at Fontainebleau State park in November with Elizabeth Fonseca’s students.

### **B. Environmental Awareness Art & Language Arts Contest:**

Updates: Thomas reported that the Art & Language Arts contest reception took place at the Governor’s mansion on June 13. The First lady was very happy to host. Art work was displayed from the 2018 Calendar. Funding: ALCOA is no longer operating in Louisiana so no longer funding the contest. ALCOA used to give \$20K - \$10K was for billboards and \$10K for other expenses, including prize money. At least \$10K is needed to continue. Ideas for finding additional funding were floated.

### **C. Green Ribbon Schools Program:**

- a. Brian showed a video of the 2017 awards in Washington DC in July. Belle Chasse Academy, Mayfair Lab School and LSU were Louisiana’s awardees. Applications for 2018 have been approved and outreach has begun. Right now there are 3-4 being nominated. This should increase.
- b. Youth Summit: Brian is deciding between new Audubon Louisiana Nature Center in New Orleans and Pennington in Baton Rouge.
- c. Green Ribbon Schools Network: Upcoming meeting has been postponed. The USGBC coordinator’s position is currently open.

### **D. 2018 Symposium Committee meeting:**

- a. Updates – July 17 planning meeting.
- b. Price change: The cost of symposium registration and short course has increased. Registration \$35 - \$45 (it used to be \$45; was decreased for Shreveport and now going back to \$45); Short course \$10 - \$20. The inclusion of a round table format is being discussed. The topic would be LSSS, and other to be decided themes. Ideas for a keynote speaker were floated, including Sarah Mack (Tierra Resources) and Calvin Mackie (STEM NOLA). Short Course ideas were discussed. The theme of Green STEM was also discussed.
- c. Committee formation: The sign-up sheets were circulated.

### **E. LSSS Working Group Meeting:**

- a. Updates – Jill Cowart reported that the goal of the meeting was to bring informal science educators together to determine how they can best support teachers in implementing new standards. LSSS 3-D standards are complex. The attendees worked in groups based on topic areas/ themes to identify standards for each theme. The greatest need is to expose teachers to current science phenomena. A web-based searchable database of relevant phenomena is to be built to allow access by ~30K science teachers in the state.
- b. Round 2 meeting is slated for September 6.

### **F. Outreach update per bylaws: This was tabled due to lack of a quorum.**

## **VIII. New Business**

- A. Vice-chair vote: This was tabled due to lack of a quorum.
- B. The Green STEM theme was discussed in relation to the theme for the next Art and language Arts contest. Concern that the theme may need re-stating for the contest. The theme of “Green Careers” was discussed. Venise proposed an email vote to decide on the theme.

**IX. Announcements**

**X. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

November 14, 2017, February 23, 2018 (at Symposium), May 8, 2018, August 14, 2018

**XI. Adjournment**

Jill moved to adjourn at 2:35.