

*Environmental Education Commission*  
**Meeting Minutes**  
February 12, 2019  
LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Louisiana Room, Baton Rouge Office

**I. Call to order**

Chair Heather Niemic called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

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

Commission members present: Jada Lewis, Jessica Dixon, Breigh Rhodes, Justin Gremillion, Matt Reonas, Angela Capello, Brian Salvatore, Brenda Walkenhorst, Dianne Lindstedt, Dean Blackett, Dinah Maygarden, Jennifer Roberts, Connie Conner, Christy Flynn, Brenda Nixon, Heather Egger, Pierre LaCaze, Kelia Bingham, Heather Niemic, Kea Sherman, Christopher Chappell

LEEC staff present: Brian Gautreau, Thomas Gresham, Venise Ortego

Guests: Tomeka Prioleau representing DEQ

**III. New Member Welcome**

Chris Chappell, representing Southern University AgCenter  
Breigh Rhodes, representing LA Dept. of Education

**IV. Minutes from last meeting**

Minutes from the November 12, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

**V. Financial Report**

Venise presented the financial report.

**VI. Coordinator's Report**

**Green Schools Program:** Brian reported that Brookstown Middle School submitted an application, which was reviewed and accepted. The phenomena website continues to have new phenomena added.

**Litter Education:** Brian continues to work on developing a K-5 litter education module and has three new LSSS storylines written. Brian has been facilitating litter education workshops and more are in planning.

**Strategic Planning:** Venise provided an outline of the staff's approach to accomplishing new strategic plan goals. Several actions will need to be postponed until funding can be secured.

**VII. Business**

**1. Art & Language Arts Contest (Connie)**

The contest is now open and the deadline is set for April 19, 2019. All information has been circulated. We need to promote the event.

**2. Bylaws Committee (Dianne)**

Nothing has changed. The information has not been circulated in time for folks to make changes. The bylaws committee will have information for the next meeting.

**3. Grants Committee (Brenda N.)**

Grant RFPs were released on January 8<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for submission is February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Audit recommendations were incorporated into the guidelines. No proposals have come in yet.

**4. Nominating Committee (Angela)**

There is one vacancy on the board representing Industry. Matt is working to secure someone for the industry vacancy. Kea may have alternate who is a chemical engineer with one of the big companies.

**5. Outreach Committee (Heather N.)**

Symposium was included in outreach, but no longer includes that group.

**6. 2019 Regional Short Courses (Jessica)**

Ten short courses will be offered on Saturday and 117 people are currently registered. The Eagle Tour was canceled due to shortage of staff. Using Mobile Devices and 4-H Youth Wetlands Program were cancelled due to low numbers.

**7. 2020 EE Symposium update** (Heather N.)

Full symposium to be held at Fontainebleau State Park—Date is March 6-7, 2020 (Fri-Sat). We should be ok to host at Fontainebleau that weekend. The committee consists of Jada, Jessica D., Dinah, Brenda Nixon, Heather E., Angela, Brian, Jen R. Can we work on a science teacher point of contact in each parish? 10 contacts with teachers over the next year to recruit participation.

**8. Strategic Planning recap** (Heather N.)

- New level of engagement from Commission members—attendance required, update bylaws with new requirements.
- Commission needs to be the prime mover and facilitator for EE in LA—ID action items
- Provide support/resources for educators in schools—link teachers and educators together, creating web resources
- Promotion, awareness building, brand development –is there a pamphlet, info? Yes. We have a folder of resources we can share with commission members.
- Build a comprehensive set of partnerships—industry, teachers, champions, collaborators, philanthropy
- Increase available financial resources—gain access to the roll over \$. Government Relations Committee?

**9. Strategic Planning Committee formation** (Jessica)

The Commission broke up into subcommittees:

- Education & Advocacy Resources: teachers, leaders, resources for traditional and nontraditional resources, create a network system to share these resources.
- Marketing and Brand Development
- Building Partnerships: businesses, leaders, environmental advocacy organizations
- Financial Resources: finding funders, accessing our roll over, what is the timing

**VIII. Program Spotlight** – Native Fish in the Classroom (Angela)

**IV. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

May 14, 2019, August 27, 2019, November 12, 2019, February 11, 2020 (tentative)

**X. Installation of New Chair** – Heather Niemic

**XI. Adjournment**