

**Louisiana Environmental Education Commission**  
**Special Meeting**  
**July 22, 2020, 9:00 a.m. via Zoom**

I. **Call to Order:** LEEC Chair Jennifer Roberts called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m. and took roll call.

II. **Roll Call**

**Commission members:** Murt Conover, Jessica Dixon, Breigh Rhodes, Robin Dufilho, Brian Salvatore, Susan Testroet-Bergeron (pending member), Dianne Lindstedt, Ashley Golden Cain, Dean Blackett, Dinah Maygarden, Jennifer Roberts, Cole Ruckstuhl, Connie Conner, Christy Flynn, Pierre LaCaze, Kelia Bingham, Brian Gautreau, Kea Sherman, Christopher Chappell, Morgan Crutcher

**Staff:** Venise Ortego

**Guests:** Tomeka Prioleau (for DEQ); Rachel Szczytko, Pisces Foundation; Jill Cowart, LDOE; Jim Elder, Campaign for Environmental Literacy; Jerry Lieberman, State Education and Environment Roundtable; Brittany Jayroe, Gina LaMotte, and Jaynell Nicholson, EcoRise; Evy Alford and Dale Winkler, Southern Regional Education Board

III. New member welcome: Murt Conover and Morgan Crutcher

Venise Ortego urged participants to view the LEEC HUB for relevant documents.

IV. **ELP Development**

A. **Morgan Crutcher gave a presentation on the importance of and needs for revisiting and updating the state Environmental Literacy Plan.**

Louisiana has been implementing the ELP without official state adoption. NAAEE has guidelines for ELP development. Morgan highlighted California's Education and Environmental Initiative. A 2014 study compared state ELPs in which Louisiana scored high in professional development and low on standards and implementation.

B. **Jill Cowart gave overview of the Pisces grant awarded for LDOE use.**

It is a 1-year grant with an option of a second year. The goal is to create a shared vision for environmental literacy for Louisiana. Breigh is the project manager. Jim Elder and Jerry Lieberman are collecting data from EE providers

C. Jennifer called for a vote to create a new Environmental Literacy Plan committee. The vote for committee creation passed 14-0.

Louisiana ELP for K-12, Workforce prep, Higher Ed, and General public.

V. **Scheduled Reports**

A. **Report from Gina LaMotte with EcoRise**

An overview of results of their survey of informal environmental education programs around the state was given. Also introduced Brittany Jayroe, Program Director, and Jaynell Nicholson, Program Manager, outreach tech and data manager. She had reached out to

programs to request participation in data collection survey. Showed spatial data on ArcGIS map and on Kumu, a network map – online tool. The data provides a directory of (38?) programs that responded.

There are gaps in the data:

- If there was no response from organization
- There showed a low alignment with standards,
- Curriculum integration and
- Workforce development.

Jill commented that these data are valuable for tracking progress over time. The database will continue to be built out with future data collections.

**B. Report from Southern Regional Education Board (SREB):**

This was LDOE commissioned for the Environmental Protection and Sustainability student curriculum pathway to meet workforce needs. Dale Winkler introduced and Ivy Alford, who presented. The Office of School Improvement is located in Atlanta. Analysis of post-secondary courses and High School courses. Career awareness is needed in middle school.

**VI.** Next steps, Jennifer

**VII.** Announcements

A. For vote in August meeting: reappointments, bylaws revisions

B. Venise mentioned that the list of informal EE programs can be found on LEEC Hub and input is needed there.

**VIII.** Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.