

Environmental Education Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2017

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Baton Rouge Office, Louisiana Room

1 PM

I. Call to order

Angela Capello called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

II. Roll Call/Sign-in

Commission members present: Jada Lewis, Craig McClain, Jessica Dixon, Jill Cowart, Gary Balsamo, April Newman, Angela Capello, Brian Salvatore, Dean Blackett, Dinah Maygarden, Cole Ruckstuhl, Connie Conner, Heather Niemic, Brenda Nixon,

LEEC Staff: Brian Gautreau, Thomas Gresham

Guests: Mary Cooper, PAAC; Tomeka Prioleau, LDEQ; Amy Tilley, LA State Parks.

III. New Member Welcome

Craig McClain of the Board of Regents was welcomed to LEEC.

IV. Minutes from last meeting

The Minutes from the February, May, and August meetings were presented to the Commission for approval, as there was a quorum. Brenda Nixon moved to accept all minutes. Cole seconded. The minutes from all three meetings were approved by the Commission.

V. Financial Report

Thomas Gresham presented the financial report. He gave an explanation about the changes related with the symposium account, which was previously separate, but is now being transferred to LA Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation.

April requested Litter Abatement fund review.

VI. Coordinator's Report:

Much of the content of the coordinators' report is contained in Old Business.

Art and Language Art Calendars are available for Commission members to distribute. Endangered species trading cards – matching trading cards with calendar art work. \$4000 was spent to print 5,000 copies.

Symposium funds – Brian Salvatore mentioned Weiner Foundation, question about whether donation from Shell has been received.

Craig suggested rotating the venue to college campuses around Louisiana.

Thomas presented brochure for Art and Language Arts: new theme – Green STEM. This is a difficult concept to introduce to students. Ways to help teachers were discussed.

Grants Program – A list of the finalists was provided – 3 Educator grants, 3 Green School grants, and 1 Professional Development grant.

VII. Old Business

A. Watershed Webs grant

Dinah and Thomas gave a report on the most recent student experiences, including field trip to Vermilionville with 50 students from Lafayette.

B. Environmental Awareness Art & Language Arts Contest

Thomas presented brochure for Art and Language Arts: New theme – Green STEM. This is a difficult concept to introduce to students. Ways to help teachers discussed.

C. Green Ribbon Schools program

Brian reported that applications were released. Green Schools sustainability discussion (Jada). Jill commented that Green Schools program needs to be on BESE's radar to increase interest.

D. GS Youth Summit

Brian reported that the second Youth Summit is in planning. Venue is donated by Pennington; Goal is for students to present results of Green School ideas. This year's summit is likely to be larger than last year. Students sign up online. A survey showed that spring was the best time to hold it.

E. LSSS Workshop

Jill reported on the meeting that took place on October 5 at Claiborne building. LEEC staff, Lydia Hill and Jill from LA Dept. Ed, and Brenda Nixon co-facilitated.

The website for science phenomena was showcased. Educators are submitting phenomena to develop a repository that teachers can use. The goal is to have more than 50 phenomena by summer. An evaluation of LSSS working Group meeting provided in Commissioners' packet.

Jill mentioned that science teachers are working to integrate the new standards into their teaching, emphasizing the big shift in approach. Non-formal educators need to know what teachers need and provide material for Louisiana specific issues. An evaluation of LSSS Working Group meeting was provided in Commissioners' packet.

F. Outreach – See below for notes on Outreach Committee and Bylaws.

G. 2018 Symposium Committee Reports, 5 minutes each

1. Audio Visual, *H. Niemic* – She will be able to borrow all the necessary AV equipment from the Ag Center
2. Door Prize/Hospitality, *C. Conner* – She is working on getting door prizes donated, but finding it harder to find donations.
3. Evaluation, *J. Cowart*
4. Exhibitor, *A. Capello* – More exhibitors needed.
5. Finance, *C. Ruckstuhl* – Reported elsewhere. Donations from Entergy and Weiner Foundation are allowing the Cornell visitors to attend.
6. Keynote, *B. Salvatore* – Brian S and Brian G are working with Cornell professors Ross and Dugan-Haas.
7. Program, *T. Gresham* – More presenters are needed. Deadline is December 4.
8. Promotion, *K. Sherman*
9. Registration, *B. Walkenhorst*
10. Short Course, *D. Maygarden* – Short courses are listed, described in brochure.

VIII. New Business

A. NOAA 2018 grant proposal

Thomas reported that Venise has submitted a NOAA BWET proposal for a 2-year grant with a micro-plastics focus. Two workshops for teachers will take place – in Grand Isle. One objective will be to look for microplastics in the intestinal tracts of fish. Teachers will receive stipends for implementation.

B. Bylaws vote

A vote is needed to include Outreach Committee verbiage in Bylaws. Heather Niemic made a motion to accept the new verbiage as is. Dean seconded. The addendum was accepted by the Commission.

C. LEEC Vote of Officers

Jessica Dixon was nominated for Chair, and Heather Niemic was nominated for Chair-elect (to replace Jonathan Dearbone, who has left). A vote took place.

Jessica was elected chair, and Heather was voted Chair-elect.

IX. Announcements

Amy Tilley: The Office of State Parks has received art work from the Art and Language Arts contest to be framed and hung in cabins at Bayou Segnette State Park.

Dean Blackett suggested a lifetime hunting and fishing license for a grand door prize.

X. Next Meeting Dates

February 23, 2018 (at Symposium in Baton Rouge); May 8, 2018; August 14, 2018; November 13, 2018

XI. Adjournment

Cole made a motion to adjourn and Connie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.