

NEEAC Meeting Summary - July 24, 2013

Attendees:

EPA

Javier Araujo
Carly Carroll
Julia Ortiz
Stephanie Owens
Emily Paulus
Byron Schumate

NEEAC

Kay Antunez de Mayolo
Scott Fraser
Ken Gembel
Richard Gonzales, vice-chair
Caroline Lewis
Edna Negron
Mark Kraus

General Public

Ken Henschel (Department of Education)
Diane Wood (NEEF)

Welcome and review of agenda – Richard

EPA-HQ Updates (OEE) – Javier

Javier welcomed Diane, Greg, and Byron. He then gave an update on the hiring process for the NEEAC vacancy created by the departure of Kay from the State Department of Education and Natural Resources position. The candidate has been selected and different EPA departments are reviewing the selection. There was a brief discussion of the face to face meeting tentatively planned for early October. Edna, Mark, Caroline, Ken, Scott, and Kay said they would be available to attend. Richard would prefer to meet later in the month, as he has a big project.

Subcommittee Updates

Julia reported out on the subcommittee process. Preliminary reviews are complete and she hopes to announce nominees in one month. The NEEAC must select a name for the subcommittee. Julia is accepting suggestions, and she will send out examples of other subcommittee names. Julia clarified that the subcommittee will focus on green jobs and environmental education.

Listening Sessions

Emily reviewed the transcripts from the last listening session, and tabulated the input in a table format. OEE analyzed the information and determined that there wasn't anything particularly novel in the data. In an effort to get information that more clearly aligns with the draft outline of the report, OEE reviewed the April report and formulated the new questions based on outline for final report. They have been approved by EPA's legal team.

The questions are:

Question 1: What are some major obstacles to improving environmental education?

Question 2: What are the personal skills, education and training that are needed to respond to current and future environmental problems?

Question 3: Could you describe the extent and quality of environmental education programs that exist in your area?

Question 4: What are some national or local programs that could serve as models for future environmental education initiatives?

The questions will be sent out to the NEEAC members for review.

Javier discussed the schedule of listening sessions.

Richard suggested that the stakeholder Working Group meet in the next two days and clarified the listening session format and outreach plan.

Workgroup Updates

Research Workgroup (RWG) – The RWG submitted the draft report and has no further updates. Richard thanked the RWG for synthesizing information and giving a historical perspective on the evolution of EE. He asked about other reports coming out and Edna said she would make a list. Richard encouraged the council to send e-mails with relevant reports on climate and other issues to Edna.

Definitions Workgroup – Still on hold.

Drafting/Outline Workgroup – Kelly is spearheading the efforts. They are adding in appendices, narratives, and tables. It was suggested that the findings be put into a format that people would find immediately useful and apprehensible.

Stakeholder Workgroup – This workgroup will set up a quick meeting to rekindle communication and prepare for listening sessions. They will begin scheduling hosts for the individual calls.

Public comment

There were no comments from the public.

Follow Up Steps

The workgroups will continue to meet.

Ken was nominated as co-chair of the subcommittee and accepted.

Scott, Kay and Caroline agreed to participate in the subcommittee.

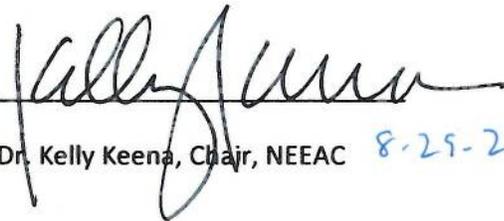
Julia will check to see if vice chair of the subcommittee must be from the main group.

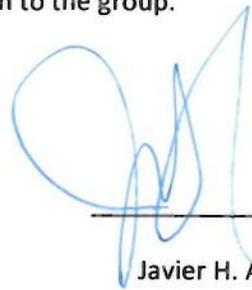
Javier will send out the various documents mentioned above.

Richard scheduled a stakeholder workgroup call, thanked the Department of Education for listening in, and applauded them for their Green Schools Program.

Diane reported that NEEF has three reports that are looking at EE for employee engagement with major corporations. She will send them to Edna for distribution to the group.

Submitted by:


Dr. Kelly Keena, Chair, NEEAC 8-29-2013


8-29-2013
Javier H. Araujo, NEEAC, EPA, DFO

