

**California Environmental Education Interagency Network
Meeting Minutes**



Date: 3/15/2018

Location: USDA

Meeting Leader: Andrew Gordon

Note Taker: Bryan Ehlers

Attendee's in-person:

Andy Gordon, California Conservation Corps
Shannon Gordon, California Department of Education
Lesley Taylor, California Department of Education
Curtis Ewing, CalFire
Lesa Johnston, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Susan Knadle, Retired OEHHA
Kathy Schulz, California Department of Water Resources
Greg Ira, UC ANR - California Naturalist
Jeff Onsted, California Department of Conservation
Bryan Ehlers, CalRecycle

On the phone:

Annie Frankel, California Coastal Commission
Tom Drake, Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education

1. **Meeting called to order at:** 9:45am
2. **Reviewed Agenda and Passed Around Sign-In Sheet**
3. **Reviewed & Approved Meeting Minutes (w/ minor revisions)**
4. **Reviewed Action Items from February Meeting**
 - a. Ed will put out a request to compile planned session proposal submissions for CSTA. (Ongoing)
 - b. Shannon will notify CEEIN members to submit statements about CEEIN by Wednesday, February 21, 2018 for ranking by members through a survey. (DONE)

5. Committee Reports:

Administration and Organization Committee Update:

Lesley suggested discussing what we want CEEIN to do on a future agenda (i.e., opportunities to deepen collaboration).

Discussion ensued including the following thoughts:

- Good collaboration is occurring between various members and could/should be clearly documented (and other members made aware).
- Members have full-time responsibilities outside of CEEIN, so further/deeper collaboration needs to respect this (and would, therefore, need to pay dividends to participating members in terms of achieving existing goals).

- CalRecycle is charged by law with coordinating the integration of EP&Cs into environment education materials/programs produced by state departments and intended for K-12 audiences. The Office of Education and the Environment is available (and eager) to consult with department developing new materials. CDE can also be consulted to find assistance as to whether there is likely to be educator demand for proposed materials.

Outreach, Diversity, and Partnerships Committee Update:

Greg raised environmental outdoor education accreditation/certification as a topic for future discussion.

Shannon provided background on outdoor schools' education programs and landscape in California.

Upcoming Events of Note:

AEOE Statewide Conference – April 27-29, Malibu, CA

--Registration still open (not sure about session proposals)

CSTA – Nov 30 – Dec 2, Pasadena, CA

--Session proposals due by May 1st

--Discussed possibility of merging strands with ELSC – Bryan and Annie to discuss further

--Tom Drake on advertising committee

STEAM – Oct 28-29, Long Beach, CA

--Registration opens in March

Annie attended CA Outdoor Engagement Coalition events (organized by Jenny Mulholland-Beahrs). A lot happening. Meeting was inspiring. Some good data likely to come out of effort. CEEIN members should take a closer look and consider getting involved.

Leadership and Legislation Committee Update:

Shannon: CEEIN needs to continue to evaluate our CEEIN identity as mentioned in the CEEIN Procedural Handbook (e.g., are we truly “environmental educators”) and, per the Handbook, CEEIN is try and reach consensus before taking a vote, but how do we know when we have adequately consulted enough members to determine consensus? All the regular active participating agencies, Departments, Boards, and Commissions that should be consulted needs to be more clearly explained in the Handbook.

CEEIN bylaws call for decision to be put to a vote only if consensus cannot be reached. Members generally agreed that consensus means no one strenuously objects.

Discussed need to generate more awareness of, and support for, education as a strategy for helping Cal/EPA and CNRA departments meet their policy goals. Identified need for CNRA engagement and representation on Environmental Literacy Steering Committee (Kealii Bright was one name mentioned).

Shannon shared bills being tracked that are related to environmental education. Shannon will put more information on each bill in the Leadership and Legislation folder in box.com.

New bills:

- Bill: AB 1964
- Bill: SB 1048
- Bill: AB 2614

6. Other Agenda Items and Other Announcements:

CREEC Update

CREEC Region Newsletter

All communications (including newsletters) must comply with Section 508 compliance for all Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that an agency, organization, or institution creates. More information about Section 508 can be found online at: <https://www.section508.gov/content/build/determine-need-build>

The California Department of Education is not requiring agencies, organizations, or institutions in the CREEC Network to distribute CREEC Regional Quarterly Newsletters. This decision will be made by the individual entity responsible for distributing the ICT.

CREEC Network website update (www.creec.org)

The website is in a transition while we are in negotiations with a contractor to host a website for the CREEC Network. The current website is exhibiting structural and functional problems that will hopefully be resolved by the new contractor. We apologize for any inconvenience visitors to the website are experiencing during this time of transition.

Lesley – Green Ribbon Schools award-winners have been selected and will be announced later in April. Upcoming and former winners are good candidates for partnerships and/or participating in new pilots/initiatives with CEEIN members. She is available to help make introductions.

Curtis – New to CEEIN and trying to get oriented. Deals with invasive tree pests. Prior experience in outdoor education.

Lesa – Sac St recently informed DFW that all staff must go through criminal background check in order to have direct interaction with students at upcoming Nature Bowl event. Has anyone dealt with this? Group seemed to think that check is not necessary if student's parent is present. More discussion offline.

Susan – Finishing seminars at UC-Davis.

Jeff – Has given recent guest lectures at UC-Davis. Talks about laws in which state work is based and orients students to state service. Most people outside government are not aware of the laws and policies around which our work is organized. Placing fellows from UCD within department.

Bryan – Possibility of an education event affiliated with Governor's Global Climate Summit in September. More information to follow as available.

7. Action Items from this meeting:

- a. Shannon will post links to legislation in the Leadership and Legislation folder in box.com.
- b. Add EE certification process update to future agendas under Outreach, Diversity, and Partnerships Committee
- c. Bryan and Annie to discuss CEEIN CSTA strand relative to ELSC

8. Wrap-up

Next Meeting: April 19, 2018, at the Resources Building

Meeting Lead: Heather Holm

Note Taker: Susan Knadle

9. What's New in Your World Updates:

Annie - She had two fantastic teacher workshops in Los Angeles last weekend, partnering with USC Sea Grant on Saturday and Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains on Sunday. Next week she'll be attending the conference for California Council for the Social Studies in San Diego and presenting a workshop there. The Coastal Commission just selected the winners of the k-12 Coastal Art & Poetry Contest and will be announcing them soon. They had about 2,600 entries this year.