

Environmental Education Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2018

LUMCON

11:30 AM

I. Call to order

Chair-elect Heather Niemic called the meeting to order at 11:40 am.

II. Roll Call/Sign-in

Commission members present: Heather Niemic, Justin Gremillion, Brenda Nixon, Denise Bennett, Dianne Lindstedt, Brenda Walkenhorst, Connie Conner. Angela Capello, Christy Flynn, Dinah Maygarden, Heather Egger, Kelia Bingham, Cole Ruckstuhl, Pierre LaCaze, Brian Salvatore, Jennifer Roberts. Jada Lewis joined the meeting at 12:45.

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

Guests: Breigh Rhodes LA Dept. of Education; Rudy Gomez - strategic planning session facilitator

III. New Member Welcome

1. Justin Gremillion – LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
2. Christy Flynn – LEEA, Congressional District 5
3. Pierre LaCaze – LA Science Teachers Association
4. Kelia Bingham – Local Government / Lafayette Parish Government
5. Chris Chappell – Southern University AgCenter

IV. Minutes from last meeting

Review of minutes from February 23, 2018: Jennifer Roberts made a motion to approve, Brenda Nixon seconded the motion and the minutes from the February 23, 2018 were unanimously approved. Next the Commission reviewed the minutes from the May 8, 2018 meeting. Cole Ruckstuhl made a motion to approve, Angela seconded and the May 8, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved. The minutes from the August 14, 2018 minutes were reviewed. Dianne Lindstedt made a motion to approve, Connie Conner seconded and all moved to accept the minutes. Minutes from February, May, and August were all approved

V. Financial Report

Commissioners were directed to page 50 in their binders to review the financial report. The carryover from FY 2018 is \$1,354,528.

VI. Coordinator's Report (Venise)

Outreach: Presentations to schools, garden club, LSTA (3 sessions), USGBC, Ocean Commotion. KLB Conference attendance, STEM Summit, Envirothon, Farm to School.

Watershed Webs: Watershed Webs Grant (NOAA) concluded, final report accepted. 4 teachers have requested continuation of field experiences. 1 field experience was completed; 3 additional experiences will be implemented by Thomas in Dec/Jan

Phenomena Website (Brian) LSU Cain Center will host phenomenon website (www.louisianaphenomenon.org) - it's being redeveloped with added features and site layout. This will go live in early 2019. There are 16 phenomena on the site currently. New Louisiana Student Standards for Science is through the lens of investigation of phenomena. Investigating a phenomenon should take more effort than a Google search. Objective is to link to another discipline to provide three dimensional learning. To develop a phenomenon, an educator can start with standards or start with phenomena. We are working with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to identify resources that will help educators identify appropriate resources that can be uploaded.

Litter Education: Brian Gautreau is contracted through LSU Cain Center. Keep Louisiana Beautiful is sponsoring a portion Brian's salary until we can get funds appropriated. Brian is going to be doing a lot of litter education for KLB.

Commission broke for lunch at the LUMCON cafeteria at noon, to reconvene at 12:45.

Commission reconvened at 12:45 with one additional member, Jada Lewis, joining at 12:45.

VII. Business

1. Art & Language Arts Contest (Thomas)

Each Commissioner has been given a 2019 calendar. The Arts and Language Arts contest is yearly. All students are welcome to submit an entry. This year's contest will close on April 19. 5,000 Calendars yearly. Judging for the contest will take place at the end of April or early May. The theme this year is "What's Great about Your Part of the State?" Next year—we will vote on ideas for 2019 in February. Brenda Nixon noted that we need to broaden our advertising so that we can increase our reach.

2. Green Schools (Brian)

Lycee Francais, Samuel J. Green, St. Thomas Moore, SLU, and Brookstown Middle are all applicants. A November 1st conference call occurred with Department of Education. The USDOE deadline for submissions is February 15. Our deadline is early January for participation. Announcement of award winners and recognition ceremony is May 15 and September 18, respectively.

3. 2019 LEEC Grants Program rule changes (Venise)

The 2019-2020 LEEC Educator Grant Guidelines have been updated to better meet the suggestions of our recent audit. Changes were reviewed on pp. 66-67 of the Commissioner binder. The audit identified vulnerabilities in our grants guidelines. The main issue is that we give money upfront (up to \$1,000); this is not best practice with state dollars. The Grants Committee had a call and decided to go with a full reimbursement process. Greyed out on pp. 66-67 are the changes that have been made: 1) teacher who is awarded grant, money follows the school not the teacher 2) reimbursement only 3) more specific language 4) responsibility for grants management clarity 5) no LEEC organizations can apply (LSTA) 6) responsible party definition refined. All grant guidelines changes must be promulgated through LDWF attorneys and through the LDWF Commission. It will take months but will not hinder our grants process. Q: Denise - are these guidelines for applicant or for the Commission? A: Venise - for the Commission.

4. Recent grant opportunities (Venise)

Grants have been written to Honda, Conoco (Watershed Webs extension), NOAA (in partnership with LDE) and a New Orleans nonprofit (Brian)—creating a fellowship program for wetland literacy. Twenty teacher fellows will attend workshops for content, field experiences, pedagogy, and how to develop phenomenon. Teachers will develop phenomenon and the potential is to develop up to 100 phenomena. Teachers would receive material supplies (water quality testing kit), as well as a stipend (\$2,000 after 2 years). Model for Cain Center, grade levels 7-12. Instructors—Murt Conover (water quality testing), Dinah (invasives), Venise and Thomas (microplastics), Steve Babcock & others at CPRA (Coastal Land loss), and Ripple Effect (Claire Anderson) will provide classroom integration support. NOAA—requires implementation in coastal parishes. We received an invitation to apply to the NOLA organization and it must focus on the Greater New Orleans area. The Greater New Orleans area is a large audience and can allow for transfer of the program outward from that geography. Preference for the underserved. Q: Have we approached industry? Trade organizations, JumpStart pathway, funders that work with The Water Institute.

5. 2019 Regional Short Course updates, assignments and tasks

February Symposium has been re-invented this year. Each Commissioner was asked to sign up to attend a particular short course. There are 13 short courses being delivered state-wide on Saturday, February 16, 2018. We will be doing field trips across the state. Assignments and Tasks—there are 13 courses. LEEA will give teachers \$30 (teachers net \$10).

6. 2020 EE Symposium date and location

We will host the 2020 Symposium in early spring 2020 as the first outdoor symposium at one of the state parks, Fontainebleau (tentative). Feb/Mar--Planning for food, transportation, overnight stays, and weather. Potential dates March 6 & 7, 2020. Members who will serve on the symposium committee—Brenda Nixon, Brenda Walkenhorst, Dianne Lindstedt, Dinah Maygarden, Jen Roberts, Heather Niemic. Jen made a motion to host on March 6-7, 2020, Connie Conner seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Committee needs to determine if we pull in exhibitors. Exhibits can happen Friday night, along with students.

7. Vote of officers

Names offered on the slate: Jen Roberts, Chair Elect, and Connie Conner, Secretary. Votes—17 for Connie, 16 Jennifer; 1 for Heather as Chair. Chair elect will be Jen Roberts; Secretary is Connie Conner.

VIII. Announcements

Rules of the Commission--No voting outside of the public meeting time. There is an extension to pick up the meeting again at 6:30 this evening.

IV. Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 12, 2019, May 14, 2019, ~~August 13, 2019~~ August 27, 2019, November 12, 2019

Angela Capello made a motion for our August meeting to be moved to Tuesday August 27, 2019—Heather N. seconded, all in favor, no opposed. Change in meeting date approved.

Attendance criteria—p. 24. Members must attend 50% of the regular meetings each year. Failure to attend 3 consecutive meetings will result in the chair writing to the agency head to have the agency represented. Suggestion that the bylaws committee (Dianne is Chair) make changes to the attendance criteria by December 14. Must attend the majority/whole meeting.

X. Recess

Recess began at 1:56 pm to return at 6:30 pm

XI. Reconvene

Commission reconvened at 6:45.

XII. Q&A of Programming and Functions

Committees are to report out each time with task and date.

- Nominating - Jada, Matt, Angela (Chair); this committee can help write GAP analysis to identify best way to nominate additional commissioners?
- Outreach - Angela, Brenda W., Dean, Dinah, Jennifer, Cole, Brenda N., Heather N. (Chair)
- Bylaws - Dianne (Chair), Cole, Connie
- Grants - Jill, Angela, Dianne, Dinah, Brenda N.
- Art and Language - Dianne, Connie, Pierre, Christy
- Youth Summit - Brenda W., Jen
- Symposium 2020 (new every year) - Jen, Heather N., Jessica, Jada, Heather E., Dinah, Brian S., Angela, Connie, Christy

XIII. Adjournment

Quorum ended at 7:30 pm (Dinah and Dianne had to leave). Jen made motion to adjourn at 7:32, Connie seconded. All in favor.