

Environmental Education Association of Illinois  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2015  
10am Anita Purves Nature Center

Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Liaisons in attendance: Lara Darling, Kirsten Hope Walker, Patti Brown, Natalie Maroni, Jame Holt, Laura McCoy, Jennifer VanDerMolen, Pam Evans, Kristi Morris, Linda Hauser, Steve Gariepy, Peggy Doty, Sarah Livesay, Richie Wolf, Savannah Donovan, Allison Jones.

Board Members not in attendance: Janet Beach Davis, Stacey Clementz, Amanda Patrick, Jennifer Day Tariq, Betsy Irwin, Tina Dawson Scott, Teresa Vaughn

In the absence of Secretary Janet Beach Davis, Immediate Past President Lara Darling took minutes.

President Patti Brown called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

Approval of December 2014 minutes as submitted motioned by Jennifer VanDerMolen, second by Peggy Doty, approved by voice vote.

Treasurer Kirsten Hope Walker stated she would send out 2015-2016 May-April FY Budget worksheets to Regional Directors and Committee Chairs. She reminded everyone that they had a \$250 budget but to also bring in any income possible. 2015-16 FY Budgets need to be returned to Kirsten on February 21 so the Executive Committee will be able to review before the Annual Meeting.

Our online payment system, Square, is working well especially with conference registrations coming in now. All major credit cards are accepted. A cell phone reader can be attached to Kirsten's cell phone and Allison Jones' cell phone to make payment at the auction more efficient as well.

Kirsten reported the Higher Education Student Recruitment Liaison Allison Neubauer has already begun recruiting on behalf of EEAI. Lara Darling questioned whether this should be a new committee with Allison sitting as chair or is the Liaison role a better fit.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted was given by Natalie Maroni, second from Linda Hauser, approved by voice vote.

### **Committee/Chair Reports**

Projects Update- by Sarah Livesay – Sarah reported that we are coming up on the end of the PLT pilot program. The committee will discuss if we want to continue the program after the pilot ends.

Sarah also reviewed the Approved Provider Status/CEU's status that was submitted in her presub. Sarah will submit the application to ISBE in the month of February. The board will need to decide if we want to sub-contract our AP status or keep it contained within our board. Contact Sarah if you need further information.

## Conference Updates

2015 EEAI Annual Meeting and Conference update - Linda Hauser passed around a tentative schedule of events for the conference. Exhibitors are welcome to set up for a fee – there is an EEAI member rate (\$50) and non-EEAI member rate to exhibit (\$100). 29 Concurrent sessions were submitted. Patti reminded everyone to submit auction items. Linda requested an ad hoc to discuss logistics. Kirsten requests scholarship names to be given to her by the end of March.

NSTA National Conference in Chicago, March 12-15, 2015 and the IL Science Education Conference in late fall, 2015 – Laura McCoy will be hosting a round table on behalf of EEAI. Sarah will be representing PLT/EEAI as well.

2017 MEEC update-NE Region – The committee has toured three sites and has tentatively come up with four conference ‘niches.’ The site that is a forerunner is the Q Center in St Charles – was the same site as the 2002 MEEC. Late October/Early November are possible time frames. All of the above are subject to change.

2015 MEEC update-Patti Brown mentioned that if there are 30 or more registrants from Illinois, EEAI will receive a monetary return.

Sarah requested that she would like to apply for the NAAEE Conference Affiliate Scholarship on behalf of EEAI. The conference will be in San Diego, California on October 15-18, 2015. If anyone else is interested, please let her know.

Nominations and Elections-Patti stated that the election slate and biographical write ups have been sent to Jennie Bunde. Ballots will be sent out next week to all current members.

Membership-Allison Jones reported numbers are up from previous months. The online membership forms and renewal is working well. There is a possibility that GiftWorks may start charging a monthly fee but we have not been contacted. We should be grandfathered in under the old system as a one-time payment fee. ISTA Joint memberships are still higher on the ISTA side. Review of the ISTA/EEAI Joint Membership MOU was discussed. Adding additional groups/affiliates to our joint membership program will be looked into for future membership recruitment.

Public Relations-Stacey Clementz/Savannah Donovan – Membership forms will be updated and reordered. Savannah passed around possible EEAI promotional materials to replace the pencils. Comments and suggestions from the board were solicited. Savannah also mentioned she found lots of EEAI letterhead, file folders, envelopes, etc in storage at Anita Purves Nature Center. If you would like some materials, contact Savannah.

Awards - Richie Wolf requested the board to approve the 2015 Award winners: Non-Formal Educator of the Year: Dawn M. Kovarik with the US Army Corps of Engineers; Formal Educator of the Year: Sandra Perkins with Triad High School; and Malcolm D. Swan Award: Cindy Harn at Forest Preserve District of Will County. Motion to approve 2015 award winners as presented by Kirsten Hope Walker, second by Natalie Maroni, approved by voice vote. Awards will be presented at the 2015 EEAI Conference.

Governance- Motion to approve the following guidelines below made by Jame Holt, second by Linda Hauser, approved by voice vote.

#### Mini-Grants:

To ensure the quality of mini-grants awarded from the Environmental Education Association of Illinois, the committee must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The selection committee must consist of at least five people (not including the chair) with at least two being current EEAI Board members and one being a formal educator. All five people must be current EEAI members. The selection committee will remain anonymous.

2. A brief paragraph explaining each grant recipient will be submitted to the EEAI Board of Directors in the December pre-sub reports.

3. The final list of possible grant winners must be approved by the EEAI Board of Directors at the December Board Meeting before notifications are sent out to recipients.

4. The Committee Chair or a Board representative must be present at the December Board Meeting to discuss/review mini-grant applications and recipients.

#### Awards:

To ensure the quality of awards from the Environmental Education Association of Illinois, the committee must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The selection committee must consist of at least five people (not including the chair) with at least two being current EEAI Board members and one being a formal educator. All five people must be current EEAI members. The selection committee will remain anonymous.

2. A brief paragraph of award winners will be submitted in the February pre-sub reports to the EEAI Board of Directors.

3. The final list of possible award winners must be approved by the EEAI Board of Directors at the February Board Meeting before notifications are sent out to recipients.

4. The Committee Chair or a Board representative must be present at the February meeting to discuss/review mini-grant applications and recipients.

IEPA Report-Kristi Morris discussed changes with IEPA with the new governor in office. She reported on the DiveIn! program, the annual calendar contest, the Earth Stewardship Day event in early May at the state fairgrounds, and the LEAP grants. Kristi encourages any involvement from EEAI Board members to support or participate in these programs.

#### President's Report

Patti appointed Allison Neubauer as the EEAI Student Recruitment Chair Liaison.

Motion to Adjourn at 12:25 by Linda Hauser, second by Jame Holt, approved by voice vote.