

WAEF Board Meeting Minutes  
January 30, 2004

Board members in attendance: Rebecca Clarke, Gail Epping, Carrie Hembree, Jeremy Higgins, Mary Holleback, Betsy Parker, Nancy Saulsbury, Mary Vymetal-Taylor, Angela Vlies

Board member not in attendance: Michele Hartwig

Guests: Shirley Christianson, Dennis Yockers, Dean Sauers

The WAEF Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Vymetal-Taylor at 4:03pm on January 30, 2004. The minutes from the previous meeting were amended. Nancy moved to approve the minutes as amended. Gail seconded. Motion passed.

Public Input

Dean Sauers, long-time WAEF member from New London, requested a retired rate for WAEF membership and conference registrations. He presented this request as a written document.

**ACTION ITEM:** Send this request to the Membership committee for consideration. Discuss again at March Board meeting.

Dennis Yockers presented information about the status of EE in Wisconsin on behalf of Randy Champeau. A written document was shared.

Gail brought up the success of the arts community in lobbying for funding and prioritized status within the state. Dennis and Dean mentioned that "to lobby or not to lobby" has always been an issue for WAEF – even 20 years ago when they were young sprites. Has the Board has examined its roles in connection with other groups in the state, such at the WI Stewardship Network? Dean commented that WAEF could teach its members how to lobby and how to bring up EE to political figures and sell our organization. Dennis suggested an EE Promotion committee including people from all EE groups around the state and asserted that the Board should head this initiative up to show members that WAEF is a pro-active supporter of EE. Dean asked if WAEF has a communication tool for members. Discussion ensued.

**TABLED UNTIL MARCH**

**ACTION ITEM:** Share dates of March Board Retreat with Randy Champeau and request his input.

Administrative Assistant's Report (moved from further down Agenda):

Shirley reported that the Winter Workshop has taken up a significant portion of her office time as of late. She discussed her plans to re-do the database, which is currently not efficient. She described a system of improved record keeping and central files for individual members. These changes are needed so that member information can be tracked over the years. Gail commented that creating a file for each member would be time-consuming and suggested that Shirley not make this a priority. Shirley remarked

that she was very happy working with WAEE and appreciated the new office furniture. Mary V-T reminded all that Shirley's husband was also a great help to WAEE.

### Committee Reports

Management – New Board member training was accomplished and new Board Books compiled. A meeting with the UWSP insurance agent brought up issues of potential danger for WAEE.

**ACTION ITEM:** Consider bonding the Administrative Assistant's position.

Finance – See handouts for report details. Mary Pardee exceeded budgeted income for the Fall Conference by \$6000. Shirley found \$60 in T-shirt money from Fall Conference. A report for the Web Resources WEEB grant is due by Monday or else WAEE is temporarily ineligible for further WEEB grants. The Awards cost was over budget. There may be additional funds coming in from the Midwest Regionalism scenario.

Conferences – Northland wants to run Winter Workshop for the next three years! Clayton Russell is planning to offer student credit for organizing Workshops. A proposal for this deal is expected from Clayton in March. Will there be buses traveling from Madison and Milwaukee for the 2004 Fall Conference, so far north in Cable, WI? Sterling Strathe, 2004 Fall Conference chairperson, will be running four vans from Stevens Point to Cable, but is not planning to provide other buses. Jeremy suggested that other universities might be willing to run their big vans to Cable for WAEE. Also, said Jeremy, bus rental establishments could be approached. And how about nature center with vans, would they help if WAEE offered some incentive? Gail asked if the conference registration form might include a category for interest in carpooling.

TABLED UNTIL MARCH

Membership – Next meeting date is flexible if interested persons want to attend. Committee will be working with Shirley to establish new fields in the database. A survey will be out to members soon.

Networking – Committee is examining new directions.

Student Report – Working on a database of colleges and EE groups within colleges to make it easier for a WAEE representative to reach college students.

**ACTION ITEM:** Can a Board member be assigned to mentor the student group? This is a liaison position to fill in March.

### Liaison Reports

\*Mary V-T reported that the Statewide School Network Consortium group was dissolved about 6 years ago. Although it is stated in the Bylaws that WAEE maintain a liaison/committee member to this group, it is no longer relevant as the group does not exist.

Spring Adventure Workshop – Dean Sauers would like a WAEE Board representative to attend the workshop on Saturday night.

**ACTION ITEM:** Upload SAW information onto the website.

PLT – Mary V-T is working with Susan Gilchrist to re-establish the connection between WAEE and PLT.

EE News – The last issue of EE News will come out this summer.

**ACTION ITEM:** Carrie will update the Board with deadlines and information about the last issue of EE News.

Conservation Hall of Fame – Joe Passineau will be coming to March Board meeting to explain this connection.

High School Conference – There is a meeting coming up on February 18.

Nature and Environmental Center Section – Mary V-T announced an EPA grant proposal involving Nature Net, WAEE, and CESA 2. Copies of the proposal text were distributed.

NAAEE – 2004 Conference will be held November 6-10 in Biloxi, MS. The theme is being developed along the lines of “Casting a Wide Net for Environmental Education.” Funding may be available once again for an affiliates’ pre-conference workshop.

LEAF – Adjunct faculty training for the LEAF program will take place in February and March. The website is active. An online course in forestry education for educators will be piloted in the spring.

Ice Age Trail – In conjunction with CESA 5, a survey to administrators and teachers within a 30 mile radius of the trail has been distributed.

#### Unfinished Business

WAEE History Project – There is concern that WAEE is losing its elders and all the valuable information that they possess. Dan Sivek is seeking funding and a sabbatical for an EE history project for Wisconsin.

Online Calendar – This project has stalled for various reasons. All information was submitted to Bobbi Kubish, but was not loaded onto the website. Much discussion ensued. There is still considerable confusion as to who exactly is doing what on the website. Rebecca Clarke volunteered to meet with all the web players to establish common ground. Mary V-T asserted that the Management Committee would need to address this. Carrie volunteered the Networking Committee for oversight of the website, as Networking is in a period of restructuring and needs something to do.

MOU Steering Committee – WAEE needs 2 representatives for the MEEC committee, one who has “done” a Midwest Conference or similar event and one who does not need to have had such an experience. One member of the MEEC committee must also be a WAEE Board member. The term of service is two years. How will this be decided? Can a list of persons who worked on the WI Midwest Conference and/or other events be compiled?

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**ACTION ITEM:** Mary V-T will compile this list of conference enthusiasts.

**ACTION ITEM:** All 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Board members review the MEEC document.

EE News – Did WAEE pay up for a whole year of its EE News partnership?

EE Communications – Surveys are in distribution.

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#### New Business

Authorization of Chair and Chair-elect – There should be a better system for establishing a Chair-elect. Perhaps in the future, ballots should be used for this vote.

Carrie moved that Mary V-T be approved as Chair. Nancy seconded. Motion passed.

Gail moved that Carrie be approved as Chair-elect. Mary H seconded. Motion passed.

Board Vacancy Appointment – The one application that was submitted was retracted. Thus, there is still an open seat on the Board. Board members encouraged to recruit a volunteer over the Winter Workshop weekend for this 2-year Board term. February 16 will be the new deadline and this will be added to website.

**ACTION ITEM:** Send an email to membership about the Board vacancy and MEEC committee opportunity. (Unclear as to who will fulfill this action item)

Electronic Communication Policy

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**ACTION ITEM:** Mary V-T will re-send policy to all Board members. It should be read by March.

Grant proposal process

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Spring Board Retreat – March 5-7 at Upham Woods in the Dells. Committee members aside from Board members will not be invited to retreat for meetings. When will we get agendas for the retreat?

**ACTION ITEMS:** Submit agenda items to Mary V-T for Board meeting agenda by February 20. She will submit a draft retreat agenda to the Board for review by February 13. Final agenda for Board meeting will be received by February 23.

Setting the 2004 Calendar – Finalized, mostly.

EPA State Capacity Building Money – Committee volunteers to work on this included Mary V-T, Jeremy, Betsy, and Carrie.

Nancy moved to close the Board meeting at 6:28pm. Rebecca seconded. The motion passed unanimously.