

WAEE Spring Retreat 2005

Present: Carrie Hembree (Chair), Jeremy Higgins (Chair elect), Amy Workman, Karla Lockman, Heidi Conde, Ben Bishop, David Kuckuk, Tanya Zastrow, Betsy Parker, Mary Hollenbeck, Rebecca Westfahl (treasurer)

9:20 Carrie began meeting with discussion of goals. Some discussion of organizational goals was done the night before

Goals Brainstorming Session (Friday night list)

Promotion of WAEE board and organization

Connecting nature centers with CESA's (promoting our nature center "section", in whatever format the section exists)

WAEE Newsletter

EE Forum Results (Regular networks, website, advocacy)

Membership Survey

Mentoring program

University Contacts

Board Brainstorming Saturday (goals)

WAEE become the EE clearinghouse for the state

More member benefits

Reestablishing contacts with nature center networks

Involving members

Wield political clout

Make WAEE known to other campuses

Get EE back on the state level (DPI)

Member communication

Better connection to regional networks

Increase contacts between teachers and EE professionals (getting teachers back into the outdoors)

We *need* to change the reputation of EE in the state (more accessible, professional development yet fun)

Make WAEE a fun organization to associate with

Student benefits (stuff on the website)

WAEE back on a national level and regional

30th anniversary needs BIG PUSH

Provide clear direction for EE in Wisconsin

Increase membership

Lumping and Splitting of Goals into something achievable

Goal 1. Involving and increasing the membership

- a. More member benefits
- b. Member communication
- c. WAEE website
- d. Newsletter
- e. Mentoring program
- f. Membership survey
- g. Promoting board and ways to get involved

Goal 2. Student Involvement

- a. University contacts
- b. Student bennies and website

Goal 3. Promote WAEE

- a. 30th anniversary
- b. WAEE at state, national, regional level
- c. Website
- d. Newsletter
- e. Promote board and ways to get involved
- f. Wielding political clout

Goal 4. (Identify) (Organize) and strengthen Regional EE Networks (Background: WAEE represented by Jeremy, will start a discussion with other regional EE networks and orgs in the state. There is no expected outcome for this discussion; WAEE is just facilitating the strengthening of these networks. We are not to necessarily to become the organizer of a regional EE network)

- a. Connecting nature centers to CESA'S (getting teachers field tripping again)
- b. Facilitating contact with EE'ers
- c. More professional development for EE people

Goal 5. Internal strength – maintaining sustainability as an organization

- h. Newsletter
- i. Website

Goal 6. Determine role in umbrella website

These were the main goals and connected items decided in the morning until lunch. It was decided that perhaps 5/6 goals was steep. Board members voted for the top three goals for the year, with the thought that if goals were achieved before the next spring planning retreat we could move on the next two goals. We hope the whole list here including items moved to the Parking Lot will be revisited next year at the Spring Planning retreat 2006.

After lunch – The board was led in an activity by Carrie Hembree to rediscover our personal environmental education ethic. Good stuff.

WAEF Committees – The board reviewed committee descriptions from the board book and current board members shared their experiences on various committees.

It was decided that the students would have their own committee (new committee)

It was decided that there would be a newsletter committee (new committee)

Committees 2005

Management – elections

Finance

Membership - awards

Networking – regional networks

Website – Newsletter

Advocacy

Conference

Budgeting

Carrie reviewed some budget history for new board members and our current budget procedure. The treasurer is oversight for budget items only, and the committees decide on their budget needs, they submit their budget to the treasurer that compiles all the information for the board meeting. The board reviews the budget and approves or sends items back to the committees for changes.

The board reviews the updated Budget Procedures hand out in their board books. The board reviewed last year's approved budget. All budgets are reviewed and hopefully passed by the May board meeting. Our fiscal year ends June 30th.

After reviewing the budget folks were told to look over the budget on their own time. At the March board meeting we will hand out templates to the different committees to make a projected budget.

Conference Oversight Committee (Mary Carrie Heidi)

Member benefits (no explanation)

Make sure member meeting and WAEF promotion is in the conference schedule
30th anniversary

Promote WAEF (move conference around the state)

Board member recruitment

University contacts – presentations by and for students (recruitment of students on planning committee), more universities than Point, jobs table, student member meeting, student board member recruitment

Bennies – professional development for EE'ers

Member recruitment

Facilitating contact between EE'ers (panel discussions, workshops, or informal forums)

Final version of fall/winter conference planner on disk – in WAEF office

Final dates/places for 2006 (chairs), figure out 2007 chair and conference locations.

Management/Finance Committee (Rebecca Carrie Jeremy Amy)

Member benefits (determine financial burden of any perks)

Determine role with umbrella website (Management)

Communications – with the rest of board members, and to the organizations

Grants for WAEE and members

Elections- better communications with new board members

Website/Newsletter Committee (Sunshine Betsy Heidi Karla Carrie Mary Pardee)

30th anniversary - advertising

Communications – chat board, advocacy items; get feedback from members on their events, and what's important to them

Board member recruitment

Contact members to submit articles, ideas, links

Newsletter – professional development info

Have a “submit online form” ad request for info, make suggestions, etc

Student link on news and web for jobs etc (open)

Ways for members to get involved (member outings)

Members only page, and members only calendar

Promote the website

Facilitating contact between EE'ers (electronic forum)

Request feedback on newsletter

Post an Advocacy toolkit

Action alerts

Advocacy Committee (Carrie)

30th anniversary

Communication towards advocating a certain cause

Newsletter

Promote WAEE – prepare something doohickies for website and newsletter

Streamline and publish an advocacy toolkit – on website

Research what other groups are already doing and see how we can piggy back on their ideas

Speak on behalf of the members

Advocate EE and “unify” other EE networks

Networking Committee (Jeremy, Dave, Betsy, Heidi, Tanya, Ben)

30th anniversary – press releases, traveling to other regions to promote conference,

Communication – take the exhibit somewhere (either on this committee or find other members that are going and ask them to take exhibits, and brochures)

Get the brochure out!

Conference participation

Mentoring program

Establish/reestablish contacts with regional, statewide and national orgs

Partner with nature net

Connecting nature centers with CESA's

Facilitating contacts between EE'ers

Regional events for WAEE members

Work on liationships – strengthen and review
Get us in the news!
Regional networking
Advertise WAEE

Membership Committee (Heidi, Tanya, Amy)

Member benefits
30th anniversary – good staff at the annual member meeting
Member banquet
Communications
Survey
Mentoring program
Board member recruitment
Newsletter –highlight member orgs, member of the season, new members
Promote WAEE – get the brochure out
Contact member sites that are willing to host outings around the state, compile list of member outings and needs
Facilitating contact between EE'ers
Better promotion/development of awards programs/scholarships
Benefits- more professional development for EE types
Use membership to make EE more visible in the state
Increase membership and diversify our membership base
Review/update materials (brochure, membership forms, new member packet)

Student Committee (Ben Karla Jeremy)

Member benefits
Mentoring program
Univer. Contacts
Promote WAEE
Update student PowerPoint
Student weblink (internships, grad info, resources, resume info)
Include tech schools, junior colleges too – student orgs,
Advisors in various fields – (Ed Soc, Bio, Zoo)
Get out your sticks of chalk and hit the campuses – visit at least 3 campuses
Increase student membership
Allow meeting time between outgoing and incoming students
Board member recruitment!!
Advertise scholarship information

All the committee people will take these priorities back to their committees and work on them.

NAAEE Fall Conference in WI 2006

Concerns

- We have our 30th anniversary in Madison this year, and then bring in NAAEE the next year, people may wait and go to NAAEE. We are also tapping the same set of volunteers in Madison area and the same field trips

- We will lose the memberships “renewals” that people do when they sign up for our fall conference
- Our conferences are our major money maker. We will get a percentage kick-back from NAAEE, but could be potentially less.
- We would not put on our own fall conference that year and would lose that visibility.
- Ben mentioned it to some UWSP folks and they thought it was a nice idea but not the best logistically
- Mary H mentioned the idea at nature centers meeting of 12 nature centers and people thought it might be fun to go to, but no one was willing to step forward to help with the planning.
- Karla mentioned it to 12 educators in Madison, and they seemed interested that it was in Madison, but that it was a busy time of the year for them, and they would do a field trip, but not planning.
- NAAEE has lost/replaced their original conference planner.
- It does look like Minnesota may be an option, perhaps Duluth.
- Carrie brought this up at a WCEE staff meeting, thinking that we would need the support of this org to pull it off. Reactions ranged from laughter (hmm) to shock. Dennis Yockers, Dan Sivek, etc all said that the WCEE is not ready to go in with WAEE right now as they are strategic planning. They did say let’s put in a strong bid for sometime down the road. We were not able to get a hold of WEEB. Ginny Carlton from WEEB did say that WEEB is also strategic planning this year, so it’s probably not a good time.

In summary, it seems like WAEE and its other key partners in the state are not ready at this time. It is completely unfortunate that the timing of back to back conferences in Madison. But that is the board’s assessment at this time.

Last item: Scheduling board meeting dates and places in the state.