

Quarterly Meeting Update from WEEB Education Committee

Submitted by: Kim Lemberger, Chairperson

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Members of the Education Committee met for a full day in Stevens Point on December 16, 2008 to begin making a plan to further efforts in creating and supporting professional development programs that lead to consistent career preparation (pre-service) and leadership building efforts (inservice) for PreK-12 educators (Goal 111.1 from the EE 2010 document). Each of the subcommittees will try to gather the necessary partners and resources available to submit full grant proposals for the following projects for 2009 grant cycle.

K-12 Education Committee (Kim Lemberger, Chairperson) We will no longer be pursuing the goal of working on the Green and Healthy Schools Program, as the DNR will be organizing a committee of partners to do this. There currently isn't a representative on the K-12 Education Committee from the DPI. Should someone from that department be involved with what we want to accomplish?

Grant Plan #1: Create a 2-day workshop to be held in August 2009 to develop leadership in EE for teachers in their building/district. The focus of the workshop will be on raising awareness to the many EE curriculum resources available throughout the state and helping participants develop a plan of implementing EE into their district's curriculum. One graduate credit will be offered for attending the workshop in August. A second graduate credit will be offered in January 2010 for participants to come back and share their progress/success/roadblocks. This will be open to 15 people as a pilot project. The K-12 Education Committee will evaluate the effectiveness of the workshop to see if can be offered to a broader audience through the many summer academies that will be held in 2010. See attached draft of grant proposal for more information.

Higher Education Committee (Jeremy Solin, Chairperson) The committee met on November 25th via conference call. Scott Ashmann is conducting a study of what is currently being done in the state with preservice EE. The results of this study will be available in 2009. There was also a discussion about campus sustainability, with the goal to help foster environmentally literate graduates (not just teachers),

by creating a network within the state to integrate EE into all content areas taught at the higher education level. Three priorities were established:

- Work to create a state network of higher education institutions to share information about what's happening and needs. AASHE might be able to provide some structure/support.
- Expand the AASHE faculty sustainability workshop model to other institutions.
- Develop greater capacity for student action projects at higher ed institutions. Specific actions could include case studies, workshops for faculty and staff on conducting action projects, assistance with organizing projects, etc.

Grant Plan #2: Pursue funding to support a pilot sustainability workshop for faculty.

Non-Formal EE Committee (Betsy Parker, Chairperson) Scott Johnson has decided not to pursue this initiative as a graduate thesis. WAEE Board is behind reestablishing the "Loose Group" and perhaps helping to host a Nature Center "summit" of sorts, but input and direction is needed. The following ideas were shared:

- 1) Conduct a needs assessment of non-formal EE sector. Is there a need to provide professional development for staff? Collaboration amongst the non-formal EE sector? Sources of funding? How to market your facility?
- 2) Networking opportunities have been offered in the past through WAEE, but nobody has attended them. What hinders people from taking advantage of these opportunities? What kind of networking (via internet, workshops, etc.) will be helpful to them?
- 3) WAEE Conference - possibly offering tracks for K-12 educators, higher education, and non-formal sectors. The time spent will be to gain knowledge of what EE resources are available and working together in groups at the conference to address similar concerns or issues being faced and brainstorm ways of overcoming them.

Grant Plan #3: Host a meeting for Nature Center Directors to explore an organizational format for non-formal EE sector that will help them to promote and manage nature centers in Wisconsin.