

Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation

2006 Annual Report

January 2007

History and Background

Wisconsin has long been a national leader in environmental stewardship. Starting with Aldo Leopold's land ethic, and fueled by Gaylord Nelson's Earth Day, Wisconsin passed the most meaningful and comprehensive plan for protecting our natural resources of any state in the union; a plan for environmental education. In 1990, the state legislature created the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) to provide leadership in assessing educational needs and establishing statewide priorities for environmental education. The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board has taken this charge very seriously and over the past sixteen years has been diligent in developing and monitoring strategic plans for the delivery of high-quality, comprehensive

environmental education for all segments of society.

Unfortunately, alterations to the state 2001-2003 biennial budget significantly impacted the WEEB's ability to provide general environmental grants—the primary mechanism the Board used to carry out its work. The WEEB responded to these funding challenges with renewed creativity and commitment — demonstrating its intention to support an impressive variety of environmental education programs; however, the Board feels it is time to do more. WEEB intends to advance and expand upon its leadership role in promoting successful environmental education programs, not simply maintain it.

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF) was created to

invest in this vision as it fulfills the final legislative



Students participating in an EE program.

charge of the WEEB, “to seek private funds for the purpose of grants.” WEEF will work to foster and enhance the public-private relationships that support educational opportunities that promote ecologically and economically sustainable communities.

The WEEF is proud to report its progress in our first annual report.

Our Mission:

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation was created to secure private funding support for environmental education; and to facilitate creative and innovative use of donations from benefactors whose vision for the future reflects the proud tradition of Wisconsin's environmental heritage and who desire to support educational opportunities that promote ecologically and economically sustainable communities.



Building the Organization

This year, we established the WEEF's 501(c)(3) non-profit status, registered the corporation with the state of Wisconsin, and enthusiastically began the work of building the organization.

We created our bylaws, established our Board of

Directors, and developed fund raising strategies.

Funds previously administered through the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point Foundation were transferred to the newly formed WEEF and a generous donation has allowed

for limited administrative support.

For the remainder of the year, the WEEF Board has focused on building a strategy that will provide the benefits for environmental education the Foundation has pledged to produce.

“Investing in Wisconsin's common wealth through environmental education for all segments of society.”



Wisconsin Women Forward for Environmental Education

WEEF assembled a team called "Wisconsin Women Forward for Environmental Education." Each member is known for her enduring commitment to Wisconsin's environmental well-being and her value for education. Our first Women Forward meeting was in early December and marked an exciting kickoff to our campaign to secure the

future of environmental education in Wisconsin. Participants are all looking forward to our next meeting on February 12, 2007.

With the dedication and valuable council of this group of "forward-thinking" women as our guiding force, it is only a matter of time before we achieve our goals.

2006 Women Forward participants:

Libby Burmaster
Sheila Coyle
Ada Deer
Emily Earley
Jane Elder
Kristine Euclide
Barbara Lawton
Madelyn Leopold
Tia Nelson
Trish Stocking

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Financial Activities

Funds this year were generated from donations and interest on accounts. Contributions came from WEEF and WEEB board members and Wisconsin citizens that responded to a previous mailing request to support WEEF and its environmental education goals.

The mailing, interest and administrative funds from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point generated

\$8,830 during the 2005-2006 budget cycle. All spending has gone towards the costs of establishing our organization and launching our fund-raising campaigns. A total of \$369 has been spent during the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Before June 2007, we will offer one \$250 grant to honor the promise of our immediate dispersal account.

Future budgets will emphasize grant-making for worthy EE programs in Wisconsin.

2006-2007 Projected Income & Expenses:

Income (\$25,000)

\$25,000 Donations

Expenses (\$24,500)

\$4000 Travel, Lodging, Meals

\$3750 Office supplies services

\$16,500 Salary, part-time

\$250 Grants



Board of Directors

Robin Harris, President
University of Wisconsin System

Jim Gibson, Vice President
Wisconsin Technical College System

David Wisnefske, Treasurer
Wisconsin Stewardship Network

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Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation

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