



## Virginia Resource-Use Education Council

P.O. Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228

Founded 1952

Meeting Agenda/Minutes September 6, 2019

Department of Forestry

900 Natural Resources Drive | Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

- I. **Call to Order** – 10:00 am Anne Petersen
  
- II. **Welcome and Introductions** Anne Petersen  
Guests: Chuck English (VA STEM Coordinator), Ann Jennings (Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources), Joshua Bearman (VDOE Science Specialist)
  
- III. **Secretary's Report** Candace Lutzow-  
Felling/Christy Deatherage  
The minutes from our February 6, 2019 meeting (distributed electronically) were accepted as written.
  
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** Suzie Gilley  
Checking account deposit: 10, 262  
Checking account balance: \$21,336  
Savings account balance: \$14,375  
The treasurer's report was accepted as written.
  
- V. **State and Regional Efforts, Updates**
  - i. VAAE Update Cindy Duncan  
Hardcopy update provided to members. 2020 VAAE Conference will be held at the Florence Elston Inn and Conference Center at Sweet Briar College Feb. 26-28.
  - ii. C.B. Program Education Workgroup Anne Petersen  
The Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT), self reported mechanism, Virginia data collection will include all watershed regions in new plan, schools need to return by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. VDOE Environmental Education Initiatives Joshua Bearman  
New Environmental Ed Course at High School level is popular, some school divisions are using it to replace their Earth Science course (this was not the intent of VDOE). Four Environmental Science Institutes were offered this summer with lots of interest from teachers.
  - iv. NOAA Report Elise Trelegan  
B-WET grant wrapped up this summer with final watershed institute at Lewis Ginter. Elise reported on MWEE 101 effective trainings and E.E. potential workshop (NOAA topics) for nonformal educators in future. Christen Miller (VA State Parks) offered to host.

- VI. **VRUEC Chesapeake Bay Restoration Grant** Suzy Gilley  
Received \$10,000 grant for member partnership to provide watershed professional development. Three teams applied (and received): Page Hutchinson/VDOF and Tim Taglauer/Shenandoah Ntl Park (teacher training); Page Hutchinson/VDOF and Anne Petersen/VDOE (flora of Virginia); Candace Lutzow-Felling/State Arboretum of VA (native plants). One team expressed interest but was outside of Bay watershed region. Suzie Gilley announced if members find opportunities outside watershed area VRUEC can leverage funds. Members discussed short turn around for the grant (not sure of full fund amounts/received), Ann Jennings suggested going to advisory committee for grant review, if we submit in the future because we will be present if any of the review committee has questions about our proposal.
- VII. **VRUEC Strategic Planning** Candace/Anne  
A lot of work went into synthesizing effort done on the strategic plan during last meeting, however Anne and Candace reported more time is needed for discussion and clarification of our Council goals. Members discussed starting with a collective goal for EE in VA (every group feeds into the goal) and advance our goal, create a record of what we are doing. Agency roles and whether roles are clearly defined were discussed as well as the need to identify what “high quality EE” includes and how agencies track impact. Members discussed the need to move from silo work to more functional collaborative work and efforts to reach the smaller organizations. Follow ups in between meetings or increasing frequency of meetings were discussed.
- VIII. **VRUEC Communication Strategies (newsletter, website, etc)** Stephanie DeNicola  
Stephanie will send members a reminder and deadline to submit agency information (offerings/program highlights/numbers served, etc) for the newsletter. Members requested that Stephanie send a template to guide submissions and make them easier for us.
- IX. **C.B. Program ELIT Summit update and next steps discussion for both VRUEC and Environmental Education** Holli Coy/Ann Jennings/Anne Peterson  
The ELIT Summit was held in June and offered panel discussions, student testimonies, and more in depth sessions. Dr. Lane sent Environmental Literacy blog to all districts. It was reported that an Executive Order (July) established VA STEM Education Commission to promote EE in Virginia. The EE position that was included in last year’s budget was not approved due to the lack of not originating from a specific agency request.

**Next Steps:**

- Anne Petersen will send members survey/needs assessment to synthesize discussion/priorities (Stephanie DeNicola made a motion for action, Danielle Racke seconded.
- Christy Deatherage will send next meeting notice

Meeting adjourned 12:28p.m.

Minutes recorded by Christy Deatherage, Secretary (draft 9-12-19, edited 9-13-19)