



## Virginia Resource-Use Education Council

P.O. Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228

Founded 1952

Meeting Minutes December 17, 2019

Department of Forestry

900 Natural Resources Drive | Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

- I. Anne Peterson (via Zoom) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council members introduced themselves and their representative agency. Guest: Lisa Lawrence, Education Leader of VIMS Marine Advisory Program  
Due to work conflict, Anne turned the meeting over to Candace Lutzow-Felling (Blandly Experimental Farm/UVA) in her absence.  
Sam Fisher (VA Cooperative Extension) passed council member contact information for updates/attendance.  
Ellen Powell (Dept of Forestry) collected lunch order (Aromas- on-site).  
Before survey results were discussed, council members provided a brief historical account of VRUEC for new members.
- II. Survey Results
  - a. Candace shared results (on projection screen) of #1 **“What do you see as the #1 purpose of VRUEC”?** (19 responses) (results were emailed prior to meeting and hard copies available at meeting)
    - i. Communication and collaboration between environmental educators within state agencies/organizations (73.7%)
    - ii. Resource Development for formal and nonformal k-12 environmental educators (5.3%)
    - iii. Networking opportunities (5.3%)
    - iv. It is important that we collaborate with other agencies but equally as important as experts in the field that we share information with teachers (5.3%)
    - v. Communication/collaboration at the organizational level. Communication between directors on projects (5.3%)
    - vi. Communication and collaboration among environmental educators AND among state agencies/organizations (5.3%)
    - vii. Provide professional development to K-12 schools, teachers, communities, etc. (0%)
  - b. Candace shared results of #2 **“What do you see as the #2 purpose of VRUEC (if any)”?** (18 responses)
    - i. Resource development for formal and nonformal K-12 environmental educators (38.9%)
    - ii. Networking opportunities (27.8%)
    - iii. Provide professional development to K-12 schools, teachers, communities, etc (22.2%)
    - iv. Communication and collaboration between environmental educators within state agencies/organizations (11.1%)
- III. Driving Questions
  - a. Based on evidence, how do we perceive the role of VRUEC? Members discussed several of the submitted comments from the survey. The bylaws were briefly discussed and noted the need of updated website. Elise Trellegan (NOAA) created a new website but it

is not active yet. **Action Item:** Executive Committee will review bylaws and send to members for vote after the first of the year.

- b. How can we differentiate between VRUEC and VAEE in a way that makes each organizations vision and mission meaningful and not redundant? VRUEC falls under the Commonwealth (Governor → Agency Heads → VRUEC) with agency representation, and VAEE falls under NAAEE (North American Association for Environmental Education) and are individual members.
- c. How can we use this information in the revision of our strategic plan? Greg Eaton (Claytor Nature Center/Lynchburg College/VAEE) mentioned working with VAEE on their strategic plan (2020) as to complement each other and prevent overlap.

IV. Ann Regn (VADEQ) discussed requests from Ann Jennings (Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources):

- i. For VRUEC to co-host an interagency meeting in Spring (March) as a follow up on the 2019 ELIT Summit. Guest speaker would be Dr. Janice Underwood, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.  
A motion was made by Ann Regn for approval. Seconded by Sonya Wolen (Dan River Basin Association). Council approved. **Action Item:** A committee sign up sheet was created.
- ii. Participation in National Environmental Education Week/Earth Day 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  
A motion was made by Stephanie DeNicola Turner (Soil and Water Conservation District) for approval Seconded by Suzie Gilley (DGIF). Michelle Prysby (VA Master Naturalist) requested an amendent for member organizations would promote collaboration with events and the council share the information to agency members. A motion was made by Danielle Racke (Claytor Nature Center) for approval Seconded by Cindy Duncan (Chesapeake Bay Foundation). Council approved. **Action Item:** send Elise Telegan (NOAA) program information by January 30<sup>th</sup> for new VRUEC website launch Earth Week.
- iii. Update Virginia Natural Resource Education Guide (VRUEC and VADOE publication).  
A motion was made by Danielle Racke to table this item. A motion was made by Ann Regn to create a committee to look into updates. Seconded by Ellen Powell/Sonya Wolen. Council approved. **Action Item:** An Editorial Committee sign up sheet was created.

V. After Lunch, council split into 5 groups to work on the Strategic Plan:

- Group 1: Objective 1.1
- Group 2: Objective 1.2
- Group 3: Objective 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5
- Group 4: Objective 2
- Group 5: Objective 3

Edits were made on Google Doc (shared on projection) for council discussion. **Action Item:** Executive Council will meet in January to clean up the document and distribute (along with doc with write ups) to council.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:15 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Christy Deatherage (draft 1-2-20)