



Virginia Resource-Use Education Council

P.O. Box 90778 Henrico, VA 23228

Founded 1952

Draft Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2018 9:00AM
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries Headquarters
7870 Villa Park Drive, Henrico, VA

- I **Meeting Call to Order** – Stephanie DeNicola (serving as acting chair in Anne Peterson’s absence) called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.
- II **Welcome and Introductions/ VRUEC Mission** (Stephanie DeNicola) - The group discussed that per VRUEC website, we have “guiding principles”; it does not state a mission. This will be a topic for discussion with strategic plan workgroup. Suzie Gilley will pull relevant documents and email the group.
- III **Secretary’s Report** (Christy Deatherage) - Christy reviewed Minutes from May 1, 2018 meeting (emailed to group prior to meeting) Sam Fisher made the motion for approval, and Michelle Prysby seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.
- IV **Treasurer’s Report** (Suzie Gilley) – Suzie reported (hard copy distributed to group) no income since May, grants have been completed. Expenses (\$1, 314) were reported as hotel payment, in which DOE will reimburse. Dee Deroche made the motion for approval, and Richard Groover seconded. Treasurer’s report was approved as submitted.
- V **VRUEC Membership** (Sam Fisher) – Sam reviewed the membership policy (hard copy distributed to group). The group reviewed the membership spreadsheet adjusting agency contacts as needed. Membership information will be added to the website – Elise Trelegan (NOAA) volunteered to update the website. Four members were voted in: Christy Deatherage, Elise Trelegan, Sonya Wolen, and Bonnie Mahl.
- VI **State and Regional Efforts, Updates**
 - i. VAAE Update (Page Hutchinson) – Page reported that the annual conference has changed from October to February 7th/8th at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Proposal submission, originally due Oct 19th has been extended.
 - ii. Virginia NCLI Coalition Report (Bill Portlock) - Bill reported there are currently 59 member organizations in the Virginia No Child Left Inside coalition. Coalition members voted to prioritize three recommendations in the coming year:
 - 1- Advocate for funding for two state level Environmental Education Coordinator positions; one housed within the Department of Education (under the Secretary for Education), and the other within a lead Commonwealth natural resource agency under the Secretary for Natural Resources).

- 2- Participate in the effort to develop a statewide central repository/clearing house/communication hub for environmental education in Virginia.
- 3- Promote and advocate for student Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) and find sources of funding in order to aid the implementation of new MWEE programs.
- iii. VDOE Environmental Education Initiatives (Candace Lutzow-Felling)- Candace reported that Anne Peterson was with the Board of Education for final review of the 2018 Science Standards of Learning (Anne later joined the meeting and updated that they were approved). Nine different Environmental Science Professional Development opportunities were offered during the summer. Candace also reported on the Environmental Science Repository that was created in order to support the implementation of the Environmental Science Course. Stephanie will send repository link to the group.
- iv. NOAA Report (Elise Trelegan) – Elise reported on the new BWET awardees. She discussed targeting new counties that have not been served with BWET to help bring MWEEs into systemic view. They will meet soon to set BWET priorities for next year. Elise reported they are close to finishing the first MWEE module (online course) “the what and why of the MWEE” and will pilot test in MD, and would like a VA perspective. Module 2 will be state specific and cover local issues, local resources. Module 3, long term, will focus on how to implement MWEEs.

VII **VRUEC Initiatives** VRUEC Executive Committee

- i. VRUEC Communication Survey (May-June 2018) responses (Christy Deatherage) – Christy reported there were 18 responses (out of around 30). 80% are interested in receiving a newsletter; 67% interested in legislative information; 56% interested in meeting news and updates.
- ii. VRUEC Goals: (Candace Lutzow-Felling) – Candace reported three goals of VRUEC- Coordination/Collaboration of efforts, Communication of what happens across the state, and Grant Opportunities. These originated at the May 1st meeting.
- iii. VRUEC Newsletter (Stephanie DeNicola) - Stephanie discussed setting a goal for the newsletter (want info but not too much info), intended audience – VRUEC member’s role would be to distribute to wider audience. VAAE newsletter was mentioned- it will be discussed at their upcoming board meeting and can be discussed further (as to not duplicate efforts).
- iv. ELIT Repository (Anne Peterson) – There is a need, formal and informal, of a commonplace/shared resource. Repository link was sent to those who completed a survey and is screened by Anne Peterson. Want to ensure science is robust, accurate, and a good filter system. ELIT had a great response rate – 78% through Commonwealth of Virginia. Choices were rated- need more resources and funding. Results were self-reported.
- v. C.B. Restoration Grant Proposal (Suzie Gilley) - Suzie reported the grant would cover 3 MWEE sessions in the Bay watershed (75 teachers per), 3 day/2 nights, lodging, transportation and meals covered. Grant review has not been determined. VRUEC covering funds for a workshop outside the Bay area was questioned and will be discussed in the future.

VIII **VRUEC workgroups/Executive Committee & Member Oversight Workgroups** (Facilitator: Candace Lutzow-Felling)

- (1) Newsletter (*Stephanie DeNicola*) The workgroup discussed possible name: Naturally Virginia, twice a year, and could include a “Conservation Corner” and “Member Spotlight”, grant information, conference information. Newsletter could be added to the VRUEC website once updated (Elise working on). The possibility of a VAAE and VRUEC newsletter was mentioned, and would be discussed at the upcoming VAAE board meeting.
- (2) Annual reports (review current format & suggest changes, if needed) (*Christy Deatherage*) The workgroup reviewed the intent of the report was historically to provide each agency’s report at the annual May meeting in which legislators were present. The workgroup discussed the possibility of combining agency specific reports into a conclusive 1-page VRUEC report (highlighting accomplishments, opportunities, and even concerns. A list of VRUEC members would be included.
- (3) ELIT summer workshop planning/Equity in professional development (*Suzie Gilley*) – The workgroup reported on recruitment locations and logistics-include a registration fee to ensure commitment? The group discussed after grant notification, member collaboration with possibility of 1-day workshops. Look at what areas have not been included, where are the needs and go from there. Equity in professional development – how to diversify group? Have we reached out to groups for membership?
- (4) Review by-laws and strategic plan (*Candace Lutzow-Felling*) – The workgroup reported the need for revision, language in existing documents are out dated. It was discussed to add membership chair to slate of officers to offset a tie. A draft strategic plan will be created and sent to the group for review and include in work plan for May 2019 meeting.

IX **VRUEC Member Updates & Highlights (since May 2018)** VRUEC Members –
VIMS is looking for a Citizen Science Researcher to work on an eel project and climate change study circles will take place December through March
Soil and Water – Stephanie reported they worked with Mary Washington to hire pre service teachers to help with programming
Department of Education – Anne reported Science Standards passed by the Board

X **Discuss establishment of set meeting dates for our biannual meetings**
Stephanie DeNicola – discussion of informal meeting Feb 6, 2019 from 1:00-5:00 (location tbd-either Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or Science Museum) and May meeting determined by Doodle Poll at later date. Meeting adjured at 2:48 p.m.

Action Items

- VRUEC web site. Elise Trelegan volunteered to update and manage our web site
- Membership. Membership information will be added to the updated web site
- VDOE EE Repository. Stephanie will send the repository link to VRUEC members

- MWEE on-line training module. Elise will send a link to the draft module for VRUEC members to review
- VRUEC newsletter. a) VAAE Board will discuss the idea of a combined VRUEC-VAAE newsletter and will inform VRUEC members of their decision b) Send Stephanie short descriptions of EE highlights that your agency/organization is doing for possible inclusion in the newsletter
- By-Laws Committee. The committee (Candace & Anne) will revise the draft strategic plan (dated 2014) and will send to members for review. The committee will consider member suggestions for the next draft that will be worked on during the May meeting.
- VRUEC meeting dates. Stephanie will send a Doodle poll to members to get feedback on potential set meeting dates for our biannual meetings.

Minutes recorded by Christy Deatherage, Secretary (Draft 11-6-18, edited 11-12-18)