

## Project WILD Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 12, 2020

### Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT)—Zach Lowe joined remotely.

Zach reviewed the Basics of CLfT program: Overview of impacts of CLfT and interest in partnering with Project WILD. CLfT approach is apolitical, in depth, and engaging, and therefore good fit for partnering with Project WILD.

Opportunity to work with Project WILD on new curriculum development with MSCG 2020. Opportunity for both furthering learning of top professionals (those that participate in CLfT, as well as advancing understanding of educators participating in Project WILD. Participants in CLfT typically do not have hunting experience. A key point of program is to better enable agency staff to discuss the activities and roles of wildlife agencies, such as the role of hunting.

CLfT worked with AFWA to submit Multi State Grant. Role of sustainable use of wildlife under user-pay, public benefit is key focus for how CLfT can assist in development of content to further Project WILD.

Plans for achievement include (and abbreviated from wording in slide presentation):

- 1) Print ready poster on Role of the Public Trust Doctrine in Natural Resources Conservation and North American Model and Wildlife Conservation,
- 2) Additional supporting narratives and worksheets for educators on these poster topics,
- 3) Materials on how wildlife conservation is achieved in North America through a "User-pay, public-benefit" system,
- 4) Reworking the "Oh Deer" curriculum to increase biological and practical accuracy, promote public trust, and diversity topical materials.
- 5) Housing created materials on a public webpage and host a national training webinar series. To include, hopefully modern supporting video content and technology engagement resources.

Focus is on the K-12 level. Additional materials to enhance content published in guide, as well as to make any adjustments, potentially, for factual accuracy in content in the guide.

Concern expressed about the difficulty of expecting educators to print posters, and the development of new content that may not meet educators needs.

Concern expressed about adding too much content, such as on wildlife management, to Oh Deer could make activity unusable. Caution about not presenting Project WILD as "broken" and that AFWA keeps Project WILD in group. CLfT and Project WILD/AFWA need to move forward cautiously.

Intention is to provide broader resources to CLfT and Project WILD networks.

Free online materials that are supplemental, and that can be used as needed, new content could help educators in some settings.

Discussion about what is appropriate at various levels. Opinion that the Oh Deer activity is "perfect." However, what does a wider range of practitioners need.

AFWA will need to assist with helping put together a team of educators to help with the effort. Supplement to Oh Deer as the direction to go. Anything we put together will be will vetted with Project WILD coordinators.

Report from Project WILD: Kerry Wixted and Suzie Gilley received awards recently.

Report of guide sales.

Discussion of types of hosting organizations—AFWA member/state agencies, non-profits, and combinations. With AFWA being a project of AFWA, there have been opportunities to engage or re-engage state agencies.

### **Marc presented on updates to Aquatic WILD.**

Updated front and back sections to parallel what is in the terrestrial guide.

NGSS Correlations – Kentucky Assoc. Of EE is going to make these correlations for us.

Flying WILD updates – recently did a short run. Updated guide available in 2021. De-emphasizing the festival component. Focus shifted more towards science content. Activity types will be 1) traditional activities and 2) centers. Activities will be updated and stronger Project WILD branding. Two webinars were conducted for Flying WILD and GUW networks. The focus of the webinars was to update folks on what is happening with both guides.

GUW will have a new format this year. April timeline.

### **GUW Online Course—**

A 15-hour course. Piloting conducted and revisions to course have been made. Day care providers will be included in who AFWA targets for training. There are logistical aspects still to be worked out. Online course may help alleviate time pressure for some Project WILD coordinators. The course is designed to minimize work load.

Earth Day Online Training. Registration is open now. Two Project WILD activities will be included. Phenology at Play and Here Today, Gone Tomorrow. AFWA is partnering closely with Project WET and NWF on this training.

Annual meeting in July—joint meeting with Project WET!

### **Focus on Education—Lindsay Rogers presented.**

Interpretation vs. Education. Value of interpretation in developing relevancy for agency. What types of education are in Nebraska? Outdoor, historical/cultural and natural resource. Education division is focusing on constituents that don't necessarily hunt, focus on eco literacy. The education division is not attempting to pull the three areas together under Lindsay's charge. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) natural resource education programming includes Project WILD and several other efforts (Trout in the Classroom, "Trail Tales" Magazine, special educational events, curriculum development, Citizen Science & Watchable Wildlife, among others.

2017 team of 10 people from each division to work on education, which eventually led to Education Strategic Plan, including SWOT analysis, writing sessions, design, etc.

See "Focus on Education" from Nebraska Game and Parks. Six major areas in education Number one recommendation from plan—to develop baseline knowledge including assessment of Nebraska's diverse communities, needs of these communities and how current programs do or do not meet these needs.

Other results—cut programs when not working, create a plan to implement the strategic plan, and preparation for RAWA—what's the 25% match going to be.

Announcement: Indiana DNR seeking support in circulating job announcement—public engagement supervisor.

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