

**Education Working Group Minutes**  
**AFWA Annual Meeting**  
**Friday September 11, 2020**  
**9:00 am-11:00 am Central Time**

**Welcome/Introductions**

People introduced themselves in the chat box

**Overview of Nebraska's 5 Year Education Plan and Demographic Survey - Jeff Rawlinson and Lindsay Rogers**

- **Link to the plan:** <http://outdoornebraska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/LOW-RES-spreads-20192020-Education-Strat-Plan-FINAL-1.pdf>
- Developing a strategic plan would focus our efforts in the state, feeding a little off the CE strategy.
- Vision & Interpretation - understanding, appreciation, support, engagement
- Agency-wide plan that includes internal and external focus
- NR Education, cultural and historical, outdoor recreation, strong education team, partnerships, funding
- The product is a conservation minded citizenry
- Program Inventory & Community Survey
- Working on position descriptions and currently include education/public engagement in most natural resource positions
- Improved coordination - i.e. One webpage for all education
- Everything, including the survey, is being done in-house instead of hiring a contractor.

**Delivering education Programs during Covid-19 /Group discussion on what your state is doing to conduct in person or virtual classes - Tabbi Kinion**

- If you are interested in doing some national level work, please sign up on the forms  
<https://forms.gle/zq6nZG6J5GKnsMxDA>
- For years we've had plans to add more digital resources, but COVID-19 has really forced us to focus on it
- Worked with marketing firm to build a virtual nature center  
[www.agfcnaturecenter.com](http://www.agfcnaturecenter.com)
- Produced quantity and quality videos

**What are other organizations during?**

- Jeff Ledermann, MN DNR posted a great resource (PCA Outreach Model)
- ATA resources: <https://www.archery360.com/> and <https://bowhunting360.com/>

- Staff went through training on how to engage people online
- Several teacher workshops and continuing staff training
- Arizona resource: <https://www.azgfd.com/education/focuswild/focuswild/>
- Ohio Chat with a Biologist: <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/education-training/environmental-education/chat-with-biologist>
- Maryland resources: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Education/home.aspx>
- Nevada resources: <https://sites.google.com/view/nevada-knockout2020/home>  
In Nevada--all public education programs went to Zoom. Participation increased significantly.
- Nebraska resources: <https://www.neoutdoordiscovery.com/>
- Pennsylvania resources: <https://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/ActivitiesAndEducationPortal/Pages/default.aspx>
- Missouri: Missouri - converted to virtual programs as well and will continue them even after we continue to open facilities back up. We're finding that 50% of virtual participants are "first time" attendees which means we're giving residents who don't live near a facility an opportunity to attend an event. These are all new audiences and engagements
- Sadly, in Florida, our communications were almost completely shut down for the first part of COVID, opening up now but we sadly missed a big window of opportunity when people were desperate for info.
- In Rhode Island, we are preparing to launch 3 curriculum kits that are specific to RI wildlife, with plans to launch 2 more for 2021. We are no longer running in-person classroom programs because of COVID, and also because we were getting completely overwhelmed with requests and with a staff of 2, we couldn't handle it. Hoping to run some teacher trainings to help prep teachers and interact with them. We are also doing Zoom programs for families/general public, and have done some virtual management area tours.
- Iowa: We have been putting things together, but has been difficult to get organized because multiple bureaus and directions. Staff in field want to work together, but very silo'd
- ATA: We are launching a new Conservation Initiative as well with resources for everyone to use <https://archerytrade.org/conservation-initiative/> The landing page is still being updated with new videos and resources. We are expanding these resources and open to collaborations and feedback
- From Kim Winter USFS:
  - Any/all resources that any state agency has in this group I would be happy to link to from the USFS NatureWatch website - do we have a way to

capture the resources in chat and/or share in a one-stop shop after this meeting? I am quickly jotting them down...

- From Alex Baer - IHEA :
  - I recently had a great call with Zoom, and they offer an education license that is only \$90/year that allows for audiences up to 300. IHEA is offering to purchase these for Hunter Ed administrators, but if you're interested, perhaps we can find a way to grab more for the needs of those on this call. Any interest?
- From Lindsay Rogers, Nebraska
  - <http://www.outdoornebraska.org/onlineeducation> has resources including lesson plans, Wild What's Up (where kids/people can email in a question, have the question answered then a weekly video is made answering three or four questions), videoed weekly webinars, etc

### **Overview of AFWA's Conservation Education Strategy**

CE Strategy: <https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/ce-strategy/north-american-conservation-education-strategy>

Developed several years ago through Multistate Conservation Grant funding. Results included:

- Development of Conservation Education Strategy,
- Conservation Education Tutorials
- Conservation Education Toolkit

Current work by the working group includes updating these resources--such as alignments, ease of use, and reducing redundancy. Once the update is complete, training will be provided.

Every time someone says "consistent messages", consider sharing:

[https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/5515/1373/0592/ConservationEd\\_CoreConceptsPoster.pdf](https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/5515/1373/0592/ConservationEd_CoreConceptsPoster.pdf)

### **Updates from the MSCG CE Strategy Updates Work Group**

#### **Career and Technology Education (CTE) Pathway in Natural Resources**

Heather Hubbard (Colorado Parks & Wildlife) presented. School & Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) & Youth Internship Program (YIP).

- Colorado P & W looking how to bridge the two areas of focus from SOLE and YIP.
- 53 schools involved.
- Career Cluster Model in Colorado includes technical skills, readiness skills (like time management), and \_\_\_?
- The use of education/career pathways in Colorado did not have a track for natural resource pathway. The new Ducks Unlimited Industry Certification course. This provides a model for CO to consider. Colorado Parks and Wildlife assessed use of this resource.
- Findings--could work well in diverse urban areas, increases awareness at early age, strengthens career pipelines.
- Next steps--seeking to build partnerships, district & teacher support, student externships, and further resource development.

## Lightning Round

Kristin Romanoff--

- only 8 educators across Alaska
- more video footage from the field; just created one on caribou migration work; will do a YouTube premiere with a FaceBook Live Chat with a Biologist
- want to provide more organic out in the field showing biologists
- wildlife safety in the schools program are also popular, focusing on things like human-bear interaction; they received great feedback from parents that also got to attend the virtual sessions

Matt Harlow- DJ Case.

- Updating Locavore Guide
- DJ Case, ACI, and others received a grant to do free Locavore Workshops. The first workshop will be the day prior to the R3 Symposium at Broken Arrow that starts on May 4th. The second one will be on the day after ACI. Go to <https://djcase.com/afwa> for more information. The workshops will be designed to provide take-home ideas on how to apply this information in your own state.

Jen Dennison (OH) : Student Wildlife Research Symposium. High school students invited to present on papers and research projects they've been working on. Hosted in conjunction with state environmental education conference, which allows discussion between students and those in the field. Colleges and universities invited to share. COVID pandemic may require skipping for 2021.

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/education-training/environmental-education/student-wildlife-research-symposium> .

Barb Gigar--Iowa: Outdoor Expo has gone virtual - <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Social-Media-Press-Room/Iowa-Outdoor-Expo>

Kim Winter USFS-- <https://www.fs.fed.us/naturewatch/> Nature Watch website is undergoing reconstruction. My mind is going toward having a new menu tab to host all of these great state resources and shout-out to our AFWA partners! Contact Kim if you would like to include what your organization offers--needs to be disability (508) compliant, and not for sale.

Mary Gannon (RI)--We are going on year 3 of publishing our kids' magazine and are going to be printing it in Spanish this year for the first time. Super excited!  
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/wildlifehuntered/outreach/archive.php>.

Jeff Ledermann (MN DNR)-- MN legislature funded effort to integrate environmental education with small seed grants (\$5,000) and larger grants. Over 100 projects have been funded.

Marc LeFebre (AFWA)-- Project WILD/NGSS correlations now published. Project WILD has launched "[WILD Learning Lab](#)" for weekly practice with educators on implementing redeveloped Project WILD activities online.

To stay connected, please add your contact info  
<https://forms.gle/7GDvzNA6GHNi5qcc8>