

## Conservation Education Working Group- minutes

Chair: Kellie Tharp (AZ)

Thursday, March 29, 2018

8-10AM

Attendees = 23

- Welcome/Introductions- Kellie
- Update on Natural Pathways Project
  - Been working to get the final project
  - This has been going on for ~3 yrs; waiting on final reports from WMI to continue this project to completion
  - Project goal- to see what the pathways people take to complete the R3 process to success and what the barriers are if they do not.
  - We have an adjusted timeline for completion with WMI and should be completed by the September AFWA meeting
    - Timeline should be confirmed by end of week
  - Once completed there will be a webinar on this thru the CE Strategy webinar series
  - Completed best practices will be posted on the AFWA website
  - This is the last year of the MSCG extension
  - Discussion: during the inception of this project it was the height of the R3 effort movement and it allowed us to be part of that discussion; we will still get a lot of good applicable information out of this project but we recognize that state agencies have evolved a little since the time when this project began.
- CE Strategy Monarch Education Guide
  - This project was completed this year and posted on the AFWA website
  - This project came out of a resolution between USFWS and AFWA
  - Guide provided CE educators and practitioners of best practice materials and best tools to use in your monarch education toolkit
  - We had a CE webinar on this subject earlier this year; you can view the archived webinar online
  - Question: can we see how many downloads of this document → can look at google analytics to see what info we can determine
  - Discussion (Jay): since this was in partnership with USFWS you can use our webinar platform when you think you'll get maxed out; current max is 100 participants
  - Discussion: might look in to downloading all archived webinars to the AFWA YouTube page to have them all in one location
- CE Strategy Webinar Series
  - Discussion: might be time to re-vamp the CE strategy to update it (it's 10 years old)
    - Might need to work towards writing a MSCG to get this done
    - Might look at the re-vamped CE Strategy in html format to create webpages and make it searchable; easier for educators to use over a pdf format.

- Look at the NCNs that come out of the NA Conf
- Look at incorporating new and updated materials; consolidating current material; and linking to new standards and creating proper education alignments to become more relevant to today's educators
- Another possible MSCG could look at climate change education; partner with climate change committee
- Discussion: let's try to create a tangible product that can be used for action; perhaps steer away from just doing surveys
- Review of timeline for a grant proposal:
  - Nov-Feb: National Conservation Needs (NCNs) due
  - March: selection of NCN
  - March-April: Announcement of Opportunity/ Letter of Intent Solicitation
  - May: Letter of Intent Review & Full Proposal Invitation
  - June: applications are notified whether or not they have been invited to submit a full proposal
  - July: Full grant proposal due
  - August: grants are evaluated by the National Grants Committee
  - September: National Grants Committee creates a priority list and makes suggestions on what proposals get funded
  - October: list goes to USFWS for final review/approval
  - December: USFWS selects final list of accepted proposals
- Possible webinar topics
  - How to teach adults about conservation education.
  - How to get elementary educators to use field investigations in the school; making it easy for them
  - Project WILD webinar on the guide updates
  - Project planning and implementation
  - Overview of Michigan DNR's continuing education credit program for educators
  - Work smarter not harder (Nebraska); using programs already in place and highlighting a them (ie. Bird month)
  - Review of Texas Waters training program (used for TX Master Naturalist training)
  - Any other ideas please send an email to Kellie Tharp ([KTharp@azgfd.gov](mailto:KTharp@azgfd.gov))
- Barb- Aquatic Resource Education Association
  - Upcoming conference/meeting in October 2018
    - Save the Date: Oct 22-26, 2018 at Lake Tahoe, CA
  - Great on the ground training
  - More info at [www.areanet.org](http://www.areanet.org)
- Lightening Round
  - Jay (USFWS/NCTC) is working on an R3 skills building; hope is to put together a workshop (June 11) at NCTC; should be hearing about it and request for attendance soon

- Jay (USFWS/NCTC)- have a current updated website that is user friendly and searchable to find training classes at NCTC; recommend looking at this and using this resource ([www.nctc.fws.gov](http://www.nctc.fws.gov))
- Renny (WY) - recently completed a human dimensions project (Wyoming Game and Fish worked with Responsive Management) to set priorities for the agency into the future. The Wyoming public views hunter education as one of the top 5 most important functions of our agency. Conservation education is also considered highly important.
- Renny (WY)- recently updated Wyoming's conservation education center/camp→ the Whiskey Mountain Education Camp. Partners can use it for education if there is availability.
- Lindsay (NE)- also updated an education facility that was run down; will be updated and very usable; new facility will be 80% changeable and 20% permanent (displays)
- Kellie (AZ)- working on funding for a new facility for injured/orphaned wildlife
- Johnnie (TX)- put together a curriculum on Texas Waters Specialist Program; meant as advanced training for TX Master Naturalists
- Steve (TX)- working on a new (proposed) hunter education center; working on a number of hunter 101/ game processing 101 type classes→ using the Becoming an Outdoor-Woman model for education