



Youth Education Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: 11/17/2020	
Start Time: 10:00am	End Time: 11:30am
Location:	Go-to-Meeting-Link provided in email
Committee Members: Tracy Arnold (Portage) (Chair), Anne Bartels (Marinette), Patty Benedict (Portage), Lisa Burns (Washburn), Stephanie Egner (Washington)(Sec), Kelly Maginnis (Columbia), Sarah McDowell (Vernon), Aleisha Miller (St. Croix), Michele Sadauskas (Oneida), Josh Saykally (Waushara), Heather Palmquist (Iron), Zach Wilson (Iron), Lee Jennings (Brown), Karyn Eckert (Taylor), Megan Steckelberg (Adams), Catherine Higley (Vilas), Justine Bula (Sauk), Sarah Wichman (Outagamie), Mary George (Shawano), Steve Kircher (Forest), Cassidy Neilitz (Forest)	In Attendance: Arnold, Warkentin, Egner, Bula, Bartels, Benedict, Burns, McDowell, Miller, Wilson, Jennings, Eckert, Steckelberg, Wichman, George, Kircher, Neilitz, Scott Frank
WI Land + Water Staff: Kim Warkentin, Youth Education Director	Absent Committee Members: Maginnis, Sadauskas, Saykally, Palmquist, Higley
Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI Land + Water Meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person or via conference phone if desired. • Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the committee chair. 	

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE.

10:00 am Call to order: Arnold (Chair)

- Introductions/Roll Call (Bula)
- Adopt agenda/Additions
 - Motion - Patty
 - Second – Lisa
 - Motion Carried
- Approve previous meeting minutes (8/6/2020)
 - No edits.
 - Motion – Mary
 - Second – Stephanie
 - Motion Carried

10:05 am Conservation Camps

- Sand Lake, Grade 6-8, June 16-18, 2021-Anne Bartels-Marinette Co
 - Anne: Administration and Parks Dept. will let Anne know if camp will be open by December. Not planning to start organizing the camp until about January, as this is dependent on the camps being open. Based on the current situation with COVID-19, outlook is not great for in person summer camps at the moment. Anne will keep everyone posted on updates for the Sand Lake Camp.
- WI Land+Water Camp, Grades 9-12, June 21-24, 2021-Heather Palmquist-Iron Co, Zach Wilson-Iron Co
 - Kim: Parents are already reaching out about camp. It is too early to make any decisions for hosting the camp this summer. There will be a committee meeting for this week to discuss camp logistics. Currently, we are planning for in-person but will make any changes necessary as guidelines and additional information become available. Additional

items to consider are the added costs to having a nurse on site for an in-person camp. This will need to be factored into the budget. We are anticipating an increase in COVID-19 cases over winter and hosting the camp is dependent on the camp being open for in-person program and any county restrictions. Kim will provide updates on the WI Land + Water Camp as more information is made available.

10:15 am Silent Auction-Megan Steckelberg-Adams Co/ Karyn Eckert-Taylor Co/ Kim Warkentin-WI L+W

- Megan: The silent auction will be all virtual for 2021 and will be setup through 32auction.com and will comingle with program that will be used for conference. Kim will work on promoting auction through various promos. Bidding will be open from February until the conference.
 - Items for Auction: We are requesting items that are easy to mail (not fragile or large!!). Items will remain with the county until the end of the auction. Karyn is asking to have item descriptions and pictures emailed in.
 - Invoices will be sent out to all the bidders once the auction has concluded. Shipping costs will be paid by the bidder. Every county has to either ship the item or offer pickup. The county can be reimbursed for the cost of the shipping by WI Land+Water or can donate the shipping cost and pay for it themselves. Payment can be made by credit card or checks made out to WI Land + Water. Please note that there are additional fees for any credit card transactions.
 - County will ship the item to the highest bidder, bidder will pay for item (card or check), and county will have to ask for reimbursement for shipping cost on item from Kim. County can donate cost of shipping rather than request reimbursement. Kim will need a copy of receipt for shipping costs to be reimbursed. Kim has an existing reimbursement form that can be used for the silent auction.
 - Lisa: After conference is over, what is the deadline to pay? Kim will check with the software to see if there is a way to set up a payment deadline.
 - Megan: for deadline, set a deadline for say 2 weeks after silent auction is over and if top bidder does not pay, pass onto next highest bidder. Option to “send invoice” with program.
 - No raffle for 2021 conference. It is illegal to do any online raffles in WI. Money that was raised for this year’s raffle will be rolled over to next year scholarship fund.
 - Silent auction funds go towards poster and speaking contest, Envirothon, and conservation camps.

10:25 am Poster and Speaking Contest

- Poster Contest (Egner)
 - Stephanie: Connecting with teachers, suggestions for providing paper to the school or materials as teachers are looking for programs to offer to students at this time.
 - Local: up to local coordinator on how to best organize and host event.
 - Mary George: creating a custom PowerPoint and sharing that one with area. All photos will be emailed in and Mary will send out PowerPoint.
 - Stephanie: Post and share to County Facebook page
 - Bula: will try to create a promo video with TNC and share that with schools.
 - Tracy: If you want to share via the Youth Ed. Facebook page, let Tracy know and she can share.
 - Area: Up to area coordinator. Egner suggests it might be easier to get everything via email. Use area reps to coordinate local and area

- State: all materials (via email) are due by Friday, Feb 12th. No decision has been made on how judging will take place. Discussed setting up a specific week and coordinating judging online (Socio link to judge). Trying to allow all members to vote just like would have in a normal year. Offer fun creative things to get people to go on to vote. Announce winners online at the virtual conference.
 - Prizes for speaking: trophy (issue with shipping for this year)
 - Prizes for poster: art supplies (issue with shipping for this year)
 - Patty: maybe look for a local gift card for the winners. Chamber bucks to use locally at different local businesses. Supports local businesses as well as a fun prize for poster contest winners.
 - 2021 Poster theme is Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities
- Speaking Contest (Arnold)
 - Local, Area, State
 - Local: coordinate however you can. If there are any issues or glitches, please let Tracy/Kim know ASAP so we can fix that one
 - Zach: completed 4-5th grade speeches. Used Zoom for presenting, no issues with judges joining and students presenting. Teacher put screen in front of class so student would present to judges and class. Worked well and students did a great job with investigating. Met with students via zoom to help them plan for speeches.
 - Tracy and Zach are rock stars.
 - Area: Coordinate however you can. Work with area counties to set up.
 - State: Two weeks prior to conference we will set up judging and get judges together to review speeches submitted. A link can be provided to share the winning speeches to members attending the conference. Still details to work out on judging and sharing.
 - Submitting videos for State
 - All forms and videos submitted by **Feb 12, 2021**. All signatures must be on all forms.

10:45 am Envirothon

- Virtual State event 2021
 - Not sure what it will all look like yet, we have talked with different states and will be using resources from nationals. We will be using the same test as last year.
 - Nebraska will be hosting the national competition and using same current issue as 2020. Most states are going virtual for 2021. Talked with Ohio, Virginia, and Manitoba for help with planning a virtual event. National Envirothon is stepping up to provide resources and help to the states. Some states did have virtual events last year and are sharing ideas and information with others.
 - If you are interested in helping with Envirothon, please let Tracy and Kim know.
- Subcommittee updates
 - Converting test to online format
 - Each of the subcommittee members are teamed up with station captains and they will offer each test online. We are not sure what program/platform will be used and how it will work yet but as soon as information is available, that information will be shared.
 - Not sure on the total cost/team for the 2021 Envirothon competition. We would like to keep the costs as low as possible to encourage as many schools and students to participate.
 - Providing t-shirts might not be possible this year but we still want to get something out to the students.

- Team and individual options
 - As a virtual competition, Envirothon does not have to be a team competition. An individual student could participate at the State level. Individuals will need a team to participate at nationals.
 - With a virtual format there might be an opportunity for more schools to participate.
- Week-long event vs. one day
 - Can we spread out Envirothon out over a few days rather than getting everything done in one day? The test will be sent to the captain, once they open the link, it is only open for a certain amount time (estimated 45 mins.) for them to complete.
- County sponsorships (\$55)
 - Tread lightly but funds are still needed. Dues usually comes out in December for WI Land and Water. All 72 counties were dues paying members this last year but due to changes this year this might be more difficult. We are still hoping that counties will be able to support Envirothon again this year. Check with your county on contributing again this year for Envirothon.
 - Tracy will update the flyer and send that out.

10:55 am YEC Area Representatives Updates (Egner)

- Northwestern-Lisa Burns, Washburn Co
 - Some counties not able to participate because they are overloaded or schools are not interested. Poster contest might be easier for counties to host than speaking contest. Iron Co. participating in speaking but Washburn Co. not going to participate in speaking. Area contest Jan 20th for Poster and Speaking.
 - Area Poster plan: submit posters into a PowerPoint and rearrange by division
 - Area Speaking plan: prerecorded video submitted
- West Central-Aleisha Miller, St. Croix Co
 - Area contest will be take a video for speaking or pictures for poster and forward them on. All materials are due Feb 1st for area contest.
- Western- Sarah McDowell, Vernon Co
 - No news for Area contests yet.
 - Shout out for Sarah for stepping up and taking over for Kirsti!
- Southern-Justine Bula, Sauk Co
 - So far 5 counties from area are planning on hosting a poster contest and 1 county planning on hosting a speaking contest.
 - Area Poster Contest scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021.
 - Area Speaking Contest scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2021.
- Southeastern-Stephanie Egner-Washington Co
 - Poster Contest due at end of December before Christmas break for Washington Co. Area Poster contest is end of January. Washington has had a lot of poster requests so far!
 - Area contest: planning on in-person area contest for now.
 - All materials are due by Friday, January 29, 2021 for area contest.
- Lake Winnebago-Megan Steckelberg, Adams Co
 - 4 different counties are planning on hosting poster contest and 1 county participating in speaking.
 - All due Jan/Dec.
 - Area Contest is January 22nd.
 - Area meetings virtual, how will you be judging posters?
 - Stephanie: Pull in some forestry people to judge
- Lake Michigan-Lee Jennings, Brown Co

- Area Contest January 8th. Brown Co not sure on how things will go. Area rep meeting would be helpful.
- North Central-Patty Benedict, Portage Co
 - Sending out reminder to county contacts before thanksgiving break to remind them of using that time to make their posters. Sending out an email to northcentral area this week to get info from other counties.
 - January 26th or 27th for contest.
- Tracy has spreadsheet of dates and will send that. Area reps collect dates and email those to Tracy once local dates are set.

11:10 am Review 2021 Youth Education Work Plan

- Kim: Strategic plan from WI Land + Water. Work plan for 2021 updated, includes committee in some items. Most bench marks were reached last year.
- 2021 work plan:
 1. Secure funding sources to promote youth ed. programs and Envirothon. In the past we have reached out to a number of sponsors and grants to fund Envirothon. Goal of securing 2 former sponsors of grants and match # of counties supporting Envirothon in 2020. Received \$500.00 grant from Cellcom and will be working on additional grants for Envirothon.
 2. Participate in at least one presentation activity to engage more schools. In the past we have been exhibitors at the WAAE Conference. If you come across any opportunities to showcase youth ed. programs let us know.
 3. Conduct a virtual silent auction to assist in the efforts of securing funds. Significant amount of money is brought in through this program. Youth ed. programs are self-sustaining through fundraising and sponsorship.
 4. Strengthen communications and support planning for youth ed. Work with Tracy and Kim and new communications person on social media and new website. Work-study intern will assist with WI Land + Water programming and youth ed. promotion.
 5. Develop a virtual speaking and poster contest. Engage new students
 6. Develop a virtual Envirothon. Engage new students.

11:20 am WI Land+Water Conference, YEC breakout

- Wednesday, March 3 from 9:00-10:00am
- Tracy: signed up for a youth ed. breakout session. What topic and who will present?
 - Last year Anne presented on TOAD program. In previous years, presentations have been provided on poster and speaking contests, Envirothon, planting pollinator seeds, watershed model, and more.
- Topic Ideas/Presenters for 2021 breakout session
 - Patty: reaching out to schools/teachers/students, how to engage virtually as a topic. Zach nominated to present. Kim suggested having multiple people present on different ways to engage.
 - Scott Frank has hosted a youth education field day before and maybe he could present on his program, about 250 kids participate each year.
 - Lisa: thinking beyond the speaking contest, creating new programs/contests. Ask counties what else we can provide for youth programs instead of or in addition to speaking contest.
 - Tracy: Matt from Clark County tried to host a multimedia competition in the past.

11:25 am Additional topics/projects/concerns

11:28 am Next meeting

- Area Reps meet in December to discuss how to organize area contest. Kim will send out a doodle poll to set up meeting.
- The next Youth Ed Committee meeting will be scheduled for January.

11:30 am Adjourn

- Motion - Lisa
- Second - Mary George
- Motion Carried