



## Youth Education Committee

### Meeting Agenda

<b>Date: 5/25/2021</b>	
<b>Start Time: 9:00am</b>	<b>End Time: 11:00am</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85757342980?pwd=a3laVnJrNzJGeWtabW9qaTNFRVcyZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85757342980?pwd=a3laVnJrNzJGeWtabW9qaTNFRVcyZz09</a>
<p><b>Committee Members:</b> Tracy Arnold (Portage) (Chair), Stephanie Egner (Washington)(Vice-Chair), Justine Bula (Sauk)(Sec), Anne Bartels (Marinette), Patty Benedict (Portage), Lisa Burns (Washburn), 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), Sarah Wichman (Outagamie), Mary George (Shawano), Steve Kircher (Forest), Anna James (Adams), Ty Larson (NRCS)</p>	
<p><b>WI Land + Water Staff:</b> Kim Warkentin, Youth Education Director</p>	
<p><b>Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WI Land + Water Meetings are open meetings. Individuals may observe in person or via conference phone if desired.</li> <li>• Order and time allowed for agenda items may be changed due to pace of meeting or at the discretion of the committee chair.</li> </ul>	

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE.

#### 9:01 am Call to order: Arnold (Chair)

- Introductions/Roll Call (Bula)
  - Introduce Ty Larson-NRCS (Warkentin)
    - Welcome to the new Youth Ed Committee member, Ty Larson with NRCS. John White reached out to Matt K. to discuss strategies to increase diversity, outreach and youth education. As a result a member from NRCS will be joining the Youth Education Committee. Ty Larson has been involved in various youth education programs over the years including Envirothon, the North Central and the Winnebago Groups....
  - Lee will be retiring on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you Lee for all your work and congratulations!
- Adopt agenda/Additions
  - Motion - Lee
  - Second - Mary
  - Motion Carried
- Approve previous meeting minutes (1/28/2021)
  - Motion - Mary
  - Second - Stephanie
  - Motion Carried

#### 9:05 am Conservation Camps

- Sand Lake, CANCELLED -Anne Bartels-Marquette Co
  - Anne unable to attend today's meeting
  - Tracy provided updates for program:
    - Received funding from Lake Michigan Area to fund conservation kits at home program which is limited to Marinette Co residents only. Currently hoping to get 50 kits that include items such as a notebook, mini first aid kit, bug in a jar kit, ID books, etc.
  - TOAD program is booked solid for this summer
- WI Land+Water Camp, CANCELLED-Heather/Zach/Kim

- Heather: Canceled due to concerns over safety and unknown and changing restrictions. The camp facility is also under major reconstruction for this year as well. We are very excited to be back next year for camp with all the new remodels (6 million remodel) and finally being able to host camp for the first time in two years.
- Kim noted that she has received email from parents and students that are Sad parents and kids keep emailing Kim. Students aging out of program and unable to attend next year.

### **9:15 am WI Land+Water Conference, YEC breakout**

- Iron County Youth Education Program “Woods and Waters.” Presented by Zach Wilson, Iron Co
  - Tracy provided updates:
    - Zach did a great job with the presentation! It was very well attended and the programs that were shared sound amazing.
  - Patty brought down the house with her rap! Congratulations to Tracy!!!
  - Please brainstorm and think about ideas for future presentations.

### **9:20 am Silent Auction-Megan Steckelberg-Adams Co/ Karyn Eckert-Taylor Co/ Kim Warkentin-WI L+W**

- The auction turned out great. Megan and Karyn did a phenomenal job in organizing the auction.
- Silent Auction Report:
  - 31 counties donated a total of 84 items for a total retail value of \$5,442.58.
  - A total of \$3,645.50 was raised from auction
  - Traveling Trophy: Racine won 3<sup>rd</sup> place with \$370.00, Adams won 2<sup>nd</sup> place with \$532.08, and Outagamie won 1<sup>st</sup> place with \$590.00 raised. The trophy is now with Outagamie County.
- Updates from Megan:
  - We had good communication overall. Almost everyone replied when items shipped and were received.
  - Good team work between counties with getting items to buyers.
  - One complaint with auction regarding expanded shipping options for items as the individual ran into issues with having to drive to pick up items purchased from auction.
    - Cassandra Kohls noted that Outagamie County decided that shipping would not be allowed even with the option for reimbursement from WI Land & Water.
    - Idea brought up to solve the shipping issues for counties by trying to work with the area associations to see if they can help with the shipping items.
- Only one county was reimbursed by Kim for shipping costs. Counties either donated the shipping or staff worked to get items to buyers.
- The online format worked really well, but hopefully we are back to in person next year. There are options for hybrid auctions that we can explore in the future as this one worked out so well.
- Great job to all, it ended up as a huge success.

### **9:35 am Poster and Speaking Contest**

- Poster Contest (Egner)
  - Local, Area, State
    - Local: Congrats to all who were able to get the contest set up this year, it was not an easy year to get things organized.
    - Area: Thank you to Justine for assistance with setting up Google Forms. By using Google Forms for the area contest, many were able to get more people involved with the judging and voting on posters. This was a good option that allowed all the LCC members from some areas to participate in judging.
    - State:

- Everything was submitted and posted on the Google platform and this allowed for others to assist Kim in the checking and reviewing forms and submissions. Moving forward, we might keep a similar option as it made it much easier to organize the contest.
    - Socio platform: members were able to vote online at the conference.
    - Awards for winning State Contest poster were online VISA gift cards. The gift cards were sent via email which was challenging as some emails bounced back and we had to contact VISA to reallocate gift cards for bounce backs. Everyone did confirm that they did receive their gift cards in the end.
  - Virtual aspect
    - Not as many posters were submitted.
    - Greater opportunity for judges to participate with the virtual program.
    - Prize distribution:
      - Some counties dropped all materials at the school and allowed students to pick up materials directly from school.
      - Portage did do hand deliveries and found that was a nice way to get out and celebrate the students and their accomplishments.
      - Mary George had students stop by the courthouse and presented winning posters to the county board.
  - 2022 Contest:
    - Patty will check with Nationals and find out what the theme for 2022 is.
    - We now have template forms for virtual and in person contest which will make organizing next year's contest easier. We hope to have forms available in August for the 2022 contest.
    - Providing information right away is really helpful with getting schools to participate. If you are able to with your county, provide paper to the schools and teachers as they really appreciate it and it is a low cost way to support the teachers and push for an increase in participation.
      - For next year, add instructions to not put a name on the front of the poster on the registration form.
  - Share Youth Ed flyers and keep the promotion up as we move into next year.
- Speaking Contest (Arnold)
  - Local:
    - Aleisha noted that one video submitted did not have audio but otherwise things went well.
  - Area:
    - Aleisha noted that Zoom worked well for presentations.
  - State:
    - Some counties and parents appreciated that they didn't have to drive all the way to the conference to present their speech.
    - Judges appreciated the judging format as it provided flexibility and time to review speeches more. All agreed that judging went well for State speech contest.
  - Virtual aspect:
    - There were minor issues with many different types of video files being uploaded to the form, but overall the Google Form worked well.
    - Google forms worked well with reviewing forms and confirming that everything was correct and completed.

- There is a learning curve with getting to know different platforms and how to make contests work best for local and area. Be as flexible as possible to get as many students, teachers, and families involved.
- Great job to everyone for all the extra efforts on getting these contests organized this last year!

### 9:55 am WI Envirothon

- Virtual State event-**1<sup>st</sup> place Slinger High School**
  - Tracy: A lot of work but amazing job to all who helped. The subcommittee put in a lot of time and effort to make this one happen.
  - We used the tests from the canceled 2020 Envirothon which were all written and ready to go. Subcommittee members teamed up with station captions to convert the tests to a virtual format for the platform, Classmarker.
  - Envirothon teams took tests on Wednesday and Thursday with presentation on Friday. High school teams used zoom and Middle School teams used Microsoft Teams for presentations. Kim coordinated time for presentations with all of the advisors to get the personation times set up for Zoom/Microsoft Teams.
  - The virtual format presentations worked really well as it allowed judges to talk and discuss after the presentation, use notes, and fill out a google form.
  - All of the presentations were recorded and WI Land & Water is going to convert and share those with the advisors so that they can share that with students to review. Comments and feedback on presentation has already been shared with students.
  - We received lots of positive feedback from the schools that participated and saw teams that hadn't competed in 5-6 years and new teams participate in the competition this year.
  - Hosted a virtual awards banquet which was very fun. Awards are being sent out and students are sharing pictures of their awards. Kim is also working on getting all the Thank You cards and certificates out to sponsors. Participants will receive a gator instead of a t-shirt for this year. Those will be mailed out this week.
  - A first time participant in Envirothon, Slinger FFA, won. Stephanie recruited the team to participate. She worked with their FFA advisor was very motivated and put a team together. The team captain has also participated in all sorts of Youth Ed programs and was able to help get a team together.
    - Represent WI in July for the National Envirothon
  - Is it possible to keep presentations as virtual and have tests as in person at camp? Could we have live virtual presentations the day before camp as this could open up more time at camp and allow time to announce award winners while students are still at camp.
    - We have flexibility for the WI Envirothon. Offering a virtual presentation option is something that we can discuss in the future. It was noted that the National competition uses PowerPoint so a virtual option could work well.
    - Hybrid programing will probably be more common in the future and we will see what that looks like and adjust as best we can in the future.
- Virtual Nationals-July 25-28, hosted by Nebraska
  - Virtual: Guests can pay \$50 to participate and that will cover access to opening ceremony, watch the top 3 teams for the current issue presentations, and watch the awards ceremony.
  - Washington Co. is sponsoring Slinger FFA for the national program. WI Land & Water will reimburse parents and guests who would like to participate.
- Promo week (online test version available for all schools) – trial tests made available to schools to see what Envirothon is like. DPI shared this opportunity. Lee had 44 tests submitted. All tests had to be hand scored and results will be shared back with students.

- County sponsorships (\$55)
  - County budgets coming up in summer. Please see if you can bring up sponsorship of Envirothon for your county and area.
  - Hopefully we will have more teams participate for 2022 so we will really have to push for funds.

### **10:15 am YEC Area Representatives Updates (Egner)**

- Northwestern-Lisa Burns, Washburn Co:
  - Heather no updates
- West Central-Aleisha Miller, St. Croix Co:
  - No updates
- Western- Sarah McDowell, Vernon Co
  - Unable to attend meeting, no representatives from area present to provide update.
- Southern-Justine Bula, Sauk Co
  - Southern Area Association meeting on Thursday, May 27.
- Southeastern-Stephanie Egner-Washington Co
  - Area meeting next week, share information and updated Youth Ed flyer.
- Lake Winnebago-Megan Steckelberg, Adams Co
  - Area meeting last week, everything went well
- Lake Michigan-Lee Jennings, Brown Co:
  - No ideas for replacement on Youth Ed. Committee. Thanks for the memories! Future contact info [leeRjennings@gmail.com](mailto:leeRjennings@gmail.com) or 608-212-3191.
- North Central-Patty Benedict, Portage Co:
  - Meeting in 1<sup>st</sup> week of May, provided an update on Youth Ed programs. Tracy and Dan have been able to get out and do some presentations, schools asking for hands on outdoor classes. Prairie planting with students!

### **10:30 am Conservation Ideas for Summer (Egner)**

- County Fairs, Scout Troops, 4H, other camps, etc
  - As things open up, take advantage of any opportunities to get conservation programs out wherever we can.
  - Megan: Adams Co. has a summer program series that will be held once a month. Programs are held on Saturdays, open to all ages, and are 1.5 hours long. First program had 6 students participate and made nature wind chimes. June will be Bug Motels, July will be a pond focused, and August will be a pollination program.
  - Aleisha: will have plant hikes that are focused on plant ID, foraging for food and medicinal use.
  - Steve K.: Forest Co. is partnering with other area groups to host a 100 hours active outdoors program
  - DNR is opening things back up it sounds like and increasing the capacity for outdoor activities.

### **10:45 am Expand program efforts Statewide (Warkentin)**

- Brainstorm exhibits or programs that are happening that we can advertise our youth ed programs.
  - Attend area Farm breakfasts/Dairy breakfast and share Youth Ed. program info
- In past we have participated in the WI Association of Ag Educators conference but we were unable to participate in that one this last year.
- Matt and Kristen are working to get information at the Farm Tech Days. Aleisha Miller will see if she can attend and help promote Youth Ed programs for WI Land & Water

- Ty Larson:
  - Farm Tech Days will be July 20-22, 2021 in Eau Claire this year. NRCS will have a booth. This is a great opportunity to reach lots of people.
    - 2022 Farm Tech days will be in Clark Co.
  - NRCS Materials for Youth Education (such as pollinator posters and stickers):
    - Contact NRCS Public Affairs Staff: Tivoli Gogh: [tivoli.gough@usda.gov](mailto:tivoli.gough@usda.gov) or Amanda Zelinski: [amanda.zelinski@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.zelinski@usda.gov)
  - Izaak Walton League is very involved in Youth Education. Ty will see he can get a list of chapters and contacts to share information with and partner with for Youth Ed. programs.

**10:55 am Additional topics/projects/concerns**

**10:58 am Next meeting**

- Next meeting will be in mid-August. A doodle poll will be sent out to set date and time.

**10:45 am Adjourn**

- Motion - Lee
- Second - Mary
- Motion Carried

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