

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2009
FSU – Big Rapids

Education Committee Chair Cris DeWolf convened the meeting at 4:32 p.m. Those present were:

Cris DeWolf, Ed. Committee Chair
Bill Burmeister
Nancy Burmeister
Karen Bailey, St. Peter's School
Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, FSU

Denise Mitten, FSU
Nicole Glenn, Camp Newaygo
Gary Noble, Executive Director
Terry Stilson, Program Coordinator

Agenda

Fitzwilliams-Heck added "Educational Program Idea" to VI. Other.

Approval of Minutes – Noble motioned to accept the September 1 minutes with N. Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Teacher Training

- **Budget** – Stilson distributed the draft budget with actual costs added. She stated that not all the invoices have been submitted to date so those will change the total amount. She didn't feel the actual cost would exceed \$6,500.
- **Publicity** – Ideas for publicity for the next workshop were given:
 - Give brochures to union leaders for distribution
 - Have one teacher in each school be responsible for distribution
- The idea for a spring workshop in early May was given.
- **Evaluations** – Denise discussed the workshop evaluations that FSU students had compiled. Some things to think about for next year:
 - Grade level of the session in the description
 - Ask last year's (2008) teachers why they didn't come back to this year's workshop
 - Need new sessions that teachers haven't had
 - Could send brochures to "science teacher" instead of the principal and say "please distribute to interested teachers"
 - Water safety session was great and disappointing so few participated
 - Need to tell facilitators not to dismiss their session more than 15 or 20 minutes before the scheduled end
- Next year's workshop
 - Will probably need to apply for funding
 - Stilson said maybe FACF would allow MRWA to use their funding for this scheduled project even though their funding runs out at the end of this year
 - Targeting May 4 for next workshop

- Held at Camp Newaygo
- A suggestion was made to talk more about how the workshop is made possible – maybe have teachers sign a thank you note and send it to the funder
- A session idea was given to use pontoon boats on Pickeral Lake and take water chemistry tests

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4 at 4:30 pm at FSU (tentative). Committee members will bring session ideas for May’s workshop.

Other

Traveling Naturalist Position – Fitzwilliams-Heck presented an idea for the MRWA to have a traveling naturalist

- Give presentations to public school grades 4-12
- Presentations tied to watershed
- Different focuses
- Have found approximately 10 grant possibilities
- Has a person in mind who is very knowledgeable and committed
 - Willing to start on part-time basis and maybe go into full time
- Noble responded that the MRWA and researchers have a grant proposal into the GLFT to hire a project manager to promote research results and take over some of his responsibilities. Maybe the naturalist idea could be added to this position. Noble will be presenting the proposal again to the GLFT in November but will not know if it will be funded until after the Committee’s next meeting. Concerning Wege match for grant proposals, Noble will not meet with the Wege Foundation until January so the MRWA’s funding is in question. There is also the problem with office space for the position.
- Glenn stated that Camp Newaygo may have office space for the position.

Groundwater Presentations – Bailey reported that she spoke with MSUE Christina Curell and she will be giving groundwater presentations to all Big Rapids schools as a result from her presentation at the teacher workshop.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Terry Stilson
 Program Coordinator