Annual Report FY2019

ICEC
IOWA CONSERVATION EDUCATION COALITION

An overview of activities and accomplishments of ICEC
April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

The state of ICEC

This annual report time frame reflects the ICEC membership approving the change in our fiscal year to run concurrent with the calendar year. This Bylaws update was voted on at the 2020 Membership meeting.

Water Quality Game Jam

GREATNESS STEMS FROM IOWANS
GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Over the Spring of 2019, ICEC hosted Iowa's first ever Game Jam thanks to support from the Iowa STEM Innovation Fund, a program of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. Teams of students (grades 3-5 and grades 6-8) spent the spring researching and exploring water quality and water resources and then turned their knowledge, curiosity, and creativity into a game of their own design. Twenty teachers from across the state involved their students, resulting in submission of 86 analog and digital games. Volunteer judges from ICEC, the Iowa DNR, NOAA, and NASA scored the games and teams submitting the top games were invited to a showcase event at the Science Center of Iowa. Game Jam coordinators Peg Steffen and Barb Gigar presented the project at the Iowa Science Teachers Section meeting in October. ICEC will be hosting a second Game Jam focused on Aquatic Ecosystems in Spring 2020.

Grades 3-5 Analog Game

1. The Nishnabotna River Game by the Science Cowboys from Sidney Elementary, Sidney
2. Land of Pollution by Team Land of Pollution from Okoboji Elementary, Milford
3. Water Pollution Pick-up Game by Kampen 2 from Taft Elementary, Humboldt

Honorable Mention

- Stormlandia by the Green Team from Taylor Elementary, Cedar Rapid
- Watercycleopoly, Edgewood Colesburg Elementary, Colesburg
- Wateropoly, Edgewood Colesburg Elementary, Colesburg

Grades 3-5 Digital Game

1. Andrew's Game on the Water Cycle, Treynor (tie)
   Atlantis Boy by The Quarantine Zone!, Okoboji Elementary School, Milford

Grades 6-8 Analog Game

1. Milk and Cookies by Team Ravioli from Decorah Homeschool Assistance Program, Decorah
2. The Wasteful Flush by DMS Water Vikings from Decorah Middle School, Decorah
3. The Game of Water Life by Justice Beaver, Interstate 35 Middle School, Truro (tie)
   Wateropoly by The Aquas from C.F.S. Catholic School, Calmar

Honorable Mention

- Water Walk by DMS 5 Drops, Decorah Middle School, Decorah

Grades 6-8 Digital Game

1. Water Maze by Team Walrus from St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines
2. The Quest to Clean the Water by the Trash Boys, Camanche Middle School, Camanche
3. Escape Rock Creek by The Pollution from Camanche Middle School, Camanche

ICEC Hosts Joint Summer Workshop with IAN, Walking Stick Adventures

Perseid on the Prairie summer workshop was co-hosted by the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) and the Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN). Perseids on the Prairie was held July 31 to August 2, 2019 at Walking Stick Adventures with many off-site field trips at other locations around Iowa County. Thirty naturalists and teachers attended this summer workshop.

Activities included:

- Creek exploration at the Amana Nature Trail,
- Learning to cook with a Dutch oven in partnership with your local farmers market,
- Conservation practices in the Price Creek Watershed,
- Perseid Meteor Viewing and Starry Nights program,
- Office of the State Archeologist program on Archeology in Iowa
- Put up and sleep in a real tipi!

With ICEC and IAN being sister organizations in conservation education, it was a natural collaboration to bring members from both organizations together to learn about the history and conservation practices going on in Iowa County.

2019 Summer Workshop group photo!

Conservation Teacher of the Year

Jerry Neppel presented the awards on behalf of ICEC on August 19, 2019 at the Conservation Districts of Iowa Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation district Commissioners held at the Gateway Conference Center in Ames.

Division I (K-8 teacher) Recipient:
Brent Koller, Central Lee Community Schools

Brent gathered the knowledge and passion for conservation from the people he grew up around. He has seen firsthand how important and impactful practices such as no-till and cover crops have been on his own farm. To him, there is no better way to teach than by example. Brent currently teaches 7th and 8th grade agriculture classes at Central Lee Community Schools, and is also active with the high school's FFA chapter. Brent is not only teaching his students the many aspects of agriculture, he is also reaching out and creating opportunities for his FFA chapter. By reaching out to the local John Deere dealership about donating the use of equipment, Brent has helped make it possible for Central Lee to host the Ag Leadership Program. Through this program, students gain exposure to new technologies in agriculture. Brent is passionate about the next generation of farmers and through his ideas, concepts, and passion he is helping mold the future of farming.

Brent Koller (right) with Paula Ellis (left), Chair, State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee and nominator.

Division II (7-12 teacher) Recipient:
Kevin Cooper, Nevada High School

Kevin is not only a teacher and Nevada's FFA Advisor, but also a landowner and farmer. Because he is so immersed in the world of agriculture, he is able to provide his students with opportunities to take field trips and see conservation practices such as interseeding of oats into soybeans to provide a cover crop, riparian buffer strips, waterways, and terraces. He provides his students the chance to see just how important soil conservation and water quality is by sharing yield data from his 12 years of no-till farming, his experience with the CSP program, and even water samples taken from his farm for analysis. Because soil is one of our world's most important resources, his students also learn how to use the word 'soil' and not dirt. Kevin proudly shows his hard work and conservation practices to not only his students but to thousands of people by boasting his "No Till Soybean" sign right off of a busy highway, letting people see conservation at work.

Kevin Cooper (right) with Alex Schmidt, CDI President (left)

Mike Havlik, the storyteller, at 2019 Summer Workshop.

WILD Resources

ICEC, in partnership with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, continues to offer Project WILD / Aquatic WILD and Growing Up WILD (GUW) trainings. WILD training is offered both in person and online. Workshop style formats are offered for GUW with Department of Human Services early childhood training hours available. The KinderNature website supports GUW.

REAP-CEP Grant Completed

ICEC completed the work for the REAP-CEP Connecting to Iowa Core: Authentic Iowa Wildlife and Natural Resources Data for the Classroom in January 2019. The final report was filed in April 2019. The authentic data is availablel by request via https://iowaee.org/ee-science-in-iowa/authentic-iowa-data-for-the-classroom/

Statement of Financial Activity
April 2019 – December 2019

Condensed from am Applegate Tax and Accounting report

Income	
Donations	10,009.00
Membership	620.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00
Program Income	525.00
Restricted Fund Income	
Big Trees Innovation Fund	0.00
Game Jam	7,063.48
REAP-CEP 18-19	2,025.13
REAP-CEP 19-04	19,163.00
REAP-CEP 19-13	8,725.50
WILD Resources	1,320.00
Scholarship	0.00
Total Income	**$ 49,451.11**
Expense	
Administration	5,040.17
Program	177.62
Restricted Fund Expense	
Big Trees Innovation Fund	747.93
Game Jam	7,017.93
REAP-CEP 18-19	62.50
REAP-CEP 19-04	11,633.55
REAP-CEP 19-13	870.75
WILD Resources	1,280.00
Scholarship	0.00
Total Expense	**$ 26,830.45**
Change in Net Assets	***22,620.66***
Beginning Net Assests 4/1/2019	$ 42,199.35
Ending Net Assets 12/31/2019	$ 64,820.01

ICEC Executive Committee CY2019

Mary Bulger, *Chair* - Iowa County Conservation Board
Lilly Jensen, *Vice Chair* - Winneshiek County Conservation Board
Barb Gigar, *Treasurer* - Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Tony Vorwald, *Secretary*- Jackson County Conservation Board
Lisa Ralls - Winnebago County Conservation Board
Emily Klein - Poweshiek County Conservation Board
Beth Martin - Des Moines Schools
Jenny Koska - Metro Waste Authority
Logan Roberts - Tama County Conservation Board
Craig Edmondson, *Ex Officio* - Heartland Area Education Agency
Jerry Neppel, *Ex Officio* - Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship