ICEC Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes
7 June 2023
4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Louis Beck called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Lilly Jensen made motion to approve the agenda, second by Heather Gamm. Motion passed.

Lilly Jensen made the motion to approve the 12 April 2023 minutes as written, second by Peg Steffen. Motion passed.

Reports

1. Review Treasurer’s Report - Lilly Jensen reported on balances of restricted and unrestricted funds and noted that we want the unrestricted funds to be large.

Ted Neal joined the meeting at 4:39 p.m. and Kean Roberts joined at 4:40 p.m.

Discussion Items

1. Review contract with Linette Bernard for administrative support. ExCom went in to executive session from 4:40 to 5:14 p.m. Discussion centered on number of hours for administrative functions and the rate for service that seemed appropriate, plus separating out administrative hours from outside contract hours. Peg Steffen made a motion to pay $6,000/year or $500/month for administrative duties as a monthly flat fee. Ted Neal seconded. Motion passed. Clark Porter motioned that the external or contract rate should be increased to $35/hour. Ted Neal seconded. Motion passed. Lilly Jensen will update contract language and send for review and signatures.

Updates

1. 2023 Envirothon grant received - Louis Beck noted that the 2023 Envirothon took place at Jester Park on April 24. The team from Decorah was the First-Place winner and they are eligible to compete in the next round in Canada. Photos and video taken that day will be used to help in team leader training. Next task is to determine how to share 2024 contest information with schools this fall.

2. Iowa DNR - ICEC Project WILD agreement - Linette Bernard reported that this agreement has signed by both parties. Clark Porter requested information on the reach of Project WILD. It was suggested that ICEC have a meeting with Barb Giger and Megan Wisecup (supervisor) to review the WILD contract and the expectations thereof. Linette Bernard, Heather Gamm, and Lilly Jensen should participate in this meeting.

3. Adding Ex Officio Member Ad Hoc Committee – Lilly Jensen provided a list of potential, additional Ex Officio Members including: Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Association of...
Naturalists, Iowa Prairie Network, Society of Wetland Scientists, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Academy of Scientists / Iowa Science Teachers Section, and an Area Education Agency. After discussion, it was decided to make a formal request for Ex Officio members to the Conservation Districts of Iowa, the Department of Education, and the Department of Natural Resources.

Ted Neal left the meeting at 5:41 p.m. and Tiffany Morgan left the meeting at 5:42 p.m. with Heather Gamm to finish taking notes for the meeting minutes.

Linette Bernard will email a copy of the letter of request from 2016 to Lilly Jensen and Jerry Neppel, who will draft a letter for Louis Beck, as current chair to sign, and to be mailed to those organizations.

4. Reviewers needed for Iowa Conservation Teacher of the Year awards – Jerry Neppel asked for volunteer reviewers. Clark Porter, Kean Roberts, and Lilly Jensen will help review nominations.

5. Holthues Trust grant activities update – Maggie Voyles shared AmeriCorps activities over the last two months. Ellie Miglin explained the poetry pop-up stands they developed.

Dave Conrads left the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

6. C-STEM (was EE / CE in K-12 Schools) Ad Hoc Committee - Peg Steffen reported that the group has met a couple of times and decided to support efforts of others including Iowa Department of Education / Chris Like and regional science teacher updates, to lend support to the Iowa Phenomena Project. Steffen also reported that the Game Jam celebration at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge did not happen as teachers reported the day was too long and too far away for buses. Teachers / schools were given a small stipend instead. Steffen will recruit teachers and student-teams to showcase games at “STEM Day” at the Iowa State Fair.

7. PEEPs Update - Linette Bernard reported that the request to complete the survey were sent to all 99 county conservation staff, statewide organizations, youth camps, nature preschools, and others. The more participation, the more complete the “view” or assessment of what the conservation education landscapes is in Iowa.

8. Updating ICEC Communication Strategy Ad Hoc Committee - Tiffany Morgan reported no updates.

With no further business, Louis Beck adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Other 2023 ExCom dates: 2 August, 11 October, and 13 December.