ICEC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

17 June 2025
4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Attending:			
Louis Beck		*Ex Officio:*	
Kyla Burns	X	Gus Elliott	X
Ellen Carman	X	Chris Like	
Heather Gamm	X	Jerry Neppel	
Melissa Haugo		CDI Ex-officio rep	
Jared McGovern, Vice-Chair	X		
Tiffany Morgan, Chair	X		
Ted Neal	X	*Contractor:* Linette Bernard	X
Jim Pifer			
Kean Roberts	X	*Guests:*	
Peg Steffen	X		
Samuel Taylor			

Quorum was confirmed then Jared McGovern called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Kean Roberts motioned to approved the agenda. Seconded by Heather Gamm. Motion passed.

Tiffany Morgan joined meeting at 4:36 pm

Ted Neal made the motion to approve the minutes from 15 April 2025. Seconded by Kean Roberts. Motion passed.

Reports

1. Review Treasurer's Report – Sam Taylor prepared a written report for the meeting. Overall holdings have decreased 4.95% since January 1, 2025 (from $56,764.79 to $53,958.28). Revised financial projection: unrestricted funds will last 2 years and 8 months at current expenditure rates ($8,827/year). Currently, our expenses have primarily gone to taxes, website hosting and design, and paying Linette Bernard. There is a significant portion of the fiscal year where we intake very little, and these projections and valuations will likely shift as we continue towards WW2026. **Finding means to increase our unrestricted funding remains paramount to continuing ICEC's mission.**

Action Items

1. Support Game Jam teams to attend STEM Day at the Iowa State Fair – Peg Steffen reported that ICEC has been invited to exhibit at STEM Day. Proposal to fund $500–$700 for team mileage was discussed but declined. Motion by Jared McGovern to invite Game Jam participants with support from the Iowa STEM Network. ICEC will not cover travel expenses. Seconded by Ellen Carman. Motion passed.

Kyla Burns joined at 4:53 pm

Discussion Items

1. 2026 Winter Workshop Theme / call for proposals – Ellen Carman noted that the suggestion from the WW planning team for the theme is: Linking Learning Landscapes: Strengthening Environmental Learning Through Collaboration. The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition's 2026 Winter Workshop will bring together classroom teachers and informal environmental educators to explore the power of collaboration for place-based environmental education. Through panel discussions and practical examples, participants will leave with innovative strategies for integrating local environmental themes into everyday teaching. Join us to connect with educators committed to conservation across Iowa!
    a. Outreach encouraged once call for proposals launches in August.

2. Updates from Leadership Team
    a. Finance Committee Update – Jared McGovern led the discussion that focused on funding challenges for Game Jam and Envirothon and consideration of paid courses tied to CEUs or licensure. Tiffany Morgan noted lack of membership growth despite past grant-funded program support. Focus needed on audience targeting and development planning. Peg Steffen, Tiffany Morgan, and Ellen Carman to join Finance Committee.

b. Communications Committee Meeting - Discussed making the newsletter broadly available and ways to increase membership including creating an outreach list to invite folks to join and come to winter workshop.

Updates

1. State Science Leadership Team Meeting update from 29 May 2025 meeting – New science standards have been adopted and can be found on the Dept of Education (DOE) website. DOE science professional development will be held on the following dates:
    a. September 19, 2025 – Omaha Zoo
    b. October 9, 2025 – University of Dubuque
    c. October 15, 2025 – Adventureland

2. Conservation Districts of Iowa Ex-officio representative – Carlee Sabus can no longer be the CDI ex-officio representative for CDI. CDI can choose a new ex-officio representative at their discretion.

Informational

1. 2025 Environmental Game Jam winners announced https://iowaee.org/2025/04/2024-2025-iowa-conservation-game-jam-winners-announced/
2. 2025 Iowa Envirothon winners announced https://iowaee.org/2025/05/2025-iowa-envirothon-results/
3. Midwest Environmental Education Conference call for proposals to share out.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:57 pm