ICEC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

19 August 2025

4:30 p.m.

Via Google Meet

Attending:			
Tiffany Morgan, Chair	x	*Ex Officio:*	
Jared McGovern, Vice Chair	x	Gus Elliott	x
Sam Taylor, Treasurer	x	Chris Like	x
Ellen Carman, Sec		Jerry Neppel	x
Kyla Burns	x	Dien Judge	x
Heather Gamm	x		
Melissa Haugo	x		
Louis Beck	x	*Contractor:* Linette Bernard	x
Ted Neal	x		
Jim Pifer	x		
Kean Roberts		*Guests:*	
Peg Steffen	x		

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

Louis Beck motioned to approve agenda. Heather Gamm, seconds. Motion passed.

Louis Beck made the motion to approve the minutes from the 17 June 2025 meeting. Heather Gamm, seconds. Motion passed.

Reports

1. Review Treasurer's Report - Sam Taylor noted that since January 1st, our holdings have declined by 9.5%, representing a decrease of $5,392.30 ($56,764.79 – $51,372.49). Since our June meeting, our expenses total $2,585.79. This does not include an unprocessed $979.00 payment to Secura Insurance, which will increase the YTD percentage drop to 11.22% (56,764.79 – $50,393.49). Aside from the Secura payment, our expense categories remain unchanged. Likewise, the ongoing issues of restricted vs. unrestricted funds and guaranteed losses remain the same. For these reasons, our overall financial outlook and my recommendations have not changed. **Increasing unrestricted funding continues to be the top priority if we are to sustain and grow ICEC's mission.**

Action Items

1. REAP CEP alternate needed - Linette Bernard reported on email from Michelle Wilson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that the Conservation Education Program (CEP) board is now a committee. Also, the DNR has requested an alternate in anticipation of any grant that ICEC or ICEC's representative to the committee submits. Morgan will send an email to the group asking for volunteers to serve as ICEC's alternate. Chris Like confirmed that REAP CEP will be offering a large grant opportunity in November.

Peg Steffen joined the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Discussion Items

1. 2026 Winter Workshop theme / call for proposals - The Call for Proposals is open, please promote with your groups.
2. Future KinderNature.org plans - Tiffany Morgan provided an update on KinderNature. Gus Elliott confirmed that the DNR holds no claim for KinderNature, but that the current Memorandum of Understanding for WILD Resources ends in March 2026. ICEC can own this and champion it but

there will be annual costs associated with continuing to maintain the website hosting and content.

Jim Pifer joined the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and Kyla Burns joined at 5:02 p.m.

3. Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) Fall PD Conference, tabling event - With the future of KinderNature settled, it was agreed that Bernard will sign up as a vendor at this event and Elliott agreed that WILD Resources can pay the $200 fee for this year.
4. Updates from Leadership Team - Finance Committee Meeting
    a. Group agreed there needs to be focus on the benefits of membership.
    b. Group created a shared doc to add the tasks, Ex Com point of contact and updates.
    c. Next meeting will be scheduled before the next Ex Com meeting
5. Project WET - Peg Steffen reported on the conversation she had with the Marcy Seavey. Seavey noted that WET is no longer being supporedt by the Iowa Academy of Science (IAS). Steffen noted this could be an opportunity for ICEC to step in and be the Iowa representative. Steffen will connect with Project WET and invite to attend an ExCom meeting or schedule a separate meeting before that.

Updates

1. Game Jam - Peg Steffen provided background, including the origin of Climate Game Jam with NOAA, through an Iowa STEM Innovation Grant supporting Game Jam then using funds from the Holthues Grant, to now having now support.

Louis Beck left the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Steffen asked ExCom if ICEC should continue offering. Ted Neal made a motion for ICEC to continue supporting Game Jam. Jared McGovern seconded. Motion passed. Tiffany Morgan asked for volunteers to help Steffen. Other subcommittee members include: Ted Neal, Jim Pifer, Tiffany Morgan (for limited partner support and connections as needed), and Linette Bernard

Jared McGovern and Ted Neal left the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.