ICEC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

9 October 2024
4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Attending:			
Louis Beck, Chair	x	*Ex Officio:*	
Kyla Burns	x	Gus Elliott	
Dave Conrads		Chris Like	
Heather Gamm, Treasurer	x	Jerry Neppel	x
Jared McGovern	x	Carlee Sabus	
Tiffany Morgan, Vice/Sec'y	x		
Ted Neal			
Jim Pifer	x	*Contractor:* Linette Bernard	x
~~Clark Porter~~			
Kean Roberts		*Guests:*	
Peg Steffen	x		
Samuel Taylor	x		
Tony Vorwald			

Quorum was confirmed, then Louis Beck called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Jerry Neppel made the motion to approve the agenda, with second by Heather Gamm. Motion passed.

Tiffany Morgan made the motion to approve the 31 July 2024 meeting minutes as written, second by Sam Taylor. Motion passed.

Reports

1. Review Treasurer's Report – Heather Gamm provided the financial status summary. Gamm also mentioned that she has changed positions and is now with Fayette County Conservation as the director.
2. Holthues grant spending update – Linette Bernard noted that Holthues funds have been transferred to the Admin fund as gift memberships are provided per sub-committee guidance. Bernard also noted that funds must be spent by the end of 2024.

Action Items

3. Clark Porter submitted his resignation from the executive committee on 20 September 2024. Tiffany Morgan made the motion to regretfully accept C Porter's resignation., second by Heather Gamm. Motion passed.
4. Blue Lake Websites has submitted a quote for the redesign of both iowaee.org and kindernature.org websites. Linette Bernard noted that the KinderNature website has had recent issues and is nine years old. The ICEC website is eight years old. Both sites are quite old and in need of updating, for security reasons, if for no other. Jerry Neppel made the motion to proceed with the work as outlined in the proposal, seconded by Peg Steffen. Motion passed. Bernard will work with Blue Lake Websites to review and analyze website analytics.

Discussion Items

1. Set January 2025 ExCom meeting date - Linette Bernard asked if the January meeting could be scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on 8 January 2025. No one could think of conflicts.
2. Winter Workshop 2025 planning and committee volunteers - Linette Bernard noted that for our workshop to be at Ames High School, the event must be open to the public. Instead, space at Ellsworth Community College was reserved for 1 February 2025. It was noted that this date conflicts with the Iowa County Conservation System employee meeting. Bernard will ask Ellsworth Community College contact if 8 or 15 February would be available. Planning committee volunteers include Beck, Morgan, Pifer, with McGovern as a tentative yes, and Bernard. Also, Bernard will email all of ExCom to see if anyone else is able to help with the planning committee.
3. Maggie Voyles' Algae Project - Peg Steffen reminded the board that Voyles' was an ICEC AmeriCorps member in 2023. The Algae Project was Voyles' AmeriCorps final project and this is ready for distribution. Steffen noted this is a good citizen science project. Bernard will add to the ICEC website and Morgan will link to IPBS citizen science projects.

Updates

1. Game Jam at State Fair – Peg Steffen noted that team members from Cedar Falls Holmes Junior High and BCLUW Middle School represented all Game Jam teams at the STEM Day at the Fair. The teens interacted with 500-plus people.
2. The National Conservation Foundation – Linette Bernard reported that the foundation board did approve that the remainder of the grant funds could be spent to purchase more kits of Envirothon tools. Additional school recruitment will occur for the 2025 competition and kits of tools will be provided to new teams using the same criteria used in the original grant proposal.

Informational

1. IAEYC Early Childhood Environmental Education Survey was available at the IAEYC Fall Institute. The same survey will be included in the October Growing Up WILD monthly newsletter. Results will be shared with ExCom once the survey closes.
2. Reminder that ExCom nominations are due 18 October 2024. David Conrads and Tony Vorwald are nearing the end of their second consecutive term and Kyla Burns, Kean Roberts, and Peg Steffen are eligible to run for a second term. With Porter's resignation, there are six positions open. Please share this opportunity.
3. 2024 Envirothon - Iowa's team from Decorah placed 13th out of 29 teams AND received an Exceptional Merit Award from the host committee. Beck noted that preparation is underway for the 2025 state contest. Might consider having a session about this at WW.
4. Jared McGovern's Dubuque Telegraph article – McGovern shared that the City of Dubuque was accepted as a Nature Everywhere Accelerator Community. McGovern will share info with the group.
5. Sam Taylor's Iowa Water Conference pic: Taylor noted that he was sharing research about PhD work using technology for Algae Blooms.
6. Bio-Blitz Update: Morgan noted that the Montgomery County public event had zero attendees. The next event will be in/around Fairfield.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Next meeting is via Zoom on 11 December 2024