

MAEE Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

North Branch Public Library



Present: Britt Gangeness, Stefan Theimer, Erin Zoellick, Anna Dutke, Val Prax, Ben Bishop, Kristi Pursell, Amy Markle, Jen Johansen, John Giessler, Nicole Pokorney

Present, but not voting: New 2011 board members John Smith, Dan Schutte, and Scott Alsleben

Absent: Sarah Erickson

Approve agenda

We did some amendments to the agenda, based on requests from board members. Added discussion of 2012 conference location and dates. Added brief discussion of EE awards program. John motioned to approve agenda, Amy seconded, motion passed.

Approve minutes from September

Kristi motioned to approve the minutes from Sept., Ben seconded. Motion passed.

Welcome new board members!

Thank you and good-bye to our outgoing board members!

John Smith, Dan Schutte, Scott Alsleben introduce themselves. Out-going board members offered some thoughts on their experiences, returning members offered thanks for their services.

President's report (Britt) – 10 min

- 1) We are now a member of the Friends of the MN Valley Refuge, it is where our mail gets delivered.
- 2) Our domain from the 2010 conference is going to expire (www.maeconference.org), wants to know if we should let it go, or keep it up. Board said let it go.
- 3) Britt signed a letter on behalf of MAEE for full funding of the National Environmental Education Act (NEEA). NEEA provides EE funding at the EPA and supports the EE and Training Partnership (EETAP). Wanted us to know- they have been funded at low levels the past few years and the letter asks for full funding
- 4) NAAEE received a grant to hire an affiliate network staff person. This person will be building a business plan for the affiliate networking and can help use with strategic planning and professional development opportunities. Our board should see how this plays out before we move forward with our own strategic planning process.
- 5) Britt filled out a survey from NAAEE on diversity in the affiliate. She responded that while it is a part of our policy to be diverse, the current board has not emphasized diversity in recent years' recruiting.

Communications report (Sarah writing in)

We are on track to publish the next newsletter by mid-December. This issue will focus on "Home" - families, faith communities etc. Major kudos to Adriane for her help in tracking down articles. Any ideas folks have for the next year of newsletters are always welcome. Keeping this on your radar always would be really great for whoever is the communications/newsletter person.

Planning for Adriane's maternity leave (Britt)

She is due on the 20th of Dec. Will have already started the December e-newsletter, but will need it to be finished and will need someone to do the January e-newsletter. Sarah would be willing to help that person get going.

Membership report (Kristi)

Our current membership is at 172 members. Stefan, Amy and Krisit will work together on the membership database and sign up through Wild Apricot (see below). Hopefully this will boost our membership numbers. Kristi and Ben are revising the display boards with our new logo. They set a goal for themselves of mid-January 2011 to be done with this project. Kristi is also working on promotion of our organizational members on our website.

Online membership form (Amy)

Website and membership issue developing: Kristi, Stefan and Amy are the core team trying to get this sorted out. Now that

there is a credit card account set up, we can start to figure out the capabilities for WildApricot and the membership database management through the website. Stefan will ask questions of Adriane before the 15th of Dec, others will try to have something ready by the board retreat.

Membership is at 172 members at the moment. Hoping that being able to renew on-line will increase the numbers.

2011 MEEC (Nicole)

Nicole is working on the key-note speaker problem, lots of folks have turned it down. Discussion ensued as to strengths of various folks on Nicole's list of possibilities. Possibly for 2012, John Smith brought up idea of a TED talk format for the keynote – which are 10-minute speeches. Others bounced around ideas of how we might play with for the format for the keynotes.

Has been a problem connecting with the midwest liaisons (Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa). Britt will call Robby Schriber, the liaison coordinator, to see if he is able to continue his job. There are various volunteer positions that are needed (A/V, volunteer, and marketing).

Amy is thinking about sponsorships- and asked questions about who contacts might be in Rochester.

Scholarship report (Ben)

Ben is having trouble getting receipts back from one of the 2010 recipients, will give her a Dec. 1st deadline. 4 - \$250 scholarships for MEEC will be offered. Applications will be posted on the website. Ben is working on a new version of the rubric for the scholarship manual. Scott, Jen and Kristi offered to review the rubric when Ben as a draft.

January 2011 board retreat details (Britt)

Britt gave a run-down of the retreat, and passed around the sign-up for some foods/drinks etc for the retreat.

Treasurer's report (Erin)

Expenses and deposits

The expense and deposit reports were passed around.

Finalize and approve the 2011 budget

Erin gave a run-through of the budget that had the 2010 actuals and 2011 proposed budget. Board members discussed amounts and organization of the budget. See approved 2011 budget (posted on MAEE website). Ben motioned to approve the 2011 fiscal budget. Jen seconded, motion carried.

2012 Conference (Nicole)

Nicole mentioned the need to start thinking about the 2012 conference in order to book speakers, lodging, etc. June 2012 at Itasca State Park was the preferred date & location. Nicole is going to pursue this.

Awards Program (Amy)

A brief discussion took place about the new awards program being started in 2011. It was determined that a single educator would be presented with an award each year. Amy is going to look at how other organizations do their award programs for more ideas and then generate a potential timeline, guidelines and application.

NCLI and ELP update (Stefan)

Stefan gave a presentation on the paths we can take to get an ELP in MN (which will also mean more EE).

3 approaches we can take to get an ELP:

1. Get MN department of Education on board
2. Get Governor to tell MN department of education to get started
3. Get state legislature to tell MN department of education to get started

We have 2 needs for EE to grow in Minnesota??. We need a state ELP to be written and we need federal NCLI to be passed . There are benefits of ELP with or without NCLI.

We need to get comfortable talking about NCLI and pass the word on to EE colleagues and allies. Discussion about what the board and other EEs may need to get comfortable talking about NCLI and ELP. There will be a more

formal group (committee) that will be formed to pursue this. Brief discussion about potential people to contact regarding this.

2011 board roles (Stefan)

Had a discussion about 2011 board roles. Many spots are open for 2011.

Motion by Stefan to approve Britt as 2011 President, Erin as 2011 Treasure, Nicole as 2011 Events Champion, Kristi as 2011 Membership Champion, and approve the rest of the roles at the board retreat in January. Jen Seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion made by Stefan to adjourn. Nicole Seconded. Motion carried.