

Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2012, 10:30 AM
Kiwanis River Park Lodge, Moose Jaw, SK

Meeting called to order at: 11:00 am

Attendees: Billy Patterson, Lori Milligan, Linda Dodd, Lizabeth Nichols, Nicole Romanow, Peta White, Dennie Fornwald, Karen McIver, Gary Provencher, Alan Porter, Mark Wilson, Jolene Siemens, Kyle Lichtenwald, Laurel LaBar-Ahmed, Mussa Ahmed, Kathleen Wilson, Daniel Bowler, Scott Mickelson, Leah Japp, Paul Stinson, Sky Stinson, Jack MacKenzie, Yvette Crane, Kristin Catherwood, Phil Langford, Brooklyn Berns (26)

Minutes taken by: Leah Japp

1. **Call to order and Welcome – Kyle Lichtenwald**
2. **Introductions – all attendees**
3. **Any additions to agenda**
4. **Minutes from the AGM held January 8, 2011 were passed around the table**
5. **Executive Reports**

5.1. President's Report – Kyle Lichtenwald

Welcome to these treaty four lands. This valley was a meeting grounds for trading and spiritual celebrations. The Wawakamow as the Cree pronounce it is the river of turns. A place of ancient importance upon which we are privileged to sit. Welcome.

Now thanks to each of you for your time as SOEEA Boards members, Volunteers, Participants and friends. Each of us brings meaning to this important work that needs to be done in educating for and about our natural world. Without the many dedicated hours that you put into these collective efforts we wouldn't be able to celebrate these successes that we share here today.

Support in 2011: Outdoor Education Experience - 15 projects reaching more than 500 people and Environmental Action Projects - 13 projects reaching more than 900 people.

Canadian Network for Environmental Education (EECOM) conference was hosted by SOEEA in June. There will be more of a report later by Peta White and Kristin Catherwood. The keynote speakers were Norm Henderson, Annie Leonard and Marcia Klein. Peta White was presented the Melanson Award from Yvette Crane. We are happy to have four Melanson Award Winners with us today – Jack MacKenzie, Linda Dodd, Yvette Crane and Peta White. Thanks to the conference coordinating committee and all who helped in this momentous event that brought us acclaim from not only participants within our borders but from the US and some foreign lands. Through this event we were able to make new friends and allies.

In October Peta lead the board through a strategic planning process. The process was called appreciative inquiry where we **discovered** what we all loved about SOEEA, what each of us thought of as peak experiences, what we value about this group, and wishes to enhance the health and vitality of the association. From this point we set to **dreaming** about what SOEEA will be like 5 years from now, and asking what is making the process tick in regards to leadership, structure and our systems. With our basis of dreams in mind we moved into **designing** what factors will make the dreams come to fruition. The fourth and final stage brought us back to earth a little as we thought about our **destiny** in real terms that will guide our growth over the next years.

Highlights of the year include:

- Funding a project-based education film to be used as a teaching tool for University Education students

- Doing a feasibility study for Saskatchewan's very own place-conscious education journal
- Hosting a wonderful winter camping experience with 30 participants, young and old
- Having a board member retreat in Craik to think big about SOEEA with a dreaming session hosted by past SOEEA president, Peta White.
- Getting an electronic email, "News from SOEEA" started
- Compiling four Envisage newsletters
- Awarding Peta White, SOEEA past president the Melanson Award
- Reaching over 2,000 people of Saskatchewan and beyond
- Developing a "self sustaining suite of teacher training programs"
- Supporting our friend Colin Harris as he lead a monumental run from the coast of Newfoundland to Vancouver Island

Events of Note

- EarthHour with our friend Glenn Sutter by candlelight
- Canoe Certification
- Leave No Trace
- Numerous Flying Wild, Growing Up Wild and Project WET workshops
- Winter camp in Echo Valley

Networking & Partnerships

1. Participating at the Trans Canada Trail Summit
2. Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperatio Public Engagement Workshop with 12 partner groups
3. Invitation to participate in research project: WHERE DEEP GLADNESS AND DEEP HUNGER MEET: DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE AMONGST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NETWORK LEADERS By ELI BAKER

In an attempt to sustain these professionals, this qualitative research study will explore whether and how engaging in an online community of practice might nourish the emotional and organizational needs of Canadian environmental education network leaders.

Grants

- Our Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) Grant has been approved for \$50,155 for 2012
- Leah & Lizabeth's Strengthening Recreation Organization grant (\$9,500)
- \$1,000 for cross reference guides from CWRA

All are thanked for your efforts and time. Going forward we hope to spur your actions in supporting SOEEA and our mission but also become aligned with actions of support for the projects that tweak your passion. Whether it is Nuclear Waste storage, Enbridge Gateway Pipeline or Trans Canada Trail Completion or efforts in Anti-Oppressive education, get involved and be a model for those in your circles of life.

Lizabeth: keeping documentation of the number of hours members and board members spend volunteering can be useful for applying for funding.

Jolene Siemens/Dennie Fornwald (M/S/C) that the President's report be accepted as read.

5.2. Treasurer's Report – Mark Wilson – 2011 Income Statement and 2012 Budget appended

For the period of January 1st 2011 –December 31st 2011

Banking Report

Year open balance \$1,938.00
Total Revenue \$83,576.91
Total Expenses \$63,441.16
Year closing balance \$22,073.75
Money in Investments \$24,135.21

Report by accounts. (Highlights)

Membership Fees \$3,070.03
EAP Projects -\$3,550.00
OEE Assistance -\$5,800
EECOM conference -\$6,770.00 (\$13,000 total)
Ecotour and Loppet -\$2,649.60

- In 2011 SOEEA had a bit of revenue due to more programming than in previous years. Some of this revenue will go towards paying income tax on EECOM conference registrations
- Investments down from previous years as we took out to pay for EECOM as sponsorship (some revenue from conference could go back to investments) and for a start up fund for buying education program books (now a revolving fund).
- Grant is completely spent.

Paul Stinson/Kyle Lichtenwald (M/S/C) that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read.

5.2.1. Set subcommittee to approve audited reports

Kyle Lichtenwald/Jolene Siemens (M/S/C) that Karen McIver, Kyle Lichtenwald, Mark Wilson, Dennie Fornwald form a subcommittee to review audited financial statements.

5.2.2. Submit next year's budget

No copies were distributed. The highlights are:

- We received extra 10% on the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation grant in 2012
- More money towards EcoTour (planning to Athabasca Sand Dunes)
- Events include: Canoe Certification, Leave No Trace, Wilderness First Aid, Winter Camping, GeoCaching
- Support amounts remain the same
- Professional Development (Growing Up Wild, Flying Wild, Project Wet) is now a our 6th program within the grant (in 2011 it was special initiative).
- The 2012 Special Initiatives are: 1) Youth Skills and Leadership Training and 2) Increasing SOEEA's regional representation

Yvette: happy to hear everyone using support language (not granting, or giving money to). Make efforts to put the SPRA logo on more publications and items.

Yvette Crane/Peta White (M/S/C) that the 2012 budget be approved as presented.

5.2.3. Submit auditor for next year

Kyle Lichtenwald/Karen McIver (M/S/C) that Frank E. Garrett be the auditor for 2012.

5.2.4. Review membership fees

Kyle Lichtenwald/Lizabeth Nicholls (M/S/C) that the following membership fees be set for 2012:

Individual: 1 year (\$25), 2 years (\$45), 3 years (\$60)
Student/Senior/Low Income: 1 year (\$10), 2 years (\$18), 3 years (\$25)
Individual Lifetime: \$250
Institution/School: 1 year (\$50)

Institution/School: 5 year (\$200)

Family (2 adults and children under 18): 1 year (\$40)

6. Working Group Reports

6.1. Communications – Charles Paul Bazin Webster and Scott Mickelson (presented by Scott)

- 2011 was a year of learning about SOEEA as both leaders were new SOEEA board members based in Saskatoon.
- Published 4 Envisage newsletters
- Worked on establishing connections and efficient systems for Envisage publication together and in partnership with Steven Biss, the Envisage Editor. Waiting for submission is still a slight problem.
- Continuing to work on establishing clear and effective communications with members and support personnel.

Kyle: Scott and Paul are both new board members working out of Saskatoon. They have done a great job this year.

Yvette Crane/Sky Ann Stinson (M/S/C) that the Communication Working Group report be accepted as read.

6.2. Public and Families – Paul Stinson and Allison Siemens-Worsley (presented by Paul)

- Ecotour: held in conjunction with EECOM 2011 Conference in June. This EPIC tour of southwest Saskatchewan began with a paleo tour by Hans Larsson in the east block of the Grassland National Park, a visit to Wood Mountain, a bison hike in the west block, and sleeping in tipis under a blazing prairie night sky. Then, heading to the unglaciated Cypress Hills Provincial Park the next day (with a 65 million year stop at the T. Rex Centre in Eastend), we explored another of Saskatchewan's diverse ecosystems, culminating in a night hike and evening revelries. A historical visit to Fort Walsh the next day, followed by a successful stop at the Cypress Hills Winery brought us and our relieved bus driver back to the U of R in time to kick off an amazing national conference.
- Other public and family-related events included programming at the WOW nature Festival with geocaching and solar ovens and winter camping.
- SOEEA was not well-represented this year at other Eco-fairs and events (such as Ness Creek, Craik Solar Fair, Moose Jaw Summer Fest). Should consider making a schedule of potential and recurring events for 2012 to help plan ahead.
- Plans for 2012 ecotour are still tentative, but interest expressed for touring the HELP treeplanting/zero-waste African village near Weyburn, as well as the possibility of a trip to Lake Athabasca (possibly early August).

Dennie Fornwald/Nicole Romanow (M/S/C) that the Public and Families Working Group report be accepted as read.

6.3. Education - Nicole Romanow and Dennie Fornwald

The Education Working group has had a great year this year. We were able to collaborate with many of our SOEEA members and we would like to thank those you took leadership roles in these events. We have participated in many awesome events throughout the year such as:

- Flying WILD - Dennie was very glad to be able to attend the Flying WILD conference in Texas as a SOEEA representative. She learned a lot and was able to bring back some great information. This is also where Dennie's interest in Growing Up WILD was sparked. We are very glad to see that Lizabeth has been growing both of these programs all year. Both of us have enjoyed the opportunities to be part of program delivery in 2011, at World Water Day in March, during EECOM, and at other workshops. Thanks very much for your leadership, Lizabeth.
- Earth Hour - In March we also enjoyed participating in and helping to organize Earthhour and celebrating David Suzuki's birthday.
- Wings Over Wascana - Wings Over Wascana was a great success and a number of SOEEA board members took part. Lots of new families heard about our organization and participated in fun activities.
- Canoeing Training/Paddle Canada - Charles took the lead in organizing ten participants in canoe certification through Paddle Canada.

- First Nations University of Canada Health & Science Camp - This summer I was able to take part in a morning of science and fun with the campers at the FNUC Health and Science Camp. Activities from various SOEEA supported programs were used with the campers to engage their learning in environmental science.
- Leave No Trace - Charles also led in the organization of Leave No Trace certification in September. Thank you CPBW!
- Teacher's Corner - We both have new environmental education website links to add to the SOEEA website and encourage others to build this resource as well.
- SOEEA has distributed education support and information about workshops and events to members, school systems, and other interest groups. Thank you to Leah for her help with this!

Kyle Lichtenwald/Billy Patterson (M/S/C) that the Education Working Group's report be accepted as read.

7. Education Programs Report – Lizabeth Nicholls – full report including statistics is appended

- Goals for 2012 are to establish closer ties to education working group and with the program director as well as science teachers, the Saskatchewan Science Teachers Society (free advertising for programs), and finishing the curriculum linkages
- Plans are underway to be a part of Sciematics (2013)

Kyle: Thanks to Lizabeth's meticulous work SOEEA has increase our demographic and geographical spread around Saskatchewan. We appreciate your help in connecting us and working with educators.

Jo: These programs are all new to SOEEA with the past 2 years.

Laurel LaBar-Ahmed/Yvette Crane (M/S/C) that the Education Programs report be accepted as read.

8. EECOM Conference Report – Kristin Catherwood & Peta White – full conference report available in SOEEA's Annual Report

Kristin:

- The conference and the planning committee were great!
- The EECOM Conference had never been held in the prairies before.
- There was a strong local aspect in the presenters, keynote speakers (Marcia McKenzie and Norm Henderson), food, activities and delegates. The EcoTour of southern Saskatchewan was wonderful.
- Sustainability was important in the planning.
- In the end the sponsorship came together (raising \$52,000).
- There were 161 delegates (SK, Canada, Israel, Australia, Mexico, Brazil, USA).
- Youth were involved as presenters and with the YES Network and Trek School.
- Entertainment was offered throughout the conference and everyone felt like a community.
- Organizers received lots of feedback and it was positive. Bernadette Slager won her conference registration money back for having completed the post-conference evaluation.

Peta:

- Thanks to Kristin and Mark for all their work.
- Due to this conference EECOM is changing policies about how they run conferences.
- Annie Leonard is giving a keynote at next NAAEE conference.
- Ella Van Cleave (one of the youth presenters) gave a TedX Victoria talk (available online).
- She is still receiving huge happy comments from conference. Fantastic job all!

9. Executive Assistant Report – Leah Japp

Environmental Action Project recipients (8): Craik Sustainable Living Project, Davidson School, Holliston School (Saskatoon), Massey School/University of Regina/Mae Star Productions, Prairie Sky School, Swift Current Comprehensive High School Outdoor Education, Traveling World Community Film Festival Regina 2012, We Are Many,

Outdoor Education Experience recipients (20): St. Michael's School (Yorkton), Abbey School, St. Augustine Community School (Regina), St. John Bosco Camp, Caswell Community School (Saskatoon), Balfour Collegiate (Regina), Carrot River High School, Canwood Community School, Churchbridge Public School, Carpenter High School (Meadow Lake), Notre Dame Catholic School (North Battleford), Thomson Community School (Regina), Holy Rosary Community School (Regina), Grant Road School (Regina), Ecole

Centennial School (Regina), Sheldon Williams Collegiate (Regina), Credenda Virtual High School (Saskatchewan wide), Esterhazy High School, University of Saskatchewan – Ecology Camp for Kids (Saskatoon), St. Francis School (Regina)

Members: On December 31, 2011 SOEEA had 183 members plus 33 lifetime/Melanson members. During 2011 SOEEA signed up 129 new members plus 27 renewals bringing in \$3,046.00.

Jolene/Paul (M/S/C) that the Executive Assistant report be accepted as read.

10. Other Business

- 1) Jolene Siemens is organizing a Sea Turtle Ecology Project trip to Costa Rica in July 2012 for 14-18 year old students. This trip is education focused. While there students work with real scientists, biologists and local students. If interested please contact Jo at memyselfandjo@yahoo.ca.
- 2) Phil Langford (Saskatchewan Science Teachers Society)
 - any education not for profit education gets free advertising in publication to 500 educators
 - Links should exist between SOEEA and SSTS because we share many of the same ideals (and links have been present in the past)
 - Sciematics 2013 (May) – was going to coincide with the new curriculum release but that has been delayed by a year
 - Project WET is used all the time in science programs
 - Interested in place-based education journal
- 3) Peta White – Regional Centre of Expertise is having a recognition event again this year. SOEEA is encouraged to apply.

11. Slate of Officers presented by Peta White

Past President – Kyle Lichtenwald

President – Audrey Aamodt

Vice President – Karen Mclver

Program Director – vacant

Treasurer – Mark Wilson

Communications Working Group – Scott Mickelson and Charles Paul Bazin Webster

Education Working Group – Dennie Fornwald and Nicole Romanow

Public and Families Working Group – Paul Stinson and Lori Milligan

Dennie Fornwald/Yvette Crane(M/S/C) to accept slate of officer be accepted by acclamation.

Incoming President Audrey Aamodt is currently teaching with Class Afloat until May 2012 (an unexpected opportunity). Kyle will continue until as president until Audrey returns.

The vacant position of program direction will be filled at a future board meeting.

Billy can help with Education Working Group

Kyle moves that we adjourn (12:26).

Education Programs Report

Statistical Summaries Academic 2009 – 2010, 2010 – 2011 & July – Dec. 2011 – All P.D. Program Events
L. Nicholls, SOEEA P. D. Workshop Co-ordinator, January 16, 2012

Project WET * Note: Sept. 2009 – Dec. 2010 delivered by CWF. Jan. – Dec. 2011 delivered by SOEEA

Events/Dates	*Totals: July 2009 – June 2010 *(CWF)	*Jul.-Dec. 2010 *(CWF)	Jan. – Jun. 2011 SOEEA	Totals 2010-11	Jul. – Dec. 2011 SOEEA
• Workshops	11	1	9	10	2
○ Participants	234	(Est.9)	148	157	40
• Leadership Development			1	1	
○ New Facilitators			2	2	
• Displays	3	1	1	2	
○ Display visitors	102	(Est. 50)	25	75	
• Presentations	5	2	3	5	1
○ Attendees	97	(Est. 10)	27	37	12
• Youth Events	2		2	2	
○ Participants	309		117	117	

Flying WILD - Established Aug. 2009

Events/Dates	Totals: Aug. 2009 - June 2010	Jul.-Dec. 2010	Jan. – Jun. 2011	Totals 2010-11	Jul. – Dec. 2011
• Workshops	5	1	4	5	
○ Participants	63	(Est. 11)	52	63	
• Leadership Development	1		3	3	
○ New Facilitators	13		7	7	
• Displays		1	2	3	
○ Display visitors		25	50	75	
• Presentations			2	2	1
○ Attendees			14	14	12
• Youth Events	2				
○ Participants	60				

Growing Up WILD

Events/Dates	Not in Saskatchewan Jul.-Dec. 2010	Jan. – Jun. 2011	Totals	Jul. – Dec. 2011
• Workshops		2	2	4
○ Participants		35	35	86
• Leadership Development		1	1	2
○ New Facilitators		2	2	5
• Displays		2	2	
○ Display visitors		50	50	
• Presentations		2	2	3
○ Attendees		14	14	72

Summary Totals of all Workshops and PD Events for all Programs Academic 2010-11 (DRAFT)

Events/Dates	Totals Academic 2010-11	Totals Calendar 2011
• Workshops	16	21
○ Participants	246	361
• Leadership Development	5	7
○ New Facilitators	11	16
• Displays*	3	2
○ Display visitors	75	50
• Presentations*	3	7
○ Attendees	27	111
• Youth Events	2	2
○ Participants	117	117
TOTAL SOEEA EVENTS	29	39
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	476	655

***NOTE: Displays and Presentations often include two or more programs in the same event. Therefore, while these displays and presentations are counted in each program's statistics, they are only counted once in these summary statistics.**

SOEEA PD Programs – Upcoming Events and Activities - Winter-Spring 2012, L. Nicholls, Jan. 16, 2012

1. Project WET Workshops

- January 27 – Onion Lake - KCDC (30)
- January – Makwa Lake - KCDC (10)
- Feb/Mar – Regina – U of R – Middle Years (20-30) Tentative
- June – La Ronge – NORTEP – (15+) Tentative

2. Flying WILD Workshops

- January to April – La Ronge – NORTEP – (25)
- Feb. 4 – Saskatoon – ESS – (20+) Tentative & Facilitators to be trained
- Flying WILD – KCDC TBD – (20+)
- Feb./Mar – Regina – Middle Years (20+) Tentative

3. Growing Up WILD Workshops

- March 3 – Saskatoon – ESS – (20+) Tentative + Facilitators to be trained
- Jan/Mar. - Regina – Elementary (20+) Tentative

4. Cross-References Gr. 1-5 Science & Social Studies (in progress)

- Flying WILD, Project WET, Growing UP WILD - Begun in January
- Grant funding for both Flying WILD & Project WET

5. Wings Over Wascana, Bird Festival April/May

- Flying WILD Bird Festival with Nicole Romano's Gr. 7 at Sacred Heart

6. Promotion Flying WILD - Grant Funding for expenses

- Buy Binoculars and Bird Books
- Cross-Reference Guides Gr. 1-5 – for distribution at presentations
- Visits to Teacher Education Programs to make presentations February/April/May/June
- Displays at Teachers' Conferences – TBD – as possible