

## National Environmental Education Advisory Council

Conference call June 18, 2015

### Summary

#### Members in attendance:

- Kelly Keena (Chair)
- Richard Gonzales ( Vice- Chair)
- Kiki Corry
- Cara Gizzi
- Scott Frazier
- Ken Gembel
- Caroline Lewis
- Mark Kraus

#### EPA Staff:

- Javier Araujo) Designated Federal Officer)
- Desiree' Perkins (OEE Intern)

#### NEEF

- Diane Wood- President

#### Stratus Consulting

- Holly Surbaugh

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The meeting was called to order at 1:03pm by the NEEAC Chair (Kelly Keena). Kelly reviewed the agenda and asked members to introduce themselves and the category on the NEEAC that they represented. Kelly mentioned that NEEAC report spokespersons would have to be selected as well as a second person (alternate) in case the first person was not available. Kelly introduced and welcomed Holly Surbaugh from Stratus Consulting. Stratus is the contractor that is editing and formatting and producing the final NEEAC report.

Kelly highlighted the differences between the report version that was emailed on June 8<sup>th</sup> and the current NEEAC report. The order of "lead, engage, and fund" was discussed. The 21<sup>st</sup> century environmental education changes to the report were also mentioned. Kelly indicated that the changes to the report were in the green jobs, green work force, and green schools sections.

Kelly indicated that a new section on internships and fellowships was included under the Office of Environmental Education heading. Kelly reminded the members that the internships and fellowships for the Office of Environmental Education are mentioned in the National Environmental Education Act of 1990.

A final draft of the NEEAC report will be provided to Kelly from the contractor (Stratus) by July 10<sup>th</sup>. Kelly would like to schedule a meeting for Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>. The report will be reviewed by NEEAC members and will have to be sent to Stratus (contractor) on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The target completion date of the edits and formatting for the report from the contractor (Stratus) is July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly asked Javier Araujo (DFO) to confirm that her assertion about the internship and fellowship program through OEE had been discontinued. The internships and fellowships were intended for students and in service teachers to connect with federal agencies. Kelly suggested to the NEEAC members that there was an opportunity within this report to ask the administrator of the EPA to look at internships and fellowships as an opportunity for professional development and training. Professional development and teacher training is called for in the National Environmental Education Act of 1990.

Cara Gizzi (NEEAC member) suggested that the internships and fellowships not be limited to federal agencies but rather to NGO's and other partnering organizations. Kelly Keena clarified that the act call for internships and fellowships at the EPA and other federal agencies. It does not go beyond federal agencies. Kelly indicated that her understanding of why the internship and fellowships were not continued at OEE was the administrative burden that it created for the office.

Kiki Cory (NEEAC member) raised the idea that not just internships and fellowships were part of professional development for teachers. She suggested that in service workshops and pre-service university work would also classify as professional development. Kiki indicated that the conversation about internships and fellowships within the report could fall under the funding category. That is, fellowships and scholarships could be funded.

Kelly Keena asked to think about the subject broadly and include this discussion within the strategic plans of the Office of Environmental Education. This could be part of the strategy to lead, engage and fund (previously mentioned).

Diane Wood (NEEF and advisor to the NEEAC) added that it is encouraged through the federal task force that there be opportunities for cost sharing amongst agencies. Therefore there are many Federal agencies that could take on interns. The burden of the cost of this program would not be borne entirely by the Office of Environmental Education.

Caroline Lewis (NEEAC member) asked if the purpose of the internships and fellowships was to provide temporary staffing to the Office of Environmental Education at the EPA. Caroline added that this opportunity to work in the OEE would be an opportunity to mentor the next generation of EE leaders. Caroline suggested that the effort be funded through public and private partnerships. Caroline again asked what the purpose of internships and fellowships was.

Kelly Keena (NEEAC chair) read from the language in the National Environmental Education Act. Section 7 starts with “the Administrator shall with the Office of Personnel Management and other appropriate federal agencies provide for internships by post -secondary level students and fellowships for a very specific in service teachers, with agencies of the Federal government. The purpose shall be to provide college level students and teachers with opportunities to work with professional staff of Federal agencies involved in environmental issues, and thereby gain an understanding and appreciation of issues and skills and abilities appropriate to such professions.”

Kelly added that based on Edna Negron Martinez’s (NEEAC member) comments that the internship, fellowship issue is bigger than OEE. It is federally relevant not just OEE or the EPA.

Further discussion centered on the topic and whether it should be part of a recommendation or have the NEEAC members write a white paper on the subject.

Ken Gembel (NEEAC member) indicated that not only should the report include mention of this recommendation but also that a white paper on each of the three recommendations be published by the NEEAC.

Diane Wood (NEEF) added that the National Environmental Education Act of 1990 does not specify a percentage of funding to be appropriated for fellowships and internships. Thus, costs associated with providing internships and fellowships are drawn from the 25% allotted to OEE for activities of the Office of Environmental Education. These are costly. Cost sharing should definitely be discussed along with public and private partnerships to share in the cost of sponsoring these fellowships and internships.

Kelly Keena (NEEAC) polled all the NEEAC members to determine how they felt about the discussion. Kelly also asked the NEEAC members about how they felt about the recommendations in the report and the expectation that they be implemented by 2018. Is that a realistic deadline? Or should there be no stated deadline for the recommendations.

Kiki Cory (NEEAC member) added that setting a deadline for the implementation of the recommendations might encounter complexities and people and processes.

Ken Gembel (NEEAC member) stated that the 2018 deadline was more of a blueprint for the accomplishment of the recommendations.

Mark Kraus (NEEAC member) added that the 2018 deadline ask that a blueprint for the recommendations be in place.

Scott Frazier (NEEAC member) stated that he did not agree with softening up the deadline, that there should be a deadline for the accomplishment of the recommendations.

Cara Gizzi (NEEAC member) agreed that there should be a deadline.

The NEEAC then decided that leaving the 2018 deadline in the report would increase accountability. Thus the recommendation is that EPA and the Office of EE focus on achieving the five targets by 2018.

Kelly restated the recommendation and asked for a motion and a vote. The NEEAC recommends that progress report on the recommendations submitted by the NEEAC be delivered by 2018.

Scott Frazier (NEEAC member) moved that EPA and the Office of Environmental Education report on the achievement towards the five recommendations by 2018 to the standing NEEAC.

Mark Kraus (NEEAC member) seconded the motion.

Kelly Keena (NEEAC chair) asked for discussion. Kelly asked for votes. The motion passed.

Kelly mentioned that there were only 10 minutes left on the call. She acknowledged having received revisions to the NEEAC report text from Cara, Richard, Caroline and Kiki.

Kelly asked NEEAC vice-chair Richard Gonzales to lead the group to a vote for the NEEAC report spokesperson.

Richard Gonzales (NEEAC vice-chair) stated that the nomination period was open for spokesperson for the NEEAC 2015 report to the public.

Scott Frazier (NEEAC member) nominated Kelly Keena (NEEAC chair) to be the spokesperson.

Ken Gembel (NEEAC member) seconded the motion.

Richard Gonzales (NEEAC member) asked for any discussion to the motion.

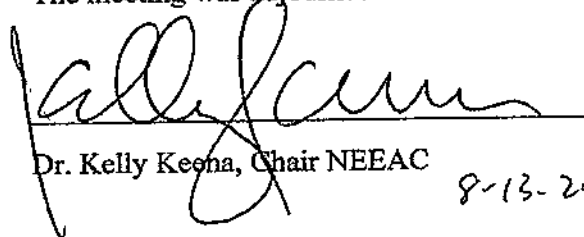
The nomination of Kelly Keena for NEEAC 2015 report spokesperson passed unanimously.

Kelly asked the NEEAC members to email her as to whom would be appropriate to serve as the alternate spokesperson.

Javier Araujo (DFO) indicated that there was no member of the public that asked to comment for this meeting. (For the record).

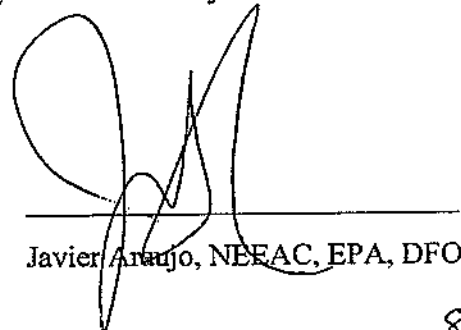
Kelly Keena (NEEAC chair) was thanked for her leadership and dedication to the work on the report. Kelly acknowledged former NEEAC members Kay Antunez de Mayolo and Anne Stevens for their contributions to the report.

The meeting was adjourned.



Dr. Kelly Keena, Chair NEEAC

8-13-2015



Javier Araujo, NEEAC, EPA, DFO

8-13-2015

NEEAC Meeting  
 June 18, 2015

call in number is 1-800-380-1073  
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Agenda Item	Lead	Time
Call to order	Kelly	
Introductions	Javier	5
Overview of where we are	Kelly	10
Issues to resolve by vote: (Protocol: Intro, discussion, movement, discussion, vote) 1. Section 3.3.5 on Environmental internships and fellowships – is this also a recommendation? 2. Timeline of recommendations by 2018?  Additional Council comments sent to Kelly	Kelly	30
Debrief: After the 2 years of work that you have put into this Council, what have you discovered about the EE field that you are most excited about moving forward?	Kelly	10
Previous items: Vote on Kelly to represent NEEAC to press Nominate second person with follow up vote in July	Richard	5
Public comment	Javier	5
Adjourn	Kelly	