

*Louisiana Environmental Education Commission*  
Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2013  
Baton Rouge Marriott  
6 PM

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission was called to order by Connie Conner, Past Chair of the Commission, at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call/Sign-in**

Sign in Sheet was passed around as roll call.

*Members present:*

Angela Capello	Dinah Maygarden
Deepak Bhatnagar	Brenda Nixon
Connie Conner	Kelly Templet
Jonathan Dearbone	Ann Wilson

*Others present:*

Venise Ortego, Coordinator  
Juliet Raffray, Assistant Coordinator  
Aimee` Robert, LDWF  
MattiLynn Dantin, LDWF  
Carrie Salyers, LDWF

**III. Minutes from Last Meeting**

Minutes were tabled until a quorum could be reached.

**IV. Financial Report, Venise Ortego**

The revenue/expenditure report was given by Venise Ortego.

**V. Coordinator's Report**

Venise reported that the symposium has 24 exhibitors registered but Barry Guillot had to cancel; 5 short courses; 24 concurrent sessions; 99 people pre-registered. These numbers are up from last year in Lafayette and are also slightly up from Baton Rouge 2 years ago. Venise observed that more informal educators are registered than last year. She mentioned the Professional Development Grant: teachers' academic distinction fund is sending 13 teachers. Venise announced that the Art and Language Art Contest deadline is April 26. There has been two more *Give a Whoop!* Workshops completed, including one short course at the symposium.

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Symposium Committee Reports**

1. A/V Report: Dinah Maygarden and Juliet Raffray: All equipment needed has been gathered; Deepak is assisting; presentations are being turned in on Drop Box and will be loaded onto laptops before beginning of symposium.

2. Door Prize/ Hospitality: Juliet reported that she has been making boxes and table decorations in theme of sustainability. This year there are fewer door prizes than in past years because the door prize chair had to resign.
3. Evaluations: Venise reported that Susan Testroet-Bergeron has prepared the evaluations for the symposium, using the identical surveys as last year to allow comparison.
4. Exhibitors: Angela Capello reported that there are 23 exhibitors at symposium. The room is set up with 25 tables. LEEA has a table outside the exhibit hall.
5. Financial Report: Venise provided a financial report – including the expenditures and income for the symposium. The synopsis is that there was approximately \$15,000 in income and \$13,284 in expenditure thus far.
6. Keynote: Venise reported that Gary has been in communication with Dr. Strain.
7. Programs: Juliet reported that 200 programs were printed and the program was posted on the web site.
8. Public Relations: Ann Wilson reported that the word about the symposium was spread to teachers via individual commission member's and other's teacher email lists and groups. Venise sent out weekly reminders on EEC listserv. Hard copies were mailed to superintendents and supervisors in all parishes (Connie mentioned that she felt that supervisors may not be passing it on to teachers). A press release was put out via the LA Press Association by Juliet. Getting the word out is generally challenging.
9. Registration (Venise): 99 people pre-registered.
10. Short Courses: Venise reported that there is a short course on Friday at the Opelousas Visitors' Center to showcase state of the art landfill – which is a 2013 EPA sustainability design winner featuring methane recapture. Also featured will be Charles Allen, a native plant expert, and Trish Ransom, a local artist using repurposed materials. Short Courses also include Wet, Wild and PLT with Wade Dubea at Hilltop Arboretum; *Give a Whoop!* with Carrie Salyers; two workshops at Bluebonnet Nature Center – Invasive species with Dianne Lindstedt and Water Conservation with Dottie Woodson making rain barrels.
11. Symposium bags: Juliet reported that a total of 600 bags had to be printed because the printer did two sets of 200 wrong and they had to be reprinted. The corrected ones have been delivered in time for the symposium.

**B. Symposium Volunteer Assignments:**

1. Gary Balsamo – Registration
2. Ann Wilson – Commission and Registration table
3. Connie Conner – LEEA table/ door prizes
4. Kelly Templet – photos for short courses
5. Friday – need volunteers for stuffing bags

6. Dinah and Deepak Bhatnagar – A/V Friday evening and Saturday
7. Angela Capello – Exhibits set up

C. Environmental Literacy Plan Status: Nancy Rabalais has promised an update soon. She has stated that a letter from the Governor is needed in order to move ahead.

**VII. New Business**

- A. Date for the 2014 Symposium: Options were discussed. First choice is Feb 21-22, 2014; Second choice is Feb 7-8. Shreveport will be considered as the location.
- B. 2013 Grants Program: Venise reported that the RFP has been released. Anthony Picado at LSU has set up an electronic application submission site. The application should be divided into 2 sections – second section is anonymous. Many applicants had trouble with this last year and had to be disqualified.
- C. Art and Language Art Contest date and judges: Juliet reminded us that the deadline is April 26 and announced that the judging will be on May 6 or 7 (Monday or Tuesday). The date for the reception at the Governor’s Mansion is tentatively set for June 12. Ads have been placed in the newspapers and one billboard is up in St. Francisville and 5 more will go up in March and 2 more in April (8 total).
- D. LEEA Report: Due to Susan’s absence, there was no LEEA report.

**VIII. Announcements:**

- Earth Day is April 21.
- LSTA will be held in Baton Rouge on October 31, Nov 1 and 2.
- Deepak made a suggestion for next time that there could be an “upcoming events” announcement board in the exhibit hall and in the program.

**IX. Next Meeting Dates:** May 14, 2013, August 13, 2013, November 12, 2013

**X. Adjournment:** 3:00 p.m.

**Motion:** Ann made a motion to adjourn.

**Second:** Angela seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Passed unopposed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.