

# MEEA Board Retreat Minutes--May 11, 2019

In attendance: Jan, Jenny, Hannah, Karen, Lesli, Laura (missed 990 discussion, arrived in time for the May financial report)

Absent: Meredith, Sarah

## Meeting convened at 10:05 with informal conversation and sharing at beginning

*Karen--*

Annual events she's involved in:

1. Stream Team event, high school students lead 4th graders
2. iNaturalist Bioblitz, @ MDC Kirksville Office
3. Envirothon, all day contest with testing stations for soil, aquatics, land mgmt, forestry
  - a. Agencies offer trainings, Karen used to go (teachers not required to go)
  - b. Uses class time in her dual credit conservation biology classes (used to do it in Env. Sci. class and couldn't spend as much class time)
  - c. Park Hill in KC has an Envirothon class,
  - d. FFA contest similar to Envirothon, High School Ag classes use class time to prep for FFA contest
4. Challenges to implementing EE: lack of knowledge, biophobia, stuck indoors

*Jan--*

- 2012-2017 EPA Grant, created EL standards, quiz questions, Earth Quest game and Principal Survey
- Also helped MO River Relief get a grant and wrote in \$10K for Jan's time

*Hannah--*

- Working on a NIFA grant with Center for Agroforestry, CCUA, Earth Dance
  - Maybe MEEA can be factored in?
- Will contact Christine Li at MU
  - Christine's position requires teaching, research, and publishing
  - MEEA good candidate to connect with her on evaluation efforts

## Board Business Meeting: Financial Report and 990 EZ Approval (10:30ish)

- 990 EZ completed by Jan, income and expenses outlined in categories, 98% of our funds are public funds (not investment interest)
  - Meredith moved in email to approve, attendees voted unanimously to approve
- Balance sheet for Jan-April 2019 shared, explained, discussed
  - Jan moved to approve the May report, Laura seconded, approved unanimously
- Community Foundation of the Ozarks, an investment fund
  - What are the restrictions on withdrawals if needed?
  - Does this fund align with our values? No info at this time

## Get to Know Each Other Prompts/Sharing

- What books are you reading? What skills/interest areas might you be able to share among the board?
- Jan--
  - Connie Willis new favorite author, The Doomsday Book, The Passage are a couple of good ones (sci-fi, time traveling Oxford historians)

- Skills/interest: Fundraising, Professional Development
- Hannah--
  - Becoming Dangerous essay collection, Trickster Chases the Tale of Education by Sylvia Moore, Emergent Strategy by Adrienne Marie Brown (Jan recommends too, heads-up on potentially off-putting style), high praise for Braiding Sweetgrass, recommends Coyote's Guide to Connecting with Nature, and also likes author Octavia Butler
  - Skills/interest: Plant Walks, Agroforestry, Permaculture, Egalitarian group process
- Jenny--
  - re-reading series All Things Bright and Beautiful
  - Skills/interest: Strategic Planning, Plants, Gardening/Farming
- Laura--
  - The Importance of Being Little by Erika Christakis
  - Skills/interest: Early Childhood Development
- Lesli--
  - The Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler, The Overstory by Richard Powers
  - Skills/interest: Organizational Development, Food Systems
- Karen--
  - Elastic by Leonard Mlodinow
  - Skills/interest: Using Dance to Teach (MEEA conference?)

### Strategic Planning Session

- Lesli used post-its on the wall to lay out a map of all things MEEA so group could understand the org as a whole



- Grouped by People, Purpose, Governance, and Resources categories (the four colors) and each row a topic requiring action with some associated tasks.
- Lesli recommended top 2 priorities to be:
  - Website--our public face; receiving feedback that site holds so much valuable info but cumbersome to navigate
  - MO Green Schools--great program, needs the attention to get it where we want it to be, central to our vision and mission (increase environmental literacy and inspire others to

care, understand, act), teachers and schools are first tier audience as that's where we can realize highest impact to effort ratio

- Jan suggested developing a strong committee structure to enable MEEA to address the entirety of the post-it map
  - 1 or more board member to be on each committee, and ED doesn't have to attend every committee meeting (but rather, facilitate communication and committee progress)
- Group worked together to develop plan whereby Lesli can concentrate primarily on administration, outreach activities, and facilitating the work of the committees (Reminder In Chief). Committees: Fund Development, MO Green Schools, Conference, and Outreach. Outreach is a broad committee with a couple of high priority projects.
- See link to graphic organizer that synthesizes where we landed after the structure discussion. **This will guide us over the next year, important to digest this piece!**  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wDTbOB7VwOUy0z8FDGS7tPOKBpXX-PZFWs1BAWRzRu8/edit#slide=id.p> (2nd slide is org structure; 3rd slide describes the two high-priority Outreach Committee projects) **Yellow highlights=top priority over next 3 months**

Closing Circle and Meeting Adjourned at 3:00pm