

**Minutes of the
Environmental Education Committee of the Partnership for a Green City
January 20, 2010, 4:30 to 5:30 PM, Gheens Academy, Room 204**

Present: Joan Shanahan (UofL Center for EE), Kandris Goodwin (MSD), Dave Roth (Farnsley Middle School), Beth Bell (the NEED Project), Marcelle Gianelloni (The Louisville Zoo), Keith Mountain (UofL), Brent Fryrear (Partnership), Julie Fried (Brightside), Christanna Schuman (UofL), Sherri Brown (UofL), Kaki Robinson (Kennedy), Judy Gardner (Kennedy), Jerry Durall (Lassiter), Beth Inman (JCPS), Kim Goff (JCPS), Teddie Phillipson-Mower (UofL), Karen Reagor (the NEED project).

- I. Changes to Agenda – Because Teddie was delayed by traffic on I-65, we started with **Working Group meetings**. When we reconvened, each group gave an update.
 - A. School and Community Gardens/Outdoor Classrooms – Julie Fried (Chair) reported that the group is working on three main projects. 1. School Garden Survey – In a Partnership between Brightside, Kentucky School Garden Network, and the UofL Center for Environmental Education a survey has been developed and will be given to interested people in Jefferson County. In addition to providing a baseline from which to work, it will serve as an interesting insight into perspectives of the school garden community and resources available for work that is currently being done. This survey is on surveymonkey and the URL will be sent to all members of the EEC within the next week. 2. School registry – the last resource and school registry that was completed by the EE under the guidance of Darleen Horton and Johnny Brinkworth needs to be updated. The working group will use the data from the survey to complete this task. 3. How To Manual – Julie noted that many teachers want to get started on greenspace projects but are unsure about how to go about this. JCPS Center for Environmental Education put together a wonderful document about schoolyard habitats many years ago. The working group plans to update and distribute a new edition. The Schoolyard Habitat Guide can be found at: <http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/departments/environmentaled/SchoolyardHabGd/schoolydhagd.html> . Organizations and individuals interested in helping with this project should contact Julie Fried and attend future EEC meetings.
 - B. Policy and Promotion – Kandris (Chair) reported that this working group is working on two projects and would appreciate comments/suggestions from the membership for both. 1. Partnership Employee environmental manual and training opportunities. New and seasoned employees of all three partners would benefit from training about how each organization in the Partnership as well as the larger community attends to the environmental issues and problems we face. 2. Review of Partnership member policies. The working group would like suggestions about specific environmental policies that need review and possible revision.
 - C. Interdisciplinary Environmental Education – Joan Shanahan reported that the working group listed possible professional development workshops for formal and non-formal instructors. Beth Bell and Karen Reagor of the Kentucky NEED project said that they would be interested in working with us on providing workshops on energy but need 25 people to sign up. They offered many workshops in the fall to teachers in this area so there might be saturation for this workshop this spring. The group also noted that most teachers complete their mandatory professional development early in the academic year so there may be a need to offer stipends for attending workshops. However, an opposing view was made that professional educators are lifelong learners. If the workshops are seen as beneficial, good teachers will sign up. The Louisville Zoo offers Project WILD and Project WET with the extra benefit of the Zoo context. We can work with them to promote their workshops as they are scheduled. Discussion also took place on development of Louisville based workshops on climate change and geography. Dr. Mountain would be available to help with this. The working group determined that there are limited time frames this semester because of testing and time needed to develop the workshops and promote them. They decided that March would be the most appropriate time. We might consider pre-planning for the summer and fall. There are opportunities to partner with the

Healthy Foods/Local Farms event in the fall as well as many other events. Teddie suggested looking at the broader community and newer opportunities. There are school districts in the 14 counties the surround Jefferson County that are in the region supported by the UofL Center for Environmental Education. The Center gets calls every week asking for help with PD. Project Growing Up WILD could be helpful to those who are teaching in early childhood stages. Kim Goff said that she and her staff would like to be involved in PDs designed with JCPS in mind so that they can make sure that it is connected to the curriculum.

II. New Business

- A. Kentucky School Garden Network Partnership – In the absence of a representative from the KSGN, Julie Fried gave an overview of the survey project and how we, the EEC, could help. As mentioned above, the School Garden Survey will help us find out what schools have gardens or want gardens and what stage each garden is in, perspectives of school gardens and projects, and needs for current projects. In addition, this will serve as a great baseline for future research projects. To take the survey go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/schoolgardens
- B. Educators' Environmental Workshops – As mentioned above, we will conduct educators' workshops this year and are looking for people to both facilitate and participate. Two have been scheduled:
 - Project WILD – Theme – Values and perspectives. February 9 at the CEHD for the Exploring Teaching course. Educators can participate but must get approval from Teddie Mower (tOphil01@louisville.edu). Room TBA
 - Growing Up WILD. Saturday, April 3rd, specifics will be announced soon. If interested, please send your contact information to cenvired@louisville.edu. This should include your name, e-mail, phone number, affiliation (organization, school, other). There will be a small fee to cover books and materials but there is money to cover a portion of this. This will be most appropriate for early childhood educators.
- C. Living Lands and Waters Clean-Up and Plastics Education on March 27, 2010. Based on our discussion at the December meeting, we will join forces with the LLW organization. Preliminary information has been shared by Shannon Reineke about sites and opportunities. Our interest is in plastics education and recycling which Shannon said is a needed component. The Environmental Education Committee will develop a plastic education message and facilitate plastics recycling at two places – Falls of the Ohio and Eva Bardman Park. Beth Inman and Joan Shanahan have volunteered to be project leaders for this event. All of us need to support it. It would be ideal to have three to four people working in each area. For questions and to volunteer, please contact either Beth Inman at beth.inman@jefferson.kyschools.us or Joan Shanahan at joan.shanahan@gmail.com.
- D. EE opportunities – There are several opportunities for professional development and classroom support for environmental educators. If you aren't a member of NAAEE or KAEE already, you really should consider it. Teddie can't forward newsletters from these organizations because they don't come through intact. However, she will try to notify EEC members of exciting opportunities. If there is someone that could volunteer for this on a more on-going basis your help would be welcome.
- E. JCPS Update – Kim Goff and Beth Inman joined our meeting and gave us an update on the JCPS Center for Environmental Education. We were all pleased that the JCPS Center will be an entity and the planning taking place is moving forward. The newly hired Environmental Education Resource Teachers, Beth Inman and Karen Walker are working with Kim Goff to look at what has been implemented and how to continue those projects that will provide necessary outcomes. Kim and her staff are looking to focus their efforts in areas that will support the mission of JCPS and the students and communities they serve. It looks like representation to the EEC might come from them. We will be pleased to have JCPS become a strong partner in the EEC team of the Partnership once again. We are also looking forward to the appointment of a new JCPS representative on the Steering Committee of the Partnership. As Kim said, we are looking for more focus/real impact for all of our initiatives.

III. Old Business

- A. "What Environmental Educators Should Know about Jefferson County" – Keith Mountain presented an overview of his chapter and introduction for the planned EEC document for Environmental Educators. He has started a glossary that will contain words from all chapters. He noted that figures from the chapters might go better in the back on the document as appendices but is open for suggestion. Sherri Brown, Kandris Goodwin, and Teddie Mower have completed their first rounds of editing and most authors have completed the revisions. We would like coherence throughout the document but without prior direction on this we think that the variation may add to the document. Future editions will benefit from our work and output on this document. There are a couple of chapters that need a little more work. Keith, Rosetta, Teddie, Sherri, and Kandris will be meeting beginning the second or third week of February to complete the editing tasks.
- B. Youth Summit – March 17th on the UofL campus. Substitute funding has been taken care of by JCPS. All partners have been very helpful with the success of this project. This next Summit we will be concentrating more of the student work. We are looking for opportunities to visit environmental research scientists' labs. If you have a suggestion, please let us know.

IV. Announcements

- A. University of Louisville Climate Change Teach In – February 11th. Students, staff, and faculty will share information about climate change and bring participants up to date in current issues surrounding this global problem.
- B. Brightside/UPS Community-wide Cleanup – March 27th. Brightside is working with Living Lands and Waters to get people out to make a difference. T-shirts are available to the first 5,000 people to register for the clean-up. Organizations, families, employers, etc. can sign up together. Registration is online at www.brightsideinc.org.
- C. Brightside Neighborhood NatureScape Beautification Grant – the deadline is March 31st at 4:00 pm. This is co-sponsored by YUM! Brands. Any non-profit or suburban city may apply for up to \$1,500 in project money to "green up" our community. For more information contact Brightside at (502) 574-2613.

Respectfully Submitted by

Teddie Phillipson-Mower