

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A GREEN CITY  
AGENDA**

**February 20, 2008**

**Gheens Academy Room G05-06 (Basement Level)**

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

Attendance:

Donna Griffin (JCPS Center for EE), Marcelle Gianelloni (Louisville Zoo), Julie Fried (Brightside), Marlon Francis (JCPS HS), Jeffrey Liddle (JCPS HS), Shannon Meredith (JCPS HS), Heather Kemp (JCPS Elementary), Caryn Walker (JCPS Brown School), Peggy Eklof (JCPS Chenoweth Elementary), Colvin Atchison (Archdiocese of Louisville), Theodore Scott (JCPS HS), Hawk Hart-Suk (JCPS Waggener), Georgia Drury (Oldham County – LaGrange Elementary), Judy Sanders (Oldham County – La Grange Elementary), David Wicks (JCPS Center for EE), Diane Drescher (JCPS – Kerrick Elementary), Carol Gundersen (Food Literacy Project), Angelique Perez ( PACS NOW/UofL), Jason Sanchez (Louisville Science Center), Beth Inman (JCPS Ballard HS), Brent Fryrear (Partnership for a Green City), Sue Green (MSD), Kandi Walker (UofL), Angela Page (JCPS), Betsy Ruhe (JCPS), Casey Sterr (Food Literacy Project), Kaki Robinson (Kennedy Montessori), Teddie Phillipson-Mower (UofL Center for EE).

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm by Teddie Phillipson-Mower and Donna Griffin. Introductions were made.

I. Presentation

1. **Louisville’s Storm Water Discharge Education Outreach** – Sue Green (MSD) gave a brief overview of her work to reduce wastewater and stormwater pollution from industrial, commercial, and other users and improve the quality of watersheds in and around Louisville. The entire MSD Industrial Waste Department does the permitting and pollution prevention work with industrial facilities through the Pretreatment and Hazardous Materials programs. They recently conducted an extensive evaluation of the industrial wastewater quality and identified pollutants of concern. As a member of this department, Sue provides public education and outreach to these local industries in regards to improving their current practices to eliminate specific pollutants and reducing their overall wastewater discharge. In addition, Green is working to educate the citizenry as a whole on storm water issues. When it rains, contaminants such as mercury from coal-burning plants, nitrates from air pollution, oil on the streets and tons of solid waste are transported into the storm water catch basins which empty directly into the local rivers and streams. Many people falsely believe that storm water in a catch basin is treated. Thus, through a collaborative effort between MSD, environmental groups, concerned citizens, public agencies and local industries, several environmental projects are currently underway. Projects included: labeling storm drains with the message – “No Dumping! Drains to Our Creek”, cleanup events, planting trees which filter pollutants out of the waterways, and educational brochures including information about the runoff from fertilizers and pesticides used in lawn care. Julie Fried mentioned that each summer she

helps educate up to 3,000 third graders on the effects of dumping in catch basins through Brightside's Ecodrama program.

**ACTION:** Sue can provide storm drain labels –“No Dumping! Drains to Our Creek” – if you would like to participate in this project. Sue is also a great resource for the Water Inventory of the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools Program. She can be reached at [green@msdlouky.org](mailto:green@msdlouky.org). In addition, Sue is interested in starting a storm water working group. Email her if you would like to join her in this endeavor.

2. **Brightside's Youth Summit** – Julie Shinton-Fried gave a brief overview of Brightside's Spring Youth Summit held earlier in the day at the Louisville Science Center. Over 300 participants from elementary, middle and high schools in the Louisville Metro area attended the Summit with several members of the EEC facilitating the break-out sessions. Students had the opportunity to discuss local environmental issues with Mayor Abramson and Congressman Yarmuth and were very empowered by the exchange. The Summit provided students with an in-depth exploration of three of the nine Kentucky Green and Healthy School Inventories ([www.greenschools.ky.gov](http://www.greenschools.ky.gov)): Energy, Water and Green Spaces.

The committee discussed the need to support student-driven projects based of the GHS program. Further support will also come from Earthforce, a nationally renowned environmental education initiative ([www.earthforce.org](http://www.earthforce.org)). The Earthforce CAPS (Community Action and Problem Solving) program is based on civics literacy steps to action. The hope is that by combining the GHS and Earthforce programs, students will reach action outcomes. A selection of JCPS teacher delegates will attend Earthforce training in Bowling Green, KY at the end of February.

**ACTION:** Green and Healthy Schools are looking for mentors from the private and public sector to assist in reaching their goals. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, contact Julie Fried at [Julie.ShintonFried@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:Julie.ShintonFried@louisvilleky.gov).

## II. Business

1. **Grant Money/State funding for Environmental Education** – Teddie Phillipson-Mower reported that the Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) will continue supporting the PRIDE Grant which funds the UL Center for EE. The second grant funding was recently received and supports the Youth Summit, GHS and Earth Force programs.

**ACTION:** Shannon Meredith is interested in establishing a grant working group which would focus on obtaining money for EE. This working group would help its members develop skills for writing grants. If anyone is interested in joining Shannon and will not be attending the next EEC meeting, email Emily Conn at [cenvired@louisville.edu](mailto:cenvired@louisville.edu).

## III. Working Groups

1. Working Group Reports:

- Floating Classroom (Donna Griffin) - Water Wonders is a collaboration of the Lou Water Co., JCPS, UL and the Belle of Louisville Inc. On March 17, March 27, and April 2 the Spirit of Jefferson will be transformed into a floating classroom. Students will be participating in inquiry centers that include:
  - a. Rollin' on the River: exploring force and motion
  - b. Pollution Solution: Non-Point Source Pollution
  - c. Music of the Ohio River: Music of the 1700s and 1800s as primary sources of historical info
  - d. History of the Belle and Steamboats
  - e. Clear or Cloudy: Erosion, Sedimentation and turbidity
  - f. Freedom River: using the 5 themes of geography to explore the Ohio River as a barrier between slave and free states.
- Research Working Group (Barbara Burns) – UL Honors College Students are conducting a study of UL’s campus food and another on outdoor classrooms. They will report their findings to the committee after they have complete their analysis.
- Possible Storm Water Working Group (Sue Green)
- Food Working Group (Carol Gundersen and Angelique Perez)
- Possible Grant Writing Working Group (Shannon Meredith)
- Alternative Energy Working Group (Jason Sanchez and Beth Inman) – Planning an Energy Day at the Louisville Science Center geared toward families. James Roby and Bill Carr will speak. There will be displays and peer teaching opportunities.
- Outdoor Classroom Working Group (Donna Griffin) – Discussed establishing an outdoor classroom PD which would include a tour of outdoor classrooms in the area and a brochure. Kaki Robinson suggested providing attendees with quick instructions to get gardens/outdoor classrooms started which were developed last year. There is also a need for resources lists for making partnerships within the community.
 

*PD Definition:* Curriculum based instruction and infrastructures of outdoor classrooms.

*Tour Sites:* Chenoweth Elementary, Kennedy Montessori, Wetlands Trail Outdoor Classroom at the Louisville Zoo...

*Goal:* Model the use of the outdoors as a enhancement to instruction and include parents so they can take ownership through the summer months.

2. Indicators and Outcomes (Teddie Phillipson-Mower) -Working groups need to keep notes so that they can be reported to the entire committee.

3. Meeting Time for Working Groups (25 minutes)

#### IV. Announcements

1. **The next EEC meeting will be held on Wednesday March 19, 2008 from 4:30-5:30 PM at Gheens Academy Room G05-06.**
2. Farm Bill Rally on February 27<sup>th</sup> at noon in front of McConnell's office, 601 W. Broadway.
3. The Louisville Zoo will be selecting another high school junior to be the Zoo's teen ambassador during Polar Bear International's week-long Polar Bear Leadership Camp in Churchill, Canada next fall. Students who will be juniors next fall can apply for this unique opportunity to work with scientists and observe polar bears. The application is available online at the Zoo's website [www.louisvillezoo.org](http://www.louisvillezoo.org). The application which includes a 1000 word essay is due by March 30, 2008. For more information you can call the Zoo at (502) 238-5328.
4. Earth Day at the Louisville Zoo will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in reserving a booth or participating in the daily events, contact Marcelle Gianelloni ([marcelle.gianelloni@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:marcelle.gianelloni@louisvilleky.gov)) and she will pass your requests along to the event staff.
5. Participate in the Living Lands and Waters Xstream Cleanup in Louisville, KY Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. For more information regarding location and registration visit:  
<http://www.livinglandsandwaters.org/XStreamLouisville/default.htm>