

Agenda and Minutes for Online EE Committee Meeting

December 20, 2021

Present: Clare Thompson, MaryKay Moe, Cathy Priest, Mitch Swaggert, Emily Stull Richardson, Becky Gilbertson

I. Old Business:

A. Salt Watch-

Mitch reported some positive student feedback about the project.

Clare is waiting to hear back from the project regarding questions of testing sites.

Emily reported that some students enjoyed nature journaling in advisory.

B. EEBit in weekly coaches' email-

Callista is including the EEBit in the weekly coaches emailing. Monique is posting it on Facebook as well! Please send any environmental ed news to Monique to post.

C. School EE newsletter/media?-

Kori McKibben is helping to form and lead the Media Club. Mitch said he will assist. The idea is that this club can create a newsletter for the school with environmental news included.

II. New Business

A. None!

November 22, 2021

Present: Clare Thompson, Kysa Corbett, Emily Stull Richardson, Mitch Swaggert, Scott Hetherington, Cathy Priest, MaryKay Moe, Becky Gilbertson, Holly Amaya

I. Old Business:

A. Monique helped with EdGen supplementation

Scott reported it worked well adding projects to EdGenuity.

B. Salt Watch civic project implementation plan

Clare reported that Emily put the first lesson in Advisory and coaches will be informed of the project process on Nov. 30th coaches meeting. Clare received 25 kits from Isaac Walton League for students who come late to 2nd semester.

C. Finalized PD day Mar 18, 2021 (need numbers for each breakout group)

Clare reported that David Grack is planning a 3 hour environmental ed workshop the morning of March 18, 2022. He would like to know the numbers for each breakout group and the total number of participants. Holly said that she would get this info.

D. Webcam on hold

Clare reported that the webcam at the seat-based site is on hold because of privacy concerns. She plans to collaborate with the seat-based by having a snowshoe field trip with the online students and also to video some lessons at the school forest. MaryKay shared that perhaps

we could put the camera(s) at knee level, ground level, or over 6 feet? Or have a night vision camera? This will be tabled for the future.

E. Nature Journaling -- digital entry ideas?

Emily shared the nature journal entries that she put into Advisory (Great job, Emily:) and Becky reported most of her students are doing great with their electronic nature journals. Clare reported $\frac{2}{3}$ of the middle school are fully engaged with their nature journaling.

II. New Business

A. Welcome MaryKay Moe!

MaryKay shared her excitement to work with our committee and to teach environmental studies. She shared about her past opportunity to teach MN Ecology.

B. Promotion of EE news on Canvas announcements?

It was decided that the coaches end of the week email should include an "Environmental Ed Bit" as a regular part of the email. Committee members will email Clare any ideas (Becky will share her newsletter with Clare). She will then prepare the EEBit (with Monique's help) for the form letter that Callista creates and get it to her every Wed.

C. School EE newsletter?

Holly will bring up the idea of having a newsletter class at the high school to promote EE. (and a yearbook class). Becky already has an elementary school newsletter each week.

D. Other thoughts/ideas/problems?

Minutes for October 25, 2021

Present: Clare Thompson, Scott Hetherington, Cathy Priest, Emily Stull Richardson, Becky Gilbertson, Mitch Swaggert

- I. ELP approved. It was decided that a meeting will be held this week with Monique to facilitate the incorporation of the pre and post tests (for ELP data collection) into EdGen.
- II. Salt Watch Civic Action project. Discussed the timeline for rolling out the project in high school advisory. Emily and Clare are collaborating with this.
- III. Environmental Professional Development Day - March 18th.
David Grack from Jeffers Foundation will provide a 3 hour workshop.
We discussed the goal of the workshop, which is to introduce teachers to ways to include environmental education in their content areas, as well as for coaches to incorporate into their discussion with students. Teachers will break out into their Q-comp groups during the workshop.
- IV. Nature Journaling:

Nature journaling will be a requirement for next year. [There will still be an environmental civic project required as well.] It was decided that this nature journaling requirement will be in Advisory, rather than each teacher trying to put it into their classes. Coaches will grade the nature journal entries. Each assignment will have a rubric on how to grade that particular nature journal entry.

The teachers of each content area will customize a nature journal entry (or perhaps 2 per content area for 8 months of assignments) and the grading rubric for each of the once-a-month assignments (next year). The next few EE committee meetings will address the ways to format online nature journaling, and everyone is encouraged to bring their resources and ideas to the next meetings. We would like to have this decided by the March workshop so that teachers can break out into their groups to begin working on their nature journaling assignments/rubrics.

We decided that we will not accept the free nature journals from Jeffers Foundation because the mailing is costly. Emily raised the point that handwritten sketches and notes are very important for hand/brain connections, and that students can use their own paper and keep their work in a drive folder of pictures of their work, which could be taken with them when they graduate. Becky shared how she customizes nature journaling on ipads using ClassKick. Scott shared that giving students freedom on how they want to share has been helpful for his past experiences with nature journaling. Mitch said coaches would need rubrics.

- V. Collaboration with seat-based-- Mitch will check on Kysa's progress with WebCam. Clare will get to the school forest to begin incorporating it into her class, and Mitch offered to help.
- VI. Field trips- none for middle school yet, but in the process of planning.
- VII. Weatherguide Calendar-- link shared for all to have and use.
- VIII. Next Meeting:
Monday, Nov 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda, October 25, 2021

- I. ELP for online approved!
Monique agreed to meet with Scott and Cathy to help with pre and post test uploads into EdGen.
- II. High School Civic Project: Salt Watch
Clare sent Emily materials to create the project in Canvas for Advisory.
Coaches will be prepped at a coaches meeting in November.
Students will order their kits before Christmas.
- III. Jeffers Foundation PD on March 18th
David Grack will conduct a half day workshop.
Focus? Nature journaling? How to do EE online?
(Mitch suggested a general overview training)
- IV. Nature journaling-- we will receive Jeffers Journals after workshop.
Use? (1X per month in Advisory)
Mail? (cost)

- V. Collaboration with seat-based:
School forest visit (Clare)
Web Cam (Kysa)
 - VI. Field trips
Paul Bunyan Arboretum
Cities Arboretum/Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Ranger
Spring-- NLC water testing boat
 - VII. Weatherguide Calendar
Blog: <https://freshwater.org/2021/10/07/crosslake-school/>
Use?
<https://jeffersfoundation.org/2021-minnesota-weatherguide-environment-calendar/>
 - VIII. Other?
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September 27, 2021

Present: Clare, Holly, Kysa, Cathy, Emily, Scott, Mitch, Becky

- I. ELP- happening now!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1um2C-bfyYSCGzXuozmyAsycd7ReQtVDykgx4bojnIbQ/edit?usp=sharing>

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lyuliFTbkGNLy_zAv97zrnWOqBRmtJltxoXs7UWLMzw/edit?usp=sharing

It was decided that Clare Monique, Cathy, and Scott will meet and prepare the pre and post tests for second semester classes in EdGenuity.

OW should approve of the ELP this month.

****Note:** The liaison for OW contacted Clare last week after the EE meeting. A few changes need to be made and then the online ELP will be approved.

- II. OW summer workshop (June 21st) - report?

Racial equity in EE

Discussion ensued regarding making nature equitable for all, including students who have a fear of bugs or feel nature is not a safe place. Becky provides environmental experiences with her camera outdoors, and Emily mentioned the possibility of urban students participating in nature through nature centers.

- III. High School Salt Watch- Emily and Clare preparing for advisory
Will be implemented 2nd semester during February
Need to order prior to...

<https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch>

It was decided that the Salt Watch kits would be ordered by students at the end of first semester (and learning coaches briefed on how to facilitate the project). Clare will order extra kits for new students arriving in second semester, and mail them out. Mitch recommended making deadlines very clear to students so the project isn't procrastinated until the very end of the semester.

- IV. Jeffers Foundation and PD March 18th?

<https://jeffersfoundation.org/>

It was decided to pursue PD for all online teachers for exposure to how to incorporate environmental education into their subjects. The expectation this year would be for teacher "buy in" and to begin to look for any EE lessons in their EdGen classes. Clare will forward the email from Jeffers that has a link to an online workshop done by David Grack.

Holly desires that every online teacher set an EE goal for their course. Considerations are that it be measurable, put into EdGen, appropriate and required for all SPED students.

- V. Nature Journaling - coordinates with SEL goals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXTCcGOuT6o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wkPMUZ9vX4>

Extra Credit?

Integrating into advisory?

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rfptUSp-ivD-SPklalafeegN3HEpIR6AEjRx5B_SIok/edit?usp=sharing

Kysa advocated for including nature journaling for all students of the online program, including the high school. Becky shared her online nature journal that she has implemented. Clare mentioned the Jeffers Journals that she is using this year. Once a month in advisory for high school students was suggested. We will work toward implementing this.

- VI. Collaboration with seat-based--Solarium?

Kysa generously offered her bonus to purchase a webcam!! Ideas for use: trout project and school forest. Becky mentioned how cool plant cams are. Clare offered to make a video from the school forest for students. There are many local agencies that could do presentations and then be shared with seat-based and online.

VII. Middle School civic project-- field trips - Twin Cities and Brainerd Lakes Area-- ideas?

VIII.

Cities: Bell Natural History Museum
Local: Paul Bunyan Arboretum/Fort Ripley

IX. Other thoughts/concerns/ideas/sharing?
