



WESTERN NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

DATE TIME: *November 22, 2011 @ 12:00 Noon*

LOCATION: *Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo*

1. Call to Order Robert E. Knoer, Chair Standing Committee

2. Roll Call

Anthony Armstrong	(AA)	Present
Arthur Wheaton	(AW)	Present
Loren Smith	(LS)	Present
Robert E. Knoer	(REK)	Present
Jay Burney	(JB _y)	Present
Judy Einach	(JE)	Present
Kerri Bentkowski Li	(KB)	Present
Thomas Herrera-Mishler	(THM)	Present
Erin Heaney	(EH)	Present
Megan Mills Hoffman	(MMH)	Present
Micaela Shapiro-Shellaby	(MS)	Present
Justin Booth	(JB)	Present
Terry L. Yonker	(TY)	Present

Also Present:

Cara Matteliano	Present
Rebekah Williams	Present
Jim Simon	Present
Don Duggan-Haas	Present

3. Approval of Agenda: EH moves to accept, AW seconds, passes unanimously.

4. Election of Chair of the Board of Directors.
RK elected by unanimous acclamation and affirmation.

5. Election of Officers
Vice Chair: Judith Einach (JB moves, AW seconds, all approve)
Treasurer: Art Wheaton (JB moves, THM seconds, all approve)
Secretary: Loren Smith (by acclimation); n.b. note-taking responsibilities will be shared by all board members over the course of the year.

6. Organizational Issues

Working and Process Groups:

See the ‘scope of responsibility for working and process group chairs’ draft document by RK and provide comments.

Regularly scheduled meetings are seen as critical to the success of the alliance. They give a forum to each of the member organizations around topics they are interested in. Please schedule regular meetings and post them to the GROW calendar. Rebekah will post them on the GROW web page for each group.

Use the listservs for meeting reminders and information distribution. Each listserv has an associated cost, so some readjustment of the listserves occurred. Each group should also seek items for the slide show for the congress, and should seek to post one article to GROW per month per working group.

Future agenda item: How to ensure vibrancy and effectiveness of the Working Groups.

7. Report of Committees:

(PLEASE NOTE written minutes or a report should be submitted to the entire board via email prior to the meeting if possible)

a. Membership Committee (LS,JE,AA)

i. New Applications

Membership recommendations were provided to the group per the attached report. JB moves, THM seconds, unanimous approval.

RK provided some background and perspective. It was suggested that the categories should be re-assessed given some comments that have come up, especially with respect to individuals. Paid membership was suggested. Individuals can join member organizations and can be their representatives to WNYA. These issues were referred to the membership committee.

8. Report of Alliance Groups – see attachments:

a. Working Groups—Privileges and responsibilities of Chairs

- i. Habitat and Natural Resources (JBy)
- ii. Parks and Recreation (THM)
- iii. Energy and Climate Change (TY)

- iv. Pollution and Hazardous Waste (JE)
- v. Urban Regeneration (AA)
- vi. Environmental Justice (EH)
- vii. Food, Gardens, Agriculture (MMH)
- viii. Transportation (JB)

b. Report of Liaisons to Process Groups

- 1. Issues & Advocacy (MS)
- 2. Education & Outreach (LH)
- 3. Organizational Capacity (KB)

9. Old Business

10. New Business

a. UB Sustainability Director Position with Steering Committee

Ryan McPherson, Chief Sustainability Officer at UB has been asked to work with the alliance. He has indicated that he will work to bring together the Alliance and the Western New York Higher Education Consortium. Jim Simon is present in Ryan’s absence.

b. Interaction between working and process groups and GROW

Working and process group Chairs should post their meetings and agendas to the Grow Calendar and inform Rebekah that the meetings are posted to the website. Rebekah will update the working and process group pages once meetings are posted.

c. Scope of Responsibility for Working & Process Group Chairs (see above)

d. Green Code Response (AA):

Last February the Urban Regeneration group put together an open letter to the Green Code. The draft Green Code released in October was compared with the letter and a new response and comments on the Green Code Principles were drafted (attached) to express concerns that resulted from this review. The hope is for the alliance to put out another letter as their official response to the draft within the 11/30 deadline. Significant support was voiced for the response. AA moved that the document be approved as an official response from the WNYEA to the Green Code pending minor revisions of text, format, and the addition of images. JB seconded. Approval was Unanimous. Mechanically, this will go over the signatures of all of the board members are

representatives of their respective working/process groups, not as representatives of their member organizations.

Discussion occurred over whether this sets a precedent for other advocacy items. Given that the Alliance is undergoing a transition it may or may not – the advocacy group will be working diligently in the months ahead and this issue has been before the Alliance for many years, so it seems to fit in with where we are at now. The sentiment was that the support was unanimous among the Board members and that the process was as open and inclusive of the member organizations and Working Groups.

e. Speaker Bureau (DDH, TY)

The Energy and Climate Working Group has been working to organize a Speakers Bureau. DDH reviewed the form that has been set up to accept information on individuals interested in joining the speaker's bureau. The relationship between the speaker's bureau, the advocacy platform, and the education and outreach committee was discussed. Questions arose about marketing, payment/cost-share, eligibility (presumably to member organizations only), balancing organizational and individual expertise, and the mechanics of vetting speakers. GROW & WNYEA can put the information out there, but will not facilitate scheduling. Concern was expressed about using these individuals as media contacts (which already exists in the Advocacy arena), and it was suggested that media remain in the realm of the Advocacy group.

The topic was referred to education and outreach committee for review. Contact DDH with any questions or comments.

f. **Quarterly meetings – The quarterly meetings have 3 components: 1. an opportunity to discuss and address organizational issues with the membership; 2. a forum for substantive discussion. 3. Networking among the membership.**

Environmental Justice (EH) is spearheading the next Quarterly Meeting. Tuesday February 7th @ 5:30 at the Marcy Casino. Food Group will arrange for food/ beverages in conjunction with Marcy Casino. EJ will report on the agenda to the next Board meeting January 17th, 2012.

g. Congress Debrief – deferred to the next meeting. Forming a congress planning committee was suggested.

11. Adjourn

Our next meeting is January.17th, 2012. Meetings will then continue on the fourth Tuesday of each month at noon as follows:

Unanimously moved to adjourn.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Board of Directors 2012 Scheduled Meeting Dates:

January 17th, fourth Tuesday of each month thereafter.

Next Working Group Meetings:

Energy & Climate	Thurs, Jan 19, 2012	4:30 PM
Habitat & Natural Resources	Thurs, Dec 8, 2011	4:00 PM
Parks & Recreation	Wed, Nov 30, 2011	10:30 AM
Urban Regeneration	--	
Pollution & Waste	Wed, Jan 4, 2012	4:00 PM
Environmental Justice	Wed, Jan 25, 2012	4:00 PM
Food Gardens and Agriculture	Wed, Dec 7, 2011	5:00 PM
Transportation	Thurs, Dec 1, 2011	1:00 PM

Next Process Groups Meetings:

Issues & Advocacy	Tues, Jan 10, 2012	4:00 PM
Education & Outreach	Mon, Jan 9, 2012	3:30PM
Organizational Capacity	--	

2012 WNYEA Board of Directors Meeting & Lunch Schedule

Tuesday	January	17
Tuesday	February	28
Tuesday	March	27
Tuesday	April	24
Tuesday	May	22
Tuesday	June	26
Tuesday	July	24
Tuesday	August	28
Tuesday	September	25
Tuesday	October	23
Tuesday	November	27
Tuesday	December	25

1 Just Kidding