



**WESTERN NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE TIME: *April 24, 2012 @ 12:00 Noon*

LOCATION: *Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo*

1. Call to Order Robert E. Knoer, Chair
2. Roll Call

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

Also Present:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Rebekah Williams | present |
| Richard Stockton | present |
| Ryan McPhearson (RM) | present |
| Cara Matelliano | present |
| Michelle Schmidt | present |

3. Approval of Agenda and Prior Minutes
Agenda moved by LHS, seconded by AW, approved
Minutes moved by AW seconded by LHS, approved
4. Organizational Issues
 - a. Treasures Report (AW) See the proposed budget (attached) Additional discussion was requested via e-mail about staffing prior to the meeting.

- a. Budget request status (KB)
- b. Listserves and GROW (RW) No Report, no comments from the floor.

5. Report of Committees:

(PLEASE NOTE written minutes or a report should be submitted to the list serve prior to the meeting if possible)

- a. Membership Committee (LS,JE,AA)

- i. New Applications - see attached, moved by JB, seconded by TY, moved.

6. Report of Alliance Groups:

General note – it is important for each working group to try to send a representative to each process group to ensure that you are aware of what is going on.

- a. Working Groups—Privileges and responsibilities of Chairs

- i. Habitat and Natural Resources (JBy)

An advocacy proposal to help with rapid response issues for habitat is in front of the Advocacy Process Group. H&NR is working with Energy & Climate. The group is hosting a ‘people’s public hearing’ June 2nd on hydrofracking at the Burchfield Penney – an invitation will follow. Shannon Dougherty from the DEC will present on a comprehensive action plan for the Great Lakes at the June 14 meeting.

- ii. Parks and Recreation (THM)

- iii. Energy and Climate Change (TY)

This group will be organizing the fall quarterly group September 18. They hope to lay out a road map on how energy and climate change require working across working groups. They have an advocacy focus on feed-in tariffs in New York. The document will be going to the Advocacy Group this coming Thursday. May 5 Alex Cartwright from UB will be talking about WNY as an energy hub.

- iv. Pollution and Hazardous Waste (JE)

- v. Urban Regeneration (AA)

Maria Whyte came to the last meeting and the group will continue to be a resource for her. The Brownfield process will have opportunities to comment in the future.

- vi. Environmental Justice (EH)

The group brainstormed a number of policy issue to submit to Advocacy. A ‘toxic tour’ is planned.

- vii. Food, Gardens, Agriculture (MMH)
The last meeting focused on the green code. The next topic will be food justice/food access. Supporting sustainable agriculture in rural and urban communities will be a focus.
- viii. Transportation (JB)
The Complete Streets event was a great success.

b. Report of Liaisons to Process Groups

- 1. Issues & Advocacy (MS)
Next meeting is 4PM this coming Thursday the 26th of April. It is important that there is stability and consistency in attendance at this and other working/process group meetings. An Agenda Request process was distributed, is attached, and will be uploaded to the GROW web site. The board approved the use of this document. The action agenda will be consistently on the I&A agenda and will be discussed on the 4/26/2012
- i. Habitat & Natural resources Request
- ii. Waste & Pollution request (JE). CFGFB funded UDP to construct a comprehensive document of waste sites in 3 counties of Western New York – Erie, Niagara & Cattaraugus for the alliance. EPA and DEC have reviewed the document. Board approval is needed to acknowledge that this is a product of WNYEA. The document will be presented at the quarterly meeting and a vote will be taken at the next board meeting to determine whether the document can be an official WNYEA document. Suggestion that state agency documents referencing the document be incorporated.
- iii. Process issues
 - i. Status of Annual Agenda
 - ii. Amendment to “Rapid Response”
- 2. Education & Outreach (LH)
 - a. Speakers Bureau – the form is up for speakers to express their interest in being involved. The process will continue online.
- 3. Organizational Capacity (KB)
A 4 hour meeting was held last Tuesday. (GET PARTICIPANTS FROM KERRI) facilitated by Eve Berry. Strategic long-term items were the focus, including the role and purpose of GROW and WNYEA and how they interact. The group believes that GROW has a great role as the voice of the environmental alliance. The resource requirements were discussed – staff and associated needs. A ‘phased plan’ whereby WNYEA would assume greater responsibility for resources for the alliance and GROW in

collaboration with CFGB. The next step is to look at the actual costs. CFGB has invested ~\$350,000 in GROW and WNYEA. CM is going to construct a broader picture of the resources (overhead, staffing, etc.) to form the framework for the next part of the discussion. RK reiterates that everyone is invited to these meetings. RK also emphasizes that we need to focus on ensuring that the alliance provides value to its members and to Western New York. TY acknowledged the tension between staff driven and volunteer driven organizational constructs. RM emphasizes the assumption that WNYEA wants to 'encompass' GROW; AA emphasizes the tension between operating GROW and supporting the work of the working groups and the alliance, which all comes back to the numbers – what are the true costs. The focus now is just on the transition, not on setting goals or benchmarks for the organization (KH prompted by EH). RS – there needs to be responsibility taken for the intellectual component of GROW - seeking and choosing content. Send comments on the job description to KB. Further discussion ensued. TY – we still need to undergo a strategic planning process for the WNYEA. RK to wrap up: CFGB needs some answers on GROW which is driving the process at this point.

7. Old Business

- a. Report on Earth Day Event April 17th, 2012 (EH)
- b. Speakers Bureau: <http://growwny.org/speakers-bureau-application>.
- c. Second Quarterly Meeting (JE)
 - i. May 8th, 2012; registration 5:00 Meeting Commences 5:30 PROMPTLY – let people know.
 - ii. Marcy Casino (TH confirmed)
 - iii. Waste & Pollution Working Group
 - iv. Logistics (Deanne Stachowski will coordinate with Marcy Casino Rebekah will relay attendance numbers to Deanne Suggestion to be downstairs the entire time.
- d. Congress 2012 (EH) – No report.
 - i. Date: November 10th, 2012
 - ii. Location TBD
 - iii. Agenda
 1. Conduct organizational business
 2. Celebrate good work
 3. Engage and inspire
 4. Introduce and demonstrate power of alliance to policymakers and

iv. Food important stakeholders.

8. New Business

9. Adjourn (approximately 1:30)
Jay moved to adjourn, Terry seconds, approved by leaving.

NEXT BOARD MEETING MAY 22, 2012

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

WNYEA Quarterly Meetings (Proposed)

First	February 7, 2012	Third	September 18, 2012
Second	May 8, 2012	Annual Meeting	November 10, 2012

Board of Directors 2012 Scheduled Meeting Dates:

January	July
February	August
March	September
April	October
May	November
June	December

Working Group Meetings:

Energy & Climate	May 3 2012	4:00 PM
Habitat & Natural Resources		
Parks & Recreation		
Urban Regeneration		
Pollution & Waste		
Environmental Justice		
Food Gardens and Agriculture		
Transportation		

Process Groups Meetings:

- Issues & Advocacy
- Education & Outreach
- Organizational Capacity



PROPOSED WNYEA 2012 Budget

a. Quarterly Meetings (3)	\$ 2,250.00
b. Board Meetings	\$ 850.00
c. Annual Congress	\$ 10,000.00
d. Misc. Operational Expenses	\$
i. Staffing ½ time person	\$ 45,000.00
e. Working Group Request	
i. Habitat and Natural Resources	\$ 1000.00
ii. Parks and Recreation	\$ 1000.00
iii. Energy and Climate Change	\$ 1000.00
iv. Pollution and Hazardous Waste	\$ 1000.00
v. Urban Regeneration	\$ 1000.00
vi. Environmental Justice	\$ 1000.00
vii. Food, Gardens, Agriculture	\$ 1000.00
viii. Transportation	\$ 1000.00
f. Process Group Requests	
i. Issues & Advocacy	\$ 1000.00
ii. Education & Outreach	\$ 1000.00
iii. Organizational Capacity	\$ 1000.00
TOTAL Budget:	\$ 69,100.00

Membership Requests for the Western New York Environmental Alliance
April 24, 2012

Committee Recommendation – Member status for University Heights Collaborative and supporter status for each of the other entities below:

Primary Contact Name joseph Schmidbauer
Primary Contact Email joeschmidbauer@gmail.com
Primary Contact Phone Number (716) 310-4471
Organization or Group Name **University Heights Collaborative**
Organization Web Address http://ourheights.org/
Name of Executive Director or Board Chair Mickaela Shmidbauer
Organization Phone Number (716) 390-7927

Tell us your organization's mission statement The University Heights Collaborative (UHC) is a community-based group of residents and other interested people working together to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all in our neighborhood. Our committees include: Beautification, Business Invol [cut off]

Tell us about your organization's environmental work: The University Heights Collaborative (UHC) is a community-based group of residents and other interested people working together to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all in our neighborhood. Our committees include: Beautification, Business Involvement, Community gardens, Green Space (Linear Park), Farmer's Market, Communication, Neighborhood Watch, and Landlord Outreach. We work with residents, property owners, University at Buffalo staff and students, law enforcement officers, business owners, our elected officials, and other community leaders in order to coordinate resources and co-create our future.

Primary Contact Name Lydia Bezou-Hojnacki
Primary Contact Email ripleyplace@gmail.com
Primary Contact Phone Number (716) 984-5320
Organization or Group Name **Ripley Place Block Club**
Name of Executive Director or Board Chair Lydia Bezou-Hojnacki
Email of Executive Director or Board Chair lbezouho@gmail.com
Organization Phone Number (716) 984-5320

Tell us your organization's mission statement Upgrade and sustain a high quality of life on Ripley Place

Tell us about your organization's environmental work We participate in the Great American Cleanup; this spring we will form a Broken House Club and cooperatively upgrade the facades and gardens of all the houses in our block.

Authorized Signer My organization agrees to support Our Shared Agenda for Action.

Primary Contact Name **Yu Wang** I am not affiliated with an organization.
Primary Contact Email moling23@hotmail.com
Primary Contact Phone Number (716) 868-0198

Authorized Signer My organization agrees to support Our Shared Agenda for Action.

Primary Contact Name **Anna Roblin** I am not affiliated with an organization.
Primary Contact Email in22359@gmail.com
Primary Contact Phone Number (716) 605-0266

Primary Contact Name **Jeff McGovern** I am not affiliated with an organization.
Primary Contact Email ecoficiency@ymail.com
Primary Contact Phone Number (716) 906-9299
Organization or Group Name ecoficiency

Tell us about your organization's environmental work Im the owner of ecoficiency. I deal in sustainable & passive solar design as well as advanced agriculture and urban farming. I possess extensive knowledge in renewable and altenative energy, with a primary focus on biomass gassification & biochar production. I would like to attend some of the working group meetings in the near future. I believe my solid thirteen years in these fields would be of value in your discussions. thank you Jeff McGovern

Advocacy and Issues Process Group Form

In order to assist us in processing your request please provide the following;

1. Name of Working Group supporting advocacy request

If no Working Group has yet supported, indicate why the standard Advocacy process cannot be followed.

2. Name of WNYEA member group (s) requesting advocacy
3. Contact Person at each member group(s) (name, phone, email)
4. Short description of the issue: (75 words or less - if appropriate you may attach a document with additional information)
5. Basis of need for immediate action
6. Date by which action must be taken in which to avoid irreparable consequences?
7. Is this a part of an approved WNYEA Annual Agenda - Y / N
If so, is this consistent with the approved work plan, or is this an addition or change?
(As of 4/20/2012, this question does not yet apply)
8. If this is a request for a letter of support, please attach your ideal or example letter, including to whom it should be addressed with contact info.
9. Please identify any other member groups or organizations that have been asked to consider this request.

Please call Micaela Shapiro-Shellaby, Co-Chair of the Advocacy Process Group at 892.5877, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the submission of advocacy or issue items. Please submit all forms to micaela@buffalojwj.org at least 5 business days before the advocacy meeting you wish to present at.

Advocacy Process Group meetings happen every 4th Thursday at 4pm at the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo-712 Main Street.

4/20/2012