



**Board Meeting Draft Agenda**  
**Tuesday, April 29th 12:00 to 2:00pm**  
**Community Foundation, Larkinville**

**I. Roll Call**

**II. Alliance Organizational Issues**

- Approval of Agenda and March board meeting minutes
- Jay moves to approve the minutes. Jay mentions concern about not being able to access minutes or bi-laws anywhere on the website. Art seconds the approval of the minutes.
- Treasurers Report—budget update (AW & KK)
- Membership Report (LS)
- Jay is concerned about committee reports. Jay's support has changed about the tweet style reports. Bob mentions sending the report summaries ahead of time is helpful.
  - Global Justice Ecology Project – member?
  - Kid Wind – member?
  - Loren thinks GLEP would be a valuable member as well as Kid Wind. Moves to make these organizations members. Seconded by Lindsay.
- Strategic Planning & Development (deferred to in depth section) (CM & AM)
- Board Engagement & Nominations Process Report (RW)
  - Rebekah is going over who is running again for open board positions.
  - Bob is not sure about Energy and Climate. Bob said that Terry was going to try to come to April meeting but he didn't. Bob is not interested in chairing the group. Ryan suggests reaching out to Linda.
  - EJ- not sure about Erin as she is not present.
  - Rebekah- stepping down from Food in 2014. Rebekah has spoken to a few people and is open to suggestions.
  - Natural Resources- Jay is letting everyone know that the seat is open. People are talking about it and so far no has stepped up. Jay is open to continuing or having someone else serve on the board.
  - Issues and Advocacy- Michaela is stepping down. She's moving away from Buffalo. No suggestions as of right now- has been discussing everything with Ryan. Ryan has suggested PPG- Micaela is all for reaching out to people outside of the Environmental Alliance. Ali thinks working groups might be overbuilt. Should have more discussion about this.
  - Bob Knoer- not unwilling to be an at-large member but is not willing to be a chair of a working group.
  - Ryan is planning on serving still.
  - Jay brings up the concern that Ali doesn't want working groups to meet as much. Jay thinks that people should be meeting. Ali says it's coming from her perspective as well as Riverkeepers.
  - **Discussion of board survey-** gender is pretty split right now. We will be losing the only African American person on our board. Rebekah thinks being more encompassing of leadership from different backgrounds is a good idea.
  - Rick- Still don't have a large participation in the working groups- thinks we should be focusing specifically on working groups.
  - Micaela- thinks this is a very big conversation and maybe it's for another time.
  - Rebekah- working groups don't allow for much flexibility but it's a bigger

strategic planning question. Before we close out this convo she wants to reiterate how much we've focused on skills and expertise. Would like to continue the conversation at the next board meeting. Wants to have a plan when we have board members leaving.

- **Recap of Earth Day event and Grow 716 campaign**
  - Ryan- thanks to Cara, Kristen, and Bob. Kristen says 85 complete conversations and we're updating the campaign page. Reminders through working and process group. May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline so we can look through responses and reactions. Two pieces of media- Business First and Investigative Post.
  - Jay- commenting on the 716 campaign. Wondering if it was ever voted on for the campaign to be WNY Alliance sponsored instead of Grow 716 sponsored. Ryan clarified that it came up in several board meetings and there was discussion on it and it went forward.
  - Bob- doesn't think the 716 campaign was an advocacy process and didn't need to be approved as such.
- **Action Agenda & Advocacy** (Alliance communication to electeds—ask)
  - Micaela- clarified that the letter was a good letter and she helped wordsmith it.
- **1RF Update** (RM)
  - Many people are participating and this is going well. Creating change makers. The plan living past when it was actually produced and getting people in to implement plans.
- **Communication Report** (defer to section V)
  - Nothing else from Kristen besides the texting campaign.

### **III. In Depth Briefing/Discussion—Issue Specific**

- The Big Vision—The Ecological Economy as a vehicle to implement the Alliance vision
  - Lead off conversation from CM & AM
  - How do we continue to evolve the Alliance? Defining it- networking and advocacy entity or can it be something else? Ali is going to spend some time going over what Ali sent.
  - Cara- mentioned that a few foundations are interested in making investments in this community to receive a return investment. An opportunity for the alliance to move this mission forward. Environment being a key value.
  - Business opportunities?
  - Cara- just wants a hub for information to be exchanged
  - Bob- no direct dividends coming back? Socially responsible investment
  - Cara- yes this group is like that but there are others that may become more interested in doing more than that
  - Ali- looking at building resource capacity for the Alliance. Ex. How do you get the quality of the watershed back into the economic and community development? Really good funding opportunities right now. Trying to move money out of big, national environmental groups into things like the Alliance. Broad goals but no implementation. Opening it up to discussion.
  - Ryan- clarification. This is an approach if endorsed. If people at this table agree on the direction to make the environment a key in decision making by 2017. This is a tactic to get there. There would have to be a lot of strategic planning to go down this road.
  - Jay- thinks that these are important ideas. The main objective coming from people in the group is that we've always thought of ourselves as a bottom up organization. Are we changing to a top down perspective? Are we prioritizing Riverkeepers process? Quarterly meeting can't just be a presentation. We need to engage people to have them talk about this.
  - Justin- hasn't been as engaged in this board as he has been in the working group. He's at a point where he needs resources to move forward to battle DOT. Very important to move forward because the strategic planning is already in place. Investment and money is needed.

- Ali- in response to Justin- value proposition to allow his work to move forward. Whatever we work on is still going to be coming out of the working groups. Not a top down but a strategy to move forward.
- Bob- doesn't see how bringing in more assets would hinder people from doing their work. Being concerned is a good thing because we will have open dialogue on this concept.
- Ryan- this is a vehicle to bring everyone to the table by encouraging them by adding a real value.
- Rick- Reality- aren't even approaching the capacity to be competent to do this. Realistically it would take two years from today to have the capacity to do this. There needs to be a parallel process- could be pushed forward through working groups.
- Cara- how do we talk about who needs money when? Making connections. Leveling the playing field for people is important- ex Justin and DOT.
- Loren- money is not the answer all of the time. If the culture doesn't support it, it won't work. Haven't been thoughtful on how the Alliance works to achieve these goals. We need to look outside of WNY- we need to find models to look at.
- Rebekah- timeline for strategic planning needs to be put in place. We need a solid person or consultant to just go through with it.
- Ali- points out Daniel Katz- someone we might want to bring into the process to educate us on this. I think this orientation will make us unique and competitive.
- Ryan- we need an innovative pitch to be able to present to get the funding in the end.
- **Motion-** Advance the concept that has been submitted by Ali, to use this as a vehicle to leverage funds and organization around strategic planning. Through every stakeholder that we engage with. Seconded by Bob and Justin.
- **11 to 1 motion carries.** Jay opposed.
- Jay would like member involvement to be stated in the motion- Ryan specified this.
- Cara would like a copy of this to be shared with working groups. This will be a selling point as well.
- July 9<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting Topic- consensus to move the organizational piece. Push out to members to mark the date.

#### IV. "Tweet Style" Working and Process Group Updates

- Parks & Recreation- reach out to Brian on this quickly
- Pollution and Hazardous Waste
- Habitat: Transportation- working on advocacy platforms- anti-froking platform. State of the environment report. Sustainable business alliance- what is our relationship with them? Concern from members. Clarification via Ryan- it was a blog posted by the Buffalo Grow website
- Energy and Climate
- Environmental Justice
- Growing- no update
- Urban Regeneration- conversations are continuing to build and keeping track of the ongoing planning efforts- Ohio St, Pearl St, Niagara St, etc. Buffalo Green Code should be announced this week. Go to GoBike's website- last day of May- ride Bike over skyway
- Education/Outreach- would like to have a workshop for teachers to go through the topics discussed in working groups.
- Organizational Capacity
- Advocacy

#### V. Outstanding Issues if Time Permits

- Communication policy questions needing clarification and direction
- Representing and Speaking on behalf of the Alliance:

## **VI. Next Alliance Meetings:**

- May 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting
  - Proposed In depth topic: ???
- July 9<sup>th</sup> Quarterly (location & Subject TBD)

## **VII. Upcoming Events (general):**

- May 1 @ 2 pm @ Saturn Club – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Park Forum
- May 7 @ 9 am @ Community Foundation - Growing Working Group
- May 8 @ 4 pm @ Community Foundation – Energy Working Group- adjourned it.
- May 16 @ 10 am @ 502 City Hall – Transportation Working Group
- May 21 @ 6:30 pm @ BMOS – Habitat Working Group
- May 22 @ 10 am @ Cornell ILR School – Urban Working Group
- May 22 @ 4:30 pm @ Community Foundation – Advocacy Process Group
- May 27 @ 4 pm @ Community Foundation – Parks Working Group
- May 28 @ 6:30 pm @ US DOE: Ashford Complex – West Valley Quarterly Meeting
- June 11 @ 4:30 pm – Grow 716/WNYEA Workshop, location and topic TBD
- See GrowWNY calendar

## **VII. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Loren and seconded by Ryan.**