



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

DATE TIME: *August 28, 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)	excused
Robert E. Knoer	(REK)	present
Jay Burney	(JBy)	present
Brian Dold	(BD)	present
Judy Einach	(JE)	excused
Kerri Bentkowski Li	(KB)	present
Erin Heaney	(EH)	excused
Megan Mills Hoffman	(MMH)	unexcused
Micaela Shapiro-Shellaby	(MS)	present
Justin Booth	(JB)	excused
Terry L. Yonker	(TY)	present

Also Present:

Richard Stockton	present
Ryan McPhearson	present
Michele Schmidt	present
Kristen Kaszubowski	present
Carolyn Human	present
Alex Epstein	present
Cara Matteliano	present

3. Approval of Agenda and Prior Minutes AW moves to accept agenda, JBy seconds, approved. JBy moves to accept minutes, AW seconds, approved.

4. Organizational Issues

- a. Treasures Report (AW)—Nothing new,
 - i. CFGB: \$10,000 for Congress, etc.

- b. Budget request status (KB)- Nothing new
- b. List serves and GROW (Michele Schmidt and Carolyn Human)
 - i. Successful Go Outside Map press event and launch
 - ii. Changes in content on the Grow website (Green Spectrum, Feature Fridays and Myth Mondays)
 - iii. Increased Fender Blender presence at different events therefore different audiences and an increased awareness of Grow
 - iv. Map distribution sign up was passed around
 - v. Question posed by JBy about consulting the WNYEA on the creation of Go Outside Map and commercial sponsorship; REK stated that it was a Grow map

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)—nothing new
 - i. New Applications
 - ii. Education Institutions Role
 - 1. “Members”
 - 2. “Affiliates”

6. Report of Alliance Groups:

- a. Working Groups—Privileges and responsibilities of Chairs

- i. Habitat and Natural Resources (JBy)
 - 1. Area and Climate Change paper, Issues and Advocacy plank on education of Fracking and why to ban it, working through Erie County land use and mapping are all projects being worked on.
- ii. Parks and Recreation (BD)
 - 1. Meeting at CFGB in September. Other than that, nothing new.
- iii. Energy and Climate Change (TY)
 - 1. Next meeting, September the 6th at 4pm, regarding the Quarterly Meeting. The white paper is moving slowly. Content is needed by the end of August.
 - 2. White Paper- a reexamination of Climate Change and its impacts on WNY. The working groups have been asked to submit a piece on how climate change will affect their areas of interest. This would act as a prelude to a meeting, or a supplemental piece to a presentation.

3. AA asked if an example of the intro would be sent out in order to help people write their pieces and understand the paper better. Can be sent out, but it is getting very late. REK suggested using the White Paper after the panel and presentation due to the time crunch. TY will send out by the end of the month.

iv. Pollution and Hazardous Waste (JE)—No report

v. Urban Regeneration (AA)

1. Center Space- shared space for non-profit entrepreneurs. Depending on the number of tenants, this space may be available by June 2013.
2. CFGB donation of \$25,000

vi. Environmental Justice (EH)

1. Marcus Stanfill has been moving forward with the mobile journalism project and has found an online service to pilot with. Pilots are to start in the fall. After this is developed it will be brought back to the board for more members to use. CAC and Riverkeeper will be the first two organizations to pilot the program.

vii. Food, Gardens, Agriculture (MMH)—No report

viii. Transportation (JB)

1. BD has been working with JB to put together a combined plank.

b. Report of Liaisons to Process Groups

1. Issues & Advocacy (MS)

a. Status of Annual Agenda

MS—The board votes on the agenda and represents the membership; this should be revisited post agenda. There has been a lot of confusion regarding this. There will be no vote today; this was just brought up for clarification. Present at Quarterly on Sept. 25 to vote and present at Congress.

AA--Land Access—Ryan had a question about planks for this due to the “unkowns” surrounding this project. It should be outcome oriented, as specific as possible. It is a little bit broader at this point, and it will depend on the comfort level of the project. There is a certain amount of flexibility that surrounds this. (Campaigns vs Planks vs Agendas)

AA—Regional Planning—Recruiting green organizations and green code discussions. Ryan says that this is the most important plank that we should support.

JBy—Habitat—Looking for backing from WNYEA to ban fracking in NYS. Seeking to create an educational form in the white paper to present to community. REK brought up that this is a piece surrounding by controversy, but it is definitely something the WNYEA should be involved in. Ryan had a question regarding the proposal—does it want to ban fracking or put conditions on it that would be close to a ban. JBy said that it will act as an all out ban.

TY—Energy and Climate (3)—1) FIT- can be highly technical; program in Ontario where companies propose and build wind farms and use subsidies to create level energy costs (this is an example). Educational component. Policy decision through NY Power Authority... Will this apply to domestic use? 2) Climate Smart Communities—approach communities to have them make a commitment to reduce CO2 footprint. Attempting to sign up communities in 2013; also have an event to explain the program. Are we just endorsing this?—Yes What are the measurable outcomes? Partnerships with NYSERDA and Women’s League of Voters. We are waiting for an updated version of this. 3) Energy Conservation—the purpose of this is to engage the organizations within WNYEA and educate them. Then ask them for a commitment to reduce energy consumption. This is a changing proposal; it is a little amorphous. Discussions about whether this is advocacy or it belongs in education and outreach. The latter seems more applicable. There is potential to have measurable outcomes in this project. AW: How does this compare with UnWaste NY? Can we partner up with them?

BD—Transportation—Ensure NYSDOT preferred design alternative in RT 198 (from Grant St to 33) DEIS transforms the Scajaquada corridor to a Complete Street through advocacy and public participation for context sensitive design. JBy likes it. There is a Transportation Meeting on September 14 to vote on this proposal.

EJ, Growing and Mapping Waste planks: please review and send comments by email to respective contact.

Suggestions to working groups go back to working groups. Language that is used is derived from your proposal. Detailed proposals need to be given out to the membership somehow, and planning regarding this needs to be discussed. AA thinks we should approve of these in October rather than September. MS approves. So, comments and feedback are due for September, and final decisions will be made in October.

How to engage member groups? Alex Epstein (Grow) is working on finding out who are the WNYEA voting representatives.

Ryan: two main issues: Is the agenda a statement of where we are, or a specific statement that frames what we have done? MS and REK will be meeting to flesh this out further. AA is suggesting going back to shared agenda as a framework.

b. 21st Century Park request

- i. Tabled? Rejected? They wanted our endorsement, but we decided we weren't in the position to endorse something that was seeking funding. It eventually went to the working group (Parks and Rec). It was thought that REK would work on language for a letter supporting their idea but that is all. This will be reexamined.

c. Training for advocacy

2. Education & Outreach (LH)

- a. Speakers Bureau
- b. Elected Official Outreach

3. Organizational Capacity (KB)

a. GROW Strategic Planning

- i. Quorum for Grow? To be discussed at next meeting.
- ii. Have put out feelers to Honors UB students to help out Grow and further figure out how to work these two entities together.
- iii. While discussing the future of Grow, discuss the future of WNYEA—5 year strategic planning (suggested by Rick)

7. New Business

- Kerri will be gone from Oct-Feb on maternity leave. Riverkeeper is discussing what to do in her absence.
- Still need a chair for I&A.

8. Old Business

a. Budget Request (KB REK)

b. Third Quarter Meeting (TY)—same format; must send an email out (GROW)

- i. Date September 18th 2012
- ii. Location Marcy Casino

iii. Topic “ Climate Change across the Working Groups”

iv. Logistics

c. Congress 2012 (EH)

i. Date: November 10th, 2012, 9-12:30, lunch, afternoon speaker

ii. Location UB Kaleida Tower

iii. Agenda

1. Conduct organizational business

a. Election of Directors

b. Vote on Annual Agenda

2. Celebrate good work

3. Engage and inspire

4. Introduce and demonstrate power of alliance to policymakers and important stakeholders.

iv. Food

9. New Business

10. Adjourn (approximately 1:30) REK, unanimously seconded.

NEXT BOARD MEETING September 25, 2012

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

WNYEA Quarterly Meetings (Proposed)

Third September 18, 2012 Annual Meeting November 10, 2012

Board of Directors 2012 Scheduled Meeting Dates: Fourth Tuesday of the month