

**DATE TIME:** *October 30, 2013 @ 10:00 AM*

**LOCATION:** *Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo 525 Larkin Building*

1. Call to Order Robert E. Knoer, Chair 10:06 AM

2. Roll Call

Robert E. Knoer,	Chair	(REK)	present
Judy Einach,	Vice Chair	(JE)	present
Arthur Wheaton,	Treasurer (	AW)	present
Loren Smith,	Secretary	(LS)	present
Jay Burney		(JBy)	present
Brian Dold		(BD)	present
Erin Heaney		(EH)	present
Rebekah A. Williams		(RW)	present
Micaela Shapiro-Shellaby		(MS)	present
Justin Booth		(JB)	excused
Terry L. Yonker		(TY)	present
Ryan McPhearson		(RM)	present
Alexandra McPherson		(AM)	

*Also Present:*

Kristen Kaszubowski	(KK)	present
Cara Matteliano	(CM)	
Brooke, Sarah and Dylan		

3. Approval of Agenda and Prior Minutes. Agenda moved (JE), seconded (AW) and approved. Minutes moved (AW), seconded (RM) and approved.

4. Organizational Issues. Reminder – we did move at the last meeting to include the fourth at-large position so we are all set, the slate moves forward to the Congress for a vote. A slate of officers will be put forth at the post-congress organizational meeting. RK will be stepping down as chair, JE will be off the board and we will need to find a vice chair. Keep in mind the possibility of a larger (longer) post-congress organizational meeting to integrate new members, set the agenda for 2014 vis-à-vis advocacy and other issues. JE Commends RK for his work as chair.

**A. Nominations Committee Report (RW)**

i. 2013-2015 Slate of Directors:

**I. Working Group Liaison**

- a. Parks & Recreation Brian Dold
- b. Pollution & Waste Andy Goldstein

- c. Urban Regeneration Art Wheaton
- d. Transportation Justin Booth

## **II. Process Groups**

- a. Education & Outreach Karen Wallace
- b. Organizational Capacity Alexandra McPherson

## **III. At Large Positions**

- a. At Large (AL2) Loren H. Smith
- b. At Large (AL4) Lindsay Amico

## **B. 2013 Congress (REK/RM)**

- i. Date: Wednesday, November 6th (5:00 pm to 9:00 pm) Free parking is available on site.
- ii. Agenda (RAM) Registration at 5, Board members are encouraged to be there early to help with registration and to get conversations moving. The meeting will be called to order at 6:15. RK will welcome, Organizational business at 6:20, presentation of the action agenda. ~7:00 – the new video piece; introduction of Judith Enck for comments, Q&A after. RM will advise JE's office that we will be inviting officials. EH volunteers to reach out to offices to follow up. RM and KK will coordinate press coverage. RK will draft and circulate a press statement. RK recommends a budget not to exceed \$5,500. JE & RW seconds. None opposed – the motion passes.
- n.b. Judith Enck will be arriving in town before the meeting; at 11 or 11:30 at CFGB the board is invited to attend briefings and Q&A focused on the waste report, the growing working group and green infrastructure (Riverkeeper, PUSH)
- iii. Video status
- iv. Speaker: Judith Enck
- v. Place: UB EOC - 77 Goodell Street

## **C. WNYEA 2014 Action Agenda**

RK commends the group for healthy dialog and for engaging in the advocacy process through the past year. He brought to the attention of the group the Greenway Plank and the fact that it comes from outside the normal advocacy process.

TY Advocates for a serious focus on this issue should it not move forward as a plank based on either bylaws issues or other reasons. AW suggests that we contemplate forming a Greenway Working Group. TY requests time at the congress to address the Greenway issue. RW Moves to defer discussion of a plank coming from the Greenway Ad Hoc Working Group until it comes up

through a current working group or a new Greenway Working group in a manner consistent with our bylaws and advocacy process. JE Seconds. Approved.

## **SEE THE ATTACHED ACTION AGENDA**

### **1. Waste and Pollution Working Group**

JE presented the Waste & Pollution Working Group. Plank 1 – Educate the region’s elected officials. JE Moves, RM Seconds, none opposed – passes. Plank 2 – Increase the city of Buffalo’s community-wide recycling rate . . . .: BD seconds, none opposed, passes.

### **2. Transportation Working Group**

BD moves on the plank “Transform the Scajaquada corridor . . . “ RM commends. RM Seconds. None opposed, passes.

### **3. Energy and Climate Working Group**

TY moves on the plank “Foster the development” as written. EH seconds, none opposed, passes.

TY moves on the plank “Support the emerging CitizenCampaign for the Environment for Climate Smart Communities by encouraging members to help initiate or getinvolved in campaigns within their own municipalities” - the original language without subsequent bullets provided in the second document, JE seconds, RM and MS oppose, the plank passes

TY moves on the plank “Encourage carbon reduced transportation requirements within the Niagara River Greenway . . .” MS Seconds, all in favor, none opposed

### **4. Growing Working Group**

RW moves on the plank “Increase access to better food choices for underrepresented consumer groups throughout Buffalo and Erie County by ensuring that individuals from those consumer groups are represented and participating on the Food Policy Council for Buffalo & Erie County.”. LS Seconds, all in favor, PASSES.

### **5. Environmental Justice Working Group**

EH moves the plank “Improve the public health and air quality in the neighborhoods surrounding the Peace Bridge Encouraging the adoption . . . and Ensuring low income . . .. MS seconds, TY abstains, all others in favor, passes – NOTE REMOVAL OF FIRST BULLET

### **6. Habitat and Natural Resources Working Group**

JBy. Moves the plank “Advocate for the ban of horizontal high-volume hydrofracking in NY State.”. JE Seconds. RK suggests that advocating a ban before the science analyzing the impacts of HHVHF has been provided may be premature. JB responds that waiting is a mistake. RW raises the issue of organizations leaving should this plank be accepted. This should not be a primary driver for our choice. A robust discussion ensued. RK opposes, all others vote for. Passes.

## **7. Education and Outreach Process Group**

LS moves the plank “Increase environmental literacy in Western New York. And elsewhere” RW seconds. A discussion of the validity of a plank emanating from a process group ensued. The issue was recommended for discussion at the post-congress organizational meeting, with a focus on the language in the bylaws and the advocacy policy. All in favor, the motion passes.

JBy requested reports on the one region forward meetings from RMP.

### Membership Report:

The membership committee would like to make the following recommendations for membership in the alliance. Original application materials are below:

Food Bank of Western New York - Member  
Kayleigh Kubiak - individual supporter  
eco\_logic STUDIO - supporter

LS moves, RM seconds, All in favor, passes.

5. Adjourn (12:00) JBy moves, BD seconds, so adjourned

### **REMAINING REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:**

**WNYEA Congress: Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday November 6, 2013 5:00 to 9:00**

**November 26, 2013 Organizational Meeting**

*Holiday Break No Meeting December 2013*

**THE WESTERN NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE**  
**2014 Action Agenda**

**Waste & Pollution Working Group**

For more info contact Andrew Goldstein at [andrewgoldstein@verizon.net](mailto:andrewgoldstein@verizon.net)

- **Educate the region's elected officials about the waste burden in three WNY Counties, Erie, Niagara and Cattaraugus** by:
  - Continuing to set up meetings with elected officials and their staff to review the Mapping Waste Report and,
  - Informing elected officials and their staff about how the Alliance can be used as a resource to assist them in addressing the region's waste burden.
  
- **Increase the City of Buffalo's community-wide recycling rate** by:
  - Working with the City of Buffalo, the Environmental Management Commission and the public to clarify and revise the recycling laws of Buffalo
  - Supporting recycling education to increase the public knowledge of residential and commercial recycling requirements

**Transportation Working Group**

For more info contact Justin Booth at [justin@greenoptionsbuffalo.org](mailto:justin@greenoptionsbuffalo.org)

- **Transform the Scajaquada corridor to a Complete Street through advocacy and public participation** by:
  - Influencing NYSDOT and consultants to propose key recommendations for the enhancement of the Scajaquada corridor and request the NYSDOT develop a design alternative that meets all the enhancement recommendations of the coalition to be studied in the environmental Impact Statement
  - Organizing, promoting and holding public hearings and comment periods to inform and include the community in the transformation process
  - Developing a proposal that specifically details community expectations for the corridor

**Energy and Climate Change Working Group**

For more info contact Terry Yonker at [terryyonker@cs.com](mailto:terryyonker@cs.com)

- **Foster the development of clean, renewable energy and green jobs in Western New York through the adoption of Feed-in-Tariffs and or other long-term stable finance mechanisms by:**
  - Urging the Governor to instruct the New York Power Authority to adopt Feed-in-Tariffs and other long-term stable finance mechanisms
  - Informing elected officials and community members about Feed-in-Tariffs and other long-term stable finance mechanisms and the financial benefits that they offer to New York State
- **Support the emerging Citizen Campaign for Climate Smart Communities by encouraging members to help initiate or get involved in campaigns within their own municipalities.**
- **Encourage carbon reduced transportation requirements within the Niagara River Greenway (NRG) by:**
  - Advocating that the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Niagara River establish a Transportation Advisory Committee to the NRG Commission
  - Hosting public meetings and comment periods to represent the public's voice in compiling recommended amendments to the Transportation Section of the NRG Plan
  - Proposing amendments to the Transportation Section of the NRG Plan that would enable Commission determination of consistency for proposals to establish a non-polluting transit system along the NRG

**Growing Working Group**

For more info contact Rebekah Williams at [rebekah@mass-ave.org](mailto:rebekah@mass-ave.org)

- **Increase access to better food choices for underrepresented consumer groups throughout Buffalo and Erie County by:**
  - Ensuring that individuals from those consumer groups are represented and participating on the Food Policy Council for Buffalo & Erie County

**Environmental Justice Working Group**

For more info contact Erin Heaney at [erin@cacwny.org](mailto:erin@cacwny.org)

**○ Improve the public health and air quality in the neighborhoods surrounding the Peace Bridge by:**

- Encouraging the adoption of green infrastructure and technology as practical solutions throughout the plaza and neighborhoods
- Ensuring low income and people of color are involved in the decisions affecting the public health and air quality of their neighborhood

**Habitat and Natural Resources Working Group**

For more info contact Jay Burney at [lscampaign@aol.com](mailto:lscampaign@aol.com)

**○ Advocate for the ban of horizontal high-volume hydrofracking in NY State.**

**Education and Outreach Process Group**

For more info contact Karen Wallace at [kwallace@sciencebuff.org](mailto:kwallace@sciencebuff.org)

**○ Increase environmental literacy in Western New York by:**

- Working with formal and informal educators, elected officials and other key stakeholders to implement best practices of the NYS Environmental Literacy Plan in schools, outdoors programming and elsewhere
- Targeting specific elected officials through communication, briefing and advocacy to adopt the NYS Environmental Literacy Plan
- Coordinating with other Working Groups of the WNYEA to ensure that environmental literacy is a common thread throughout the work of the Alliance