



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

**DATE TIME:**        *December 3, 2013 @ 1:00 pm*

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

1.        Call to Order    Robert E. Knoer, Chair

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 via phone
Justin Booth		(JB)	Present
Terry L. Yonker		(TY)	Excused
Ryan McPherson		(RM)	Present
Alexandra McPherson		(AM)	Present

*Members –Elect*

Andrew Goldstein	(AG) excused	
Lindsay Amico	(LA)	Present
Karen Wallace	(KW)	Present

*Also Present:*

Kristen Kaszubowski	(KK)	Present
Rick Stockton	(RS)	Present
Cara Matteliano	(CM)	Present
Brooke, Sarah and Dylan		Excused

3.        Approval of Agenda LS moves, JE seconds, none opposed; unanimously approved. Note the request to hear a regular report moving forward on the One Region Forward efforts.

4. Nominations Committee Report and Seating of Board Members Elect (RW; read by RK, brief break for a round of introductions)

i. 2013-2015 Directors Elect:

**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  |

5. Election of Officers. Acceptance of slate [elected by the membership at the congress] moved by RK, seconded by RM; unanimously approved. Election of officers moved by JBy, seconded by JB, unanimously accepted.

Nominations: (RW)

Chair -	Ryan McPherson
Vice-Chair	Loren H. Smith
Secretary	Lindsay Amico
Treasurer	Arthur Wheaton

RW suggests a new board member orientation. JBy suggests that it might be appropriate for all board members to participate in. Perhaps this could be a prelude to the board retreat/strategic planning session (see below) as it could benefit all board members (new and previously serving). The presentation given in Erie and the one given to the CFGFB program committee would be good to include in this.

6. Meeting Schedules:

- 1. Waste and Pollution Working Group.** JE asks whether a working group may elect an alternate as a liaison to the board. RK suggests that the working group can elect both a chair and a liaison (different from the chair). JE notifies the board that the working group will be sending an alternate, either JE or Gary Carrel. No standing meetings have been scheduled at this point. The group is presenting this week their request a rapid response letter on CWM expansion.

2. **Transportation Working Group.** There is no December meeting but the group regularly meets third Friday of every month 10AM, City Hall room 502
3. **Energy and Climate Working Group** Meetings are regularly the first Thursday of the month at 4:00, likely no meeting the first week of January. RK will report on behalf of TY for the time being.
4. **Growing Working Group.** No Report
5. **Environmental Justice Working Group.** No Report
6. **Urban Regeneration** – Wednesday January 8 at 2:00 at the Worker’s Institute.
7. **Habitat and Natural Resources Working Group.** The group is working on their platform and hopes to bring information to the board about next steps for broad community engagement about the issues of their plank. The group is also working on their platform for next year with ‘the state of the environment’ being a core element. Existing work and metrics were mentioned as perspectives to include. December 18<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup> will be the next meetings at the Museum of Science.
8. **Education and Outreach Process Group.** Regular meetings have been scheduled for the first Monday of every other month starting on February 3, 4-5 PM. Meetings will be at the Museum of science. In alternate months we will send representatives to other working groups.

7. 2013 Congress Debrief. 78 people attended. RK – great facility, great speaker, good food & drink; let’s work to improve member interactions. CM – having Judith Enck here was very powerful. AM – having it in the evening was great; perhaps an interactive working session on a topic would be useful? EH – working to get elected officials at the meeting. RW – the large public element of other congresses was lacking and could have been powerful, especially highlighting our work for the general public; the video was great. JE There should be a press release after the event. This is still possible (MSS) RK: A press conference (more contained) might be more of a draw than the congress as a whole. RS believes we are missing a major opportunity to engage the public. AM – we should increase our capacity to do professional outreach with additional grant support. n.b. – the video has 31 views on YouTube.

8. Membership Committee Recommendation:

- a. Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy as a member. JBy moves, RK seconds. None opposed, the motion passes.

9. Discuss Board Retreat and Long term Strategic Planning. RM. Context – a year/ year ½ ago there was a discussion about the GROW/CFGB relationship with the WNYEA as context. Now we need to address Capacity (budget, GROW, the relationship with CFGB, etc., attracting national funding), Advocacy (the value of having 100 organizations supporting the work of your organization or the working group) and Enhancing Member Involvement for the Alliance. How do we bring value to our member organizations? JBy – how do we engage all of the member organizations and working groups into this process? Perhaps a survey to all member organizations.

- a. Early January, day-long at a place TBD.

b. Agenda

- i. Our vision for the future of the alliance. Possibly a pre-meeting SWOT analysis to help the discussion. This and other documents previously developed should all be brought forward prior to the meeting. What kind of culture are we hoping to develop? Revisiting the shared agenda (CM)
- ii. Capacity of Alliance
  1. Budget (what we are raising money for, how we might raise it; grants; earned income, different streams of money . . . .). The give/get ratio for all types of resources (\$, time, etc.) should be considered.
  2. GROW
  3. Communications
  4. Policies & Procedures
  5. Increasing capacity of member organizations.
- iii. Advocacy.
  1. Skill building for advocacy (EH)
  2. Managing Conflict and embracing diversity of opinions.
- iv. Enhance Member Involvement

10. Adjourn ( approximately 3:00) Unanimously.