WNYEA Standing Committee Meeting  
September 20, 2010  
Minutes  


Absent: Dave Spiering  

WNYEA Governance and Membership:  
- Bob Knoer was elected chair.  
- Standing Committee reviewed criteria for membership.  
- Anthony moved to approve Buffalo First, Great Lakes Experience, and Wild Ones Niagara for membership. Thomas seconded. Passed unanimously.  
- The membership committee (Bill, Julie, Judy, Anthony) will meet before the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee to further clarify eligibility as a member, affiliate or supporter and to make recommendations about pending organizations.  

Requests for Letters of Support:  
- The group discussed how to deal with requests for signing on to letters to advocate for funding. Until the listserv is functional, we’ll send email to contacts in elist when it’s informing people of funding potential. Once the listserv is in place, groups will be able to circulate these letters of support to each other. We can also place this content in the action alerts and connect the listserv to that content. For matters of advocacy with more than one argument, the current policy still holds (we notify people of advocacy opportunities and information, and recommend they express their own opinions).  
- CFGB will look into the Wigio software that Riverkeeper uses to allow individuals to control the volume of listerv traffic they receive. The listserv for member-to-member communication will be launched this week.  

City Zoning Process:  
- CFGB is making recommendations for City Zoning Advisory Council. The WNYEA Standing Committee recommended Julie, Thomas, Anthony. CFGB will identify additional people who are experts in our task group’s areas and reflect environmental concerns about zoning.  
- The group asked for consistent reports on the progress of the zoning initiative.
• There could be an opportunity for a general environmental impact study that would help to reduce the number of lawsuits in the future. This matter was tabled for the next meeting.

• Continue to think about how GROW can support the codes development process and assist in keeping the public engaged.

**Environmental Congress Planning:**

• The environmental Congress is scheduled for Nov. 13th

• The group discussed agenda options for the event and decided we need to:
  - Provide an update on progress of WNYEA development
  - Celebrate progress made since the agenda launched
  - Engage people more in the WNYEA as an organization
  - Set a course for the next year
  - Discuss priorities we want from our new Governor
  - Use Bill McKibben’s time at the end and encourage more public attendance for his speech

• Re-engage task groups by requesting they meet prior to the Congress event and prepare to discuss:
  - Report on progress made in the past year
  - Identify current pressing issues, challenges and opportunities
  - Determine priorities to set before the new Governor
  - Be prepared to present at Congress

• We should begin to position the WNYEA as the conduit for government communication to the environmental community in WNY.

• The standing committee suggested that it wrestle with setting real guidelines for dealing with advocacy to present as a recommendation at the Congress.

• Suggestions were made to invite WNED to broadcast from the event and to provide member organizations tables to display information about their successes

**GROW Update:**

• Plan to have discussion section up soon; working on educator section

• Haven’t opened contest for videos yet, but have been doing trainings

**Other Business:**

• There was unanimous consent to endorse Julie as representative from the region for the Healing Our Waters Board.

• **Next meeting:** Tues. Oct. 5th, 10 AM., CFGB

• **Next regular meeting:** Tues., Oct. 26th, noon, CFGB