WESTERN NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTES

DATE TIME: January 25, 2011 @ 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Community Foundation

1. Call to Order Robert E. Knoer, Chair

2. Roll Call
   √ Anthony Armstrong (AA)
   √ Katy Duggan-Haas (KDH)
   √ Judy Einach (JE)
   √ Thomas Herrera-Mishler (THM)
   √ Bill Hudson (BH)
   √ Robert E. Knoer (REK)
   √ Julie O'Neill (JO)
   √ David Spiering (DS)
   √ Arthur Wheaton (AW)

   Also Present:
   √ Cara Matteliano
   √ Rebekah Williams

3. Approval of Agenda
   Moved by Arthur Wheaton
   2nd by David Spiering
   Vote unanimously approved

4. Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2010 and November 23, 2010 Meetings
   Moved by Arthur Wheaton
   2nd by Thomas
   Vote unanimously approved

5. Organizational Issues
   a. Confirm dates for 2011 meetings:
Feb 22; March 22; April 26; May 24; June 28; July 26; Aug 23; Sept 27; Oct 27; Nov 22; Dec (No meeting)  At times, Art and Thomas may join the meeting via phone.
Motion to approve meetings on above dates.

Moved by Art
2nd by Katy
Vote unanimous approved

b. Bill Hudson position

Bill will be leaving the area soon and will have to leave his position at Buffalo Audubon and his position on the WNYEA Standing Committee. There is discussion about whether to fulfill his position on the Standing Committee and how to do this.

Loren Smith is taking on the ED position at Buffalo Audubon, and is willing to fill the vacant seat left by Bill on the WNYEA Standing Committee.

Art suggests that if we fulfill Bill’s vacant seat with Loren Smith, we do not use this as a precedent for filling future vacant seats (i.e., the Standing Committee does not have to fill vacant seats with individuals from the same organization).

Add to agenda next time – discussion of how the Standing Committee reviews and approves/rejects new Task Groups that request recognition.

Motion to invite Loren Smith to serve on the WNYEA Standing Committee.

Moved by REK
2nd by JO
Vote unanimous approved

Bill will extend the invitation to Loren.

Anthony volunteers to serve on a new committee to look at the structure of the Task Groups and to determine representation on the Standing Committee from the Task Groups.

c. Establish 2011 Congress Planning Committee

This next Congress will be the first WNY Environmental Congress that is the WNYEA’s. REK invites people to serve on the 2011 Congress Planning Committee. Deanne from his office can help with logistics, but he needs people to help with substance and content for the Congress.
REK requests availability of the Standing Committee for a 3-hour planning meeting to determine substance and content for 2011 Congress. Final date and time should be a weekday between 10 am and 1 pm.

1. Funding and CFGB support

The Community Foundation will supply the Alliance with $10,000 to support the 2011 Environmental Congress and other Alliance convening activities to increase the Alliance’s capacity to be independent. Rebekah will continue to serve as support by posting Congress announcements on Grow, managing listservs, etc.

- GROW website is CFGB, not Alliance’s, but is meant as support for and a portal of the Alliance
- GROW update:
  a. Rebekah has list of executive directors/board chairs for member organizations to send out invite to join director’s listserv; also has a list of all primary contacts
  b. Making some changes w/developers; what we’re reading list

6. Report of Committees

a. Membership (BH, JO, JE, AA)
   o New Applications
   o Standard Letter response to Applications

There will be an email from the Membership Committee with recommendations regarding pending members, and the Standing Committee will vote by email on membership status for each.

   Moved by REK
   2nd by JE
   Vote unanimously approved

b. By-Laws
   o Final Version for ratification of Standing Committee By-Laws
   o Outline first draft of Alliance By-Laws
   o Populate By-Laws Committee (REK)

REK requests that Standing Committee members read the By-Laws put together by Anthony and submit comments and edits to Anthony.

REK requests a meeting of interested Standing Committee members to hatch out the By-Laws for the WNYEA. At this meeting there will be a discussion of issues (e.g., Robert Rules of Order, diversity, etc.)

c. Task Groups - Privileges and responsibilities of Chairs
• **Habitat and Natural Resources (DS)**
  o Limited discussion on group discussions from the Environmental Congress
  o Developed a list of questions and issues relating to habitat and hydrofracking and a list of possible experts for a panel discussion on the issue as a WNYEA quarterly member event
  o Proposed the Niagara River Greenway Plan as a subject for a future quarterly member event
  o Listed ideas for a collaborative project for WNYEA members

• **Parks and Recreation (THM)**
  o A report to come in the next month

• **Energy and Climate Change (REK, KDH) – 10 Attendees**
  o Developed a list of questions and issues relating to energy and hydrofracking and a list of possible experts for a panel discussion on the issue as a WNYEA quarterly member event
  o Formed two sub-committees – one for education, one for advocacy
  o Discussed hosting a public forum on an energy topic and developing a model approach to a forum that could be replicated for future topics. Plan was to start with Marcellus Shale. *(Note: The group will need to revisit the topic since Penn Dixie is planning such a forum.)*
  o Discussion about whether to host a public forum for a topic before addressing the topic at an Alliance meeting or use an Alliance meeting as a dry run for addressing a topic. The group would like direction from the Standing Committee on this issue.
  o Committee agreed to serve as community partner for a research project proposal being developed by Dr. Himanshu Grover, new faculty in UB’s Dept of Urban Planning.
  o KDH has resigned as Co-Chair

• **Pollution and Hazardous Waste (JE)**
  o Met on 12/15. Best attended meeting to date, including representatives from 10 groups/organizations, each of which was given time to highlight their work and to build relationships for partnering.
  o Spent considerable time discussing Marcellus Shale and "fracking". There was full agreement that a fuller EA presentation and discussion on "fracking" is desirable. Group is particularly concerned that an understaffed DEC will be unable to monitor "fracking" activity and
therefore perhaps the WNYEA should write a letter in supporting a strong DEC.

- **Urban Regeneration (AA)**
  - Approximately 30 people attended the December 14th meeting of the Urban Regeneration Task Group.
  
  - The group recapped the Congress feedback and flagged food security and Environmental Justice as topics not discretely covered in existing initiatives.
  
  - For next year, the urban regeneration group would like to see the following changes to the Congress:
    - and increased effort for organizing and promoting for diversity at congress
    - less boring
    - Get outside / interact with projects/ hands on
      - Go to communities you want to engage
    - Explain working structure/ intent for context of Congress conversations
    - Standing committee update good but could use more information
    - More information available ahead of time
      - One pagers on purposes of different task groups and committees
      - access to on going meeting minutes of task groups and standing committee throughout the year
    - Some resolution on how to deal with overlap between groups
  
  - The Task Group continued to track progress on 2011 priorities since last meeting, action items included:
    - Buffalo Green Code – formed a committee to examine WNYEA statement + community engagement – Request for WNYEA to release open letter
    - National Trust conference – formed a committee to include Urban Regeneration session proposals
    - Waterfront
      - Canalside proposal – Request for WNYEA to host ECHDC presentation to members
    - Convergence projects: complete streets and demonstration lots

There is a request from the Urban Regeneration Task Group that the Standing Committee review and approve the release of an open letter
regarding the Buffalo Green Code to the Mayor of Buffalo. There is discussion about whether this letter should come from the Urban Regeneration Task group or from the entire WNYEA.

The letter will be sent out electronically for the Standing Committee to review and vote by email.

7. Old Business – Tabled to next meeting
   a. “Branding” of Alliance and Steering Committee
      i. “Enviro-Gnome”
   b. Formation of “Water Task Group”
   c. Quarterly Event
      i. Marcellus Shale
      ii. Date
      iii. Location
      iv. Attendees (“members”? 2 from each member organization?)
   d. Meeting with Governor Cuomo
   e. Establishment of new committees:
      i. Environmental Justice
   f. CFGB Green and Health Homes Grant

8. New Business - Tabled to next meeting
   i. Earth Day

9. Adjournment
   Moved by REK
   2nd by BH
   Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:

February 22, 2011 @ 12 noon

Committee Meetings:

Energy & Climate  February 3, 2011  4:00 PM
Habitat & Natural Resources
Parks & Recreation
Urban Regeneration
Waste & Pollution
Strengthening Environmental Orgs

February 1, 2011  4:00 PM