**GPSEN Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, August 14, 2014**

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**CLIMB Center, Rm 102**

**1626 SE Water Avenue**

**PREP:**  Read minutes from last meeting; review the agenda for this meeting; prepare committee reports

**In attendance:** Katrina Shum-Miller, Briar Schoon, Derrik Zebroski, Bruce Podobnik, Nancy Bond, Jamie Stamberger, and Kim Smith

Guests:

Lin Harmon-Walker (international environmental lawyer returned to Portland to begin a new institute, the Ethical Future Institute)

Rex Burkholder (representing state efforts to fund, restore, and connect Oregon Outdoor School)

Leah Schrodt (Sustainability Program Manager for Washington County and representing Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community)

**10:00 Introductions-** favorite summer moments included enjoying Portland, bike rides, hikes, rafting, music, and sharing time with family and friends. We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful place!

**10:10 Logistics**

1. Notetaker: Jamie Stamberger and Facilitator: Bruce Podobnik
2. Minutes from last meeting approved. Kim will post on website.
3. Agenda approved, with addition of event announcements.

**10:15 Old Business – Updates - Reference minutes**

1. Finalizing Launch – Some delay in payments. Needing to document final funds available through Wisdom of the Elders. Nancy and Kim will report on balance of funds.
2. Outreach – Mary Fifield, Gary Obermeyer, and Kim Smith created a new newsletter through MailChimp. Committee likes the new style. Can subscribe through the [GPSEN website](http://www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/regional-center-expertise/AboutOurLogo.html). New link needs to be embedded in the website. Will create a template for people to enter in events in a standardized format.

**10:25 Tour of European RCEs and UNESCO- Kim**

1. Report: Summary of core lessons

* Kim visited with RCE and UNESCO representatives in Amsterdam, Denmark, Stockholm, Oslo, Scotland, England, and Paris.
* Each RCE has a unique structure, but most are housed in universities.
* Variations in terms, e.g., education for sustainability, education for sustainable development, sustainability education, and how terms are spelled within the US vs. internationally.
* Recommend having a political patron/champion.
* Each has a variety of successful projects in training, research, and community events, including work with health issues, permaculture projects, partnerships with museums, and conferences.
* Many want to partner with us on different projects.
* Alan AtKisson has suggested offering some trainings and resources through his sustainability and ISIS work. See more details at: <http://atkisson.com/> Kim will share more information, as we learn more.
* JC Carteron has asked us to participate in the international Sustainability Literacy Test. It is still in the draft pilot phase and needs more editing, but it should provide a good baseline for assessing sustainability knowledge. It is available through the PCC tab, at this link: <http://www.sustainabilitytest.org/en/substainability_home> Kim has set up a pilot exam session, with the code: afRL0436. For anyone interested in taking the test and providing input, please create an account and check it out.

1. Discussion:

* We will determine which invitations for collaboration fit within our interests and capacity, but committee is particularly interested in linking researchers (Bruce would like more info on the Social Network Analysis), setting up faculty and student exchanges, and advocating for policy together.
* Need to consider power of language, how market to different sectors, e.g., not all see selves as educators. Bruce recommended that we track communication issues between sectors. Re pointed out how some terms might not be accepted as well outside of the Metro/Multnomah County, e.g., stewardship is more acceptable than conservation. Nancy noted that Metro is now using the term “livability.” Others use “resilience.”

**10:45 Meeting of the Americas, Western Jalisco, Mexico**

1. Report: Summary and sample of projects in Mexico – Jamie

* 7 RCEs represented: RCE Western Jalisco, RCE Bogota, Columbia, RCE Lima, Peru, RCE Curitiba (Brasil) RCE Grand Rapids, MI (most similar to our model!), RCE Greater Portland, and RCE Saskatchewan.
* Very full schedule limited ability to interview specific RCEs
* Gracious, generous hosts
* Presentation and poster session at resource fair went well. Portland’s work was well received. - Lots of presentations from organizations and universities in state of Jalisco and Yucatan. – largely environmental education, non-profit organizations, big focus on indigenous and traditional knowledge, local economy.

1. Handouts: See Commitment Statement and Strategic Directions and Projects documents – Kim - these will be shared at Global RCE Meeting and with UNESCO in Japan
2. Discussion: Particular interests for partnering with Americas RCE Colleagues

* Virtual Youth Conference- we would like to continue with this.
* Exchange Programs for professors and RCE members for best practices training- we will do research on this with RCE Bogota
* Link researchers to do collaborative international projects and/or share research ideas
* Develop articles that can be submitted to journals
* We can promote AASHE conference internationally, with an RCE presentation and international track
* Kim encouraged committee members to find ways to attend conferences, if possible, including Global RCE Meeting in Japan, in November, and the RCEs of the Americas meeting in Bogota, Colombia next summer.
* Develop more regional service projects, with Hands On Greater Portland, and report to UNU
* Kim encouraged committee members to find ways to attend conferences, if possible, including Global RCE Meeting in Japan, in November, and the RCEs of the Americas meeting in Bogota, Colombia next summer.

**11:10 Programs and Events - Discuss Fall Projects**

1. **Existing**

* [EEAO Soiree](http://www.eeao.org/)- August 14, 2014
* [Networking Social](http://www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/regional-center-expertise/events.html)- August 21, 5-7, Green Dragon
* [PPS Project Community Care Day](http://www.pps.k12.or.us/community/3910.htm)- August 23, 9-12
* 350.org Climate Change meeting in Portland, Sept. 21
* [Green Apple Day of Service](http://centerforgreenschools.org/greenservice.aspx)- September 27 (additional days Sept 23-mid-October), Katrina will send links to projects, we will help do outreach for volunteers in newsletter. Check to see if can advertise on Hands On Greater Portland’s calendar
* [Coalition for a Livable Future Regional Livability Summit](https://clfuture.org/news-events/regional-livability-summit), tabling- October 3, PSU, volunteer opportunities available
* [CEFPI Conference](http://www.cefpi.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3335)- October 3-6, Convention Center
* [GoGreen Portland Conference](http://portland.gogreenconference.net/)- October 16, Convention Center
* [AASHE Conference](http://www.aashe.org/)- October 27-29, we will have an RCE panel, plus Wisdom of the Elders and Kim Smith will be presenting. There will also be an international luncheon.
* [Global RCE Meeting](http://www.rce-network.org/portal/9th_Global_Conference)- November 4-7, Okayama, Japan and UNESCO Conference on ESD- November 10-12, Nagoya, Japan. New UNU sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Global Action Programme will be released here. We have many opportunities to shape policy, link efforts to SDGs, and help implement. Angela Oliverio may be accepted as a student representative to the UNESCO Youth Summit.

1. **New Events to Plan**

* Stakeholder Meeting- mid-September, inviting partners to speak (Rex Burkholder invited to speak about Outdoor School; Leah with Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community will speak in December), Kim will work with partners and send out a Doodle to set a date
* Database development- in process of hiring a coordinator, should start beginning mid-September, Kim and Briar will keep committee posted. Leah and many others have lists of providers already started. They are happy to share when the time comes.
* PSU’s Social Sustainability Month- mid-Oct- mid-Nov, focus on cultural literacy
* PSU’s Sustainability Colloquium- October – we need to decide when and what we want to present and who will be the presenters
* We need to tell our policy makers that we exist at the local, state and national level, state department, etc. We need volunteers from the Coordinating Committee willing to lead this effort!

1. **Future Events**

* Hands on Greater Portland’s Comcast Cares Day- April, 2015
* Hands On needs more sites and projects for their volunteers and TeamWorks, so think about if you know of more projects they can help with
* Youth Network opportunities (George Zaninovich, PLACE program)
* Virtual Youth Conference- May, 2015, focused on air
* Forum on economic sustainability
* World Conservation Congress, Hawaii 2016

**11:30 Governance - Future Structure of GPSEN**

1. Report: Governance Subcommittee did not meet this summer

* Still interested in doing research on Non-profit status. Committee chose to at least file with the State of Oregon, so we can get a Tax ID number and open our own bank account.
* By-laws are almost completed- working group will finalize and send to committee – will need these to register and open bank account

1. Discussion

* RCE Structure and funding research- Jamie created a [Survey Monkey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8F96ZL8) survey, **follow the link and provide feedback by Fri, Aug 22.** [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8F96ZL8**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8F96ZL8)
* Fiscal questions (e.g., Launch)- we would like to have our own bank account in order to manage funds. Bruce has offered to serve as treasurer.

1. World Forestry Center is interested in working more closely with GPSEN. Kim is meeting with their ED, Eric Vines, and will share more information in September.

**11:50 Next Steps- Review and Complete Action Items**

1. Launch Working Group – Nancy, Kim, and Rose will report on balance of funds.
2. Outreach

* Subcommittee working groups will meet on newsletter and social media, etc.
* Kim will ask PCC webmaster to add New link to listserv in the website and will create a template for people to enter in events in a standardized format.

1. All Committee members-- Projects and Events

* Review RCE commitment statement and projects list and identify interests
* Review Fall events list and add/plan/register for events.
* Take the Sustainability Literacy Test and provide feedback. It is available through the PCC tab, at this link: <http://www.sustainabilitytest.org/en/substainability_home> Pilot exam session code: afRL0436.
* Register for the RCE listserv: http://www.rce-network.org/portal/home
* Provide feedback on the RCE Structure survey questions, created by Jamie and Kim, by Fri, Aug 22.[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8F96ZL8**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8F96ZL8)

1. Governance

* Governance working group will continue to research our options for becoming a 501c3 non-profit, but we will hold off on any major work or decisions until after Kim’s meeting with World Forestry Center – this group will need to finalize by-laws ASAP to allow us to register as a basic non-profit and open a bank account for remaining Launch funds.
* Kim and Bruce: determine what is needed to register with Oregon as a nonprofit and open a bank account, report back to Coordinating Committee
* Jamie and Kim will complete RCE structure survey, collect and incorporate edits from Coordinating Committee, and send to other RCEs, Committee members are asked Kim will report back on conversation with World Forestry Center

**11:55 Reflection and Feedback**

Next Meeting in September. We will look into changing time and day in the fall. Kim will send out a Doodle.

**12:00 Adjourn**