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Rutgers EnviroStewards Alumni Association (RESAA) Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 24, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Bill Curzie, Marlene Robinson, Pat Hudson, Irene Sabin, Bruce Barbour

Guests: Rachel Napier Karl, Assistant Director of Development, NJAES School pf Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers, New Brunswick; Steve Foster (Duke’06)

Vice-President Marlene Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:25am. President Bill Curzie conducted the meeting after his arrival.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The April 12, 2013 RESAA Executive Board minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thuy Anh Le (Duke’06) sent a report from BoroGreen. A summary will be posted on the alumni website.
- Tom DiOrio (EcoComplex’07) wrote from his current home in Delaware. He is interested in learning if treatment of sewage removes residues of prescription drugs before the wastewater is sprayed on crops as fertilizer. Have any studies been done in this area in New Jersey?
- Correspondence with NJDEP about the Forum/ General Meeting
- Jim May (EcoComplex’06) is currently working with NJ Fish and Wildlife on the Delaware Bay until June 2, 2013. For the Forum, he would like to pursue the dune restoration program for the entire 127 miles of beach in NJ where ever it is need and welcomed.
- Several alumni sent emails expressing interest in attending the meeting

RES PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S REPORT

- The 2013 classes have ended at Duke Farms and ACUA. Commencement and certification ceremonies will be held at Duke Farms in the fall.
- Application for a $250,000 EPA grant to hire Rutgers Agents for the expansion of the RES Program throughout the state was submitted but not funded.
- Progress on buying advertisements to promote RES Program registration for the January, 2014 classes: Bruce has bought ads which will appear in an ANJEC Conference Brochure and a year-end report, totaling $385.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONTINUING EDUCATION – 2013 EDUCATIONAL FORUM/ GENERAL MEETING at the NJDEP

Irene has corresponded with Tanya Osnowicz at the DEP to start the process of selecting dates and topics. Commissioner Martin will not be able to meet with us this year because of his commitment to the restoration of the NJ shore. It may be possible to meet with an Assistant Commissioner in an area of interest to RES volunteers. New topics of interest proposed today: Status of storm damage debris – is it being recycled? Aquifer depletion and other water problems; concentrations of mercury, radon and other pollution in the state; emphasis on science based explanations and opportunity for speaker dialog after presentations. Underline our interest in helping with solutions.
2013 EDUCATIONAL FORUM/ GENERAL MEETING at the NJDEP - continued
Irene will reply that we would like to know the current status of damage caused by the storms in the past two years, what has been done and what still needs to be done to restore the environment. Of special interest to everyone would be a talk about how an interrupted environment and the loss of even a single species could affect the whole chain of life from plants and wildlife to humans in New Jersey. This, of course, would underline the importance of all departments of the DEP and would assist Environmental Stewards in choosing an area of concentration in which to offer help. A date between July 22 – 31 will be suggested for the 2013 Forum/ General Meeting.

AWARDS TEAM – Steve would like individual volunteer awards to be presented at the annual general meeting. No system for individual awards has been developed, yet, by RESAA because there is no requirement for all volunteers to submit their work annually. Outstanding volunteers often receive awards from the organizations for which they work. Currently in RESAA, active Environmental Stewards are recognized on the Alumni in Action and Kudos pages of the alumni website. In addition, volunteers are invited to present exceptional projects at the annual Graduation/ Certification event and the Forum/ General Meeting at the NJDEP.

RESAA WEBSITE: Additional activity reports were added to the Alumni in Action page and new individual pages have been added; more are under construction. Photos and news items change regularly throughout the site.

OLD BUSINESS
Program Promotion - Brochures
- Laura Mandell (Duke’11) distributed brochures at the Warren Green Spring Fair on April 27, 2013
- April 30, 2013 – Irene brought 50 RES brochures to the Duke’13 class for distribution by the students.

Letterhead
- Bill brought samples of the RESAA letterhead that he is designing. Some suggestions were offered and he will bring another sample to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS
- Steve asked if we were planning to send another questionnaire for an update on all alumni. Rachel said there were ready-made surveys with “yes” or “no” answers available at Rutgers.
- Steve would like to expand continuing education to 4 or 5 times per year with local RES groups bringing in speakers in different areas around the state. This would also be an opportunity to exchange volunteer activity information and ideas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
- Irene attended a Sustainable Raritan River Initiative Conference on “Building Bridges: Connecting Classrooms and Communities” at the Bloustein School on May 22, 2013. Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board is considering the development of a greenway along the Raritan River for education and passive recreation.

The Next RESAA Meeting will be on Friday, June 21 at the EcoComplex, 10am. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene O. Sabin
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