RESAA Minutes
Friday, April 25, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Bill Curzie, Jim May, Dionne Polk, Pat Hudson, Irene Sabin, Bruce Barbour
Class Coordinators and Guests: Pat Rector, Michele Bakacs, Amy Rowe, Rachel Karl

Vice-President Jim May called the meeting to order at 10:10am. President Bill Curzie arrived at 10:20am and presided during the rest of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 25, 2014 minutes were approved as written

CORRESPONDENCE

- **BoroGreen** sent a newsletter announcing that their meetings will be held in the Hillsborough Municipal Building until November. There will be a speaker at the Hillsborough Public Library to kick-off a program called “Sustainability Steps” on April 26. Rutgers professor Bob Kopp will speak on “Rising Tides: What Can the Past Tell Us about Future Climate Change?”

- **Bill Lewis (EcoComplex’09)** sent a news release from NEST (Nurture Environmental Stewardship Today!) announcing that NEST will be sponsoring a **Bluebird Festival on Saturday, May 3, 2014**, 8am – 4pm at the Dr Gerard H Woehr Elementary School in New Egypt. (On website)

- **Dionne Polk (EcoComplex'07)** sent a newspaper article about ocean trash hindering the search for flight 370. Information from Columbia University Water Center and NOAA about ocean gyres of trash was posted on the website Alumni Pages: http://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/AlumniAssociation/RESAlumniAssoc.html

- **Rhea Landig (Belvidere’12)** and Executive Director of Species Alliance, sent an invitation to partner with Species Alliance for a special showing of **Call of Life** http://calloflife.org/ on Free Speech TV, Tuesday, May 22, 2014. Organizations can spotlight their environmental activities for the following donations: 1 minute - $250; 2 minutes - $500; 3 minutes - $750. Contact rhea@speciesalliance.org, 973-207-5457 by May 6

- Contacted Jim Rokosny about the RESAA display table at the Bridgewater EcoBlast Fair on Saturday, May 3, 2014

RES PROGRAM COORDINATORS’ REPORT

Bruce stated that the five classes are coming to a close in May. A field trip to Bowman’s Hill was held on Wednesday, April 21. Michele said that a field trip, led by Emil DeVito, will be held in the Pinelands on Sunday. There was mixed success for daytime versus evening classes. An evening class at the end of the week seemed to be tiring for everyone. Evening classes did not seem to attract more students than daytime classes this year. Internships that current students have chosen include invasive species mapping, water monitoring and working in Highland Park.

Hybrid education was discussed (webinars, long distance presentations to large groups, use of Camtasia, Impatica, Captivate, etc.) Irene asked if she could be included in some of this planning.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

2014 Forum/ Meeting Evaluation

- Irene sent the following summary of the Forum/ Meeting discussion during the March 21 RESAA Meeting to Tanya Oznowich: No registration fee, parking reserved for the day, buy lunch or bring your own, and the general meeting would be held in the middle of the day. A two hour period was suggested for lunch and the general meeting, which would allow time for networking.

- It was suggested that an invitation to the Forum be sent to Maureen Ogden. The Director and Assistant Director of Extension will also be invited.

Website Update – Material is added regularly to the Alumni Pages News and the public Calendar. Several alumni sent activity reports and they were added to Alumni in Action.

OLD BUSINESS

- May 3, 2014 – A RES/ RESAA display table will be set up at the Bridgewater Eco-Blast Fair by Irene Sabin and Steve Foster
- June and July – Jim will set up tables in Smithville and at the Burlington Co Fair.

NEW BUSINESS

Rachel Karl reported that Maureen Ogden willed 25K-50K to the RES Program as a Charitable Gift Annuity. She will be getting payments from the trust for the rest of her life and the remaining money will go to the RES Program when she is deceased. Rachel pointed out that this type of charitable trust is a good way to leave money to an institution and the donor usually receives an excellent rate of interest for the living trust. Rutgers will administer the funds and other donations to this active fund would now be possible. Suggested uses for the money included:
- Scholarships for RES classes
- Funding for internship projects
- Webinars or other recorded presentations

Pat Rector will write an article about this gift in the Green Knight.

A fall event is being planned for the RES Program to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Extension. Rutgers speakers are being considered for this event. Bruce suggested a speaker in the field of Epigenetics (study of how genes are turned on and off; environmental factors affect an organism, not just DNA). Sustainable Jersey speakers were also suggested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Next RESAA Meeting will be on Friday, June 20, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
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