

Education Working Group
Attendees = 27
September 24, 2019

Call to order/Review of agenda- Kellie

Welcome and introductions

- The sharing of ideas and innovations is the heart of this working group
- Sparking new ideas that we can take back to our own agencies or collaborate on

AFWA MSCG Update

- We put the last MSCG to bed → Natural Pathways Project
 - On the AFWA website
 - → Monarch Guide is also complete and on the AFWA website
- The new proposal to revise and update the CE Strategy toolkit looks like it will be funded
 - Will get the official notice tomorrow at the business meeting that it made the list from the national grants committee
 - We will start the RFP process sooner, rather than later, so then we can have a contract in place by spring
 - Need to re-create the steering committee and survey the needs of what needs to be done to make this a useful product for state agencies
 - Looking to build a larger steering committee and have subgroups that would work on specific items
 - Question: what about states that haven't adopted Next Gen Standards but have their own state version of those standards. A: will have something in the forward to help those states (build in connections) so the final product can still be of use and a valuable and usable resource.
- The MSCG lasts one year (no more multi-year grants)

Question: what we are looking at for future MSCG (next year)

- Re-invigorate the webinar series in the EOD (CE Strategy, WVNT, etc); would be a small grant, just mostly need coordination (contractor)
- Look to re-package some of the materials we have as an online module(s)
- Working with Project WILD with alignments – have a joint grant to work together and partner
- Create a CE Strategy meeting/conference → training, networking, brainstorming, etc

Work Plan review

- Review of accomplishments over the past year
- The list of activities and objectives to be accomplished over the next year to reflect the MSCG we're expecting to be awarded

- We need to update the list of members of the work group
- Add a list of future MSCG that we want to do, so we can be prepared to write a LOI/Proposal for those grants for the next grant cycle
- Might look in to having a CE Strategy meeting to have a good meeting of the minds and develop a great product→ this is what they did the last time we did the CE Strategy toolkit
- When developing and aligning science standards, maybe align content that already exists, then when we find the gaps of materials → use another grant to fill those gaps and align those to the science standards.

CE Strategy Updates

- Will look to have a call specific to this working group and make the ask for help with certain aspects of this project
- Ask- any states have people who may be able to help: potentially- AZ, FL, NE

ACTION ITEM: who in the CE community would be a good fit to help with this work; have the necessary expert level, capacity, can become trainers; need good diversity/representation on this steering committee

- Need to start working on timeline and priorities with this list commitment
 - Kellie and Patty can work together to come up with a visual representation to help answer those questions; with short description of what the ask will be and time commitment

Other items:

- Words Matter grant (WMI) also likely to be funded→ EOD committee likely be brought in to assist as subject matter experts.
 - Can bridge off of this product to help create a relevancy toolkit for state agencies to use with conservation education and how to message to our target audiences (not biologists)→ future MSCG, possibly co-grant with WMI

Lightning Round

- Tabby (AR)- created a 'patch' program, where you earn you beginner patch with various activities (ie fishing, hunting, etc), then advance outdoor patches including a mentoring patch
 - Very popular, especially with adults
 - Looking to expand it with the state parks → help get people out multiple times and multiple touches
 - Actual patches (not virtual); when you earn 6 patches then you earn a vest (free) to put your patches on
 - Demographic → 10-12 yr., women (esp. with BOW program), families
- Tabby (AR) – building a new nature center.

- Kellie (AZ) – also building a new wildlife nature center (last one was built in 1983—much needed new center); will be completed next month
 - Primarily for wildlife education
 - Connecting to the Serve and Protect campaign in Arizona
- Lindsey (NE)- opened up a tram education center in May 2019—> did a 7M renovations of a 1970s building and added to it with dedicated classrooms
 - There are ecosystem-based rooms to have a good educational flow
 - Very popular; working with local school districts to have mandated school trips (so paid by district and not school)
 - Looking at developing a partnership with 4H in developing an education camp associated with this new center
- Lindsey (NE)- Just created an Education division within the state fish & wildlife agency
 - Solely ecological education at this point; looking at expanding this with new hires
- Barb (Iowa) – looking at creating/using an outline for basic aquatic/fishing education
 - Looking to align this with state/national standards
- Barb (Iowa) – Used RBFF First Catch program in Iowa, working with a local park, to get more first touch fishing in urban communities
- Marc (Project WILD)- on the search for videos produced by wildlife agencies, esp with boots on the ground work. If shows diversity and inclusion → even better!! Can link these to materials in the Project WILD curriculum → link conservation education
- Marc (Project WILD)- Want to know of any virtual badges and their success/non-success
 - Have tried this in NC and NE without success
- Luke (Boone & Crockett)- have a new/updated nature center (Montana); have a K-12 program and summer programs at this center → participants all over North America; finish up numerous hunter education programs; partner with the boy scouts with a patch program
 - Want to get a webcam and tie in to educational components; involving technology with education
 - Looking for contacts with middle school science teachers to test curriculum
 - Have a watchable wildlife trail on the ranch → looking for grants to help out with this project [suggested by group to look at rec trails grants that are available in every state]
- Jerrie (FL) – I-75 rest areas (alligator alley/everglades) was converted to an interpretive center; partner with NPS and other groups to create this center; 150K+ people visit
- Jerrie (FL) – Has a team of people to work on interpretive materials for use throughout the state; to help non-educators what are often called on to be educators; resources of how to do a basic program; it's on an internal sharepoint site for MyFWC staff to use; staff more likely to say yes to these requests when asked
- Tanya (NC)- now has Growing Up WILD in the state; looking at possibly making kits to help educate the educators in this program; train at-home providers and traditional teachers to use these kits and provide feedback (pilot); free for these teachers to pilot
 - If works well and get good feedback will look to deploy throughout the state; pilot just in one county
- Cappy (TX) – looking for colleague to talk to about the challenges with grants, to brainstorm and get ideas; have a reimbursement grant available to states
- MN- starting new program call 'No Child Left Inside'

- Tindl (FL)- need a new Youth Conservation Center Director
- Josh (ATA)- launched a grant program with archery ranges and programming; invite states to apply and tie it in to education→ lots of options
 - We want to be a resource to states
 - Here is the link to the grants program available to states: <http://archerytrade.org/grant/>