
PROJECT WILD SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair: TBD

Vice-Chair: Johnnie Smith (TX)

Date: March 9, 2021

Time: 8:00 to 10:00 AM (Central Time)

8 AM Call to Order/ Review Agenda

8:05 Introductions, Subcommittee Charge

8:15 Approval of Minutes for the 2020 AFWA Annual Meeting

Tabbi Kinion moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Tanya Poole.

8:20 Report from Project WILD Staff

Kelly reviewed the partnership map. Marc discussed Project WILD's DEI efforts (see slide). During our monthly meeting with coordinators, we asked the two questions. (see slides for results).

Elena reported on national collaborations and partnerships.

Project WILD #RR video in final edit stages.

Elena shared info about the EPA EE grant.

Update on PR Funding. Project WILD will be able to join meetings hosted by USFWS to talk about PR funding and Project WILD.

8:50 Break

9:00 Report from Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT) on
2020 Multi State Conservation Grant Project

9:10 State Spotlight: Michigan's Project WILD Program

9:20 Other Updates: Pittman-Robertson (PR) Funding & R3

9:30 State Roundtable

Lindsay in NE – in the fall they got their feet under them. The Science of webinar series has been very popular. Working on DEI strategy and training.

Tanya in NC – teammates who jumped right in. Started out slow with presentations to garden clubs, did read-alouds to promote Growing Up WILD, including activities families could do at home. Then they jumped into workshops. They are now doing AW, PW, GUW, and FW online. They are learning more and more how to guide people to doing things outside. Gather on Zoom one night, assign homework that participants can do outside. They use activities WILD has posted online for them to access. Then they meet back up on Zoom a week or so later. This

format has been very well received by teachers. They are more engaged - they feel more comfortable in breakout rooms interacting than they would in a large group in an in-person workshop. Lots of people joining from day cares who have not attended before. They are currently doing some training in person and also virtual workshops.

Jen in OH – pilot testing G UW in September. It has exploded. By the end of April they will have trained 250 educators. EC educators get PD credit. Surveys have been very positive – people very glad to have access. Jen was wary when starting out, but now thinks she will move to a hybrid model. Lots of advantages – richer engagement over the online course compared to a 6-hour in person. She wants to have both in a hybrid model. They are reaching educators in the far corner of their state; also reaching more urban audiences who don't have funding for PD.

Elena shared that in MD, Kerry Wixted has been doing lots of virtual workshops. She was an early adopter in terms of embracing online training. MD EE Cert. Now includes Project WILD, Project WET, and PLT. Upcoming trainings for that.

Kim in GA – They have been jumping into workshops. They have done synchronous workshops online since June. They have an upcoming training for state parks to train them in PW. They've found that facilitators are not quite comfortable training online. They hosted a "Facilitators Farmer Market" to talk about how to deliver training virtually. They've shared tips and tricks (thanks for hosting the Conservation Education Conference on Virtual Learning!). They have invited facilitators who have already started with online training sharing – peer-to-peer coaching.

Barb in IA – Currently working with ISU Extension to pilot a virtual Growing Up WILD workshop that is a combination online module and synchronous virtual training. It is 4 hours total.

Josh with Archery Trade Association – Their new Conservation Initiative has resources that relate to discussions today. Many of the activities are adapted from their Explore Bowhunting and Bowfishing programs. They are continuing to add to those resources on a regular basis. <https://archerytrade.org/conservation-initiative/>

Mandy Harling from the National Wild Turkey Federation shared a link to the Idaho Fish & Game and NWTF WILD about Turkeys online training.

9:40 Wrap-up Discussion

10:00 Adjourn