

ECRR Board Meeting Conference Call
April 8, 2009 5 pm

The ECRR board met on April 8, 2009 via telephone conference call. In attendance were: Dvon Duncan, Craig Hartsock, Kristyn Robinson, Keith Pitzer, Bruce Golden, Martha Podren, Sam Adams, Dewey Houck, and Kelsey Fischer

Motion was made by Craig to accept revised March meeting minutes. Seconded by Dewey. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding contracting grant writing assistance with Alice Ruhnke of The Grant Advantage. She would charge \$1250 to create a concept paper that could be recycled to suit different funding opportunities and to review existing proposals. She could also provide grant writing assistance at a rate of \$50/ hr. Concerns voiced by the board included Ms. Ruhnke's credentials, experience with environmental projects and number of recent successful grant proposals.

Colcom and Pugh Foundation proposals have been declined and RBC Blue Water grant is still under review.

Keith mentioned that most of his success has come from government agencies rather than through foundations, and maybe ECRR should focus there. Foundations are short of funding this year and grant seeking will be very competitive.

State government agencies have stimulus funding that may be a good source for Roundtable funding and match for Hope & Hard Work. ARC and OSM are both acceptable sources of matching funding for federal grants.

Dvon will follow up with samples of concept papers. Perhaps those samples can give guidance to Kelsey on creating a concept paper for ECRR.

Spring training sessions were outlined by Dvon. During the meeting she sent out a revised list of sessions being offered. Some sessions had to be cancelled due to lack of time or lack of instructor.

Summer practicum plans are underway and will include S.O.S. certification and Leadership Plenty for Watersheds. Portapotties & hand washing stations have been ordered. Cots will be ordered also. Shower facilities have been arranged at the Jr. High down the road from the Opportunity Center.

Fall training dates are being settled on now. The Northern trainings are being planned possibly at the Fire Fighter Academy in Emmitsburg MD either on Oct 2-4 or Oct 5-7. The Southern trainings will be held at The Breaks on Oct 19-21.

Kelsey shared some ideas for the fall training gleaned from the recent OSM/VISTA retreat. Established watershed groups should be approached to lead/mentor relevant training sessions for newer groups rather than agency or educational organizations. Maybe some of our own organizations have the experience needed to provide the trainings and training could be provided in kind. Keith pointed out that many of us have limited time or resources to do work beyond our own projects.

Kelsey also discussed capacity building in relation to her position. She would like some guidance from the board on how she can best build on the sustainability of ECRR. Some ideas she proposed were; updating watershed group list, expanding on resources for watershed groups, developing lists of agency groups relevant to watersheds, create a forum/blog/social networking space for watershed groups to share. Please consider suggestions along the lines of capacity building and email them to Kelsey.

Dvon introduce the idea of holding a mini Roundtable sometime this year as a precursor to the Oct. 2010 event. The thought is to pull together principal watershed & supporting agencies such as DEP, DNR, EPA, OSM, College & University researchers and begin discussing State of the Region issues with all parties. Dvon proposed possibly August as a potential time frame. Funding an event like this would be an issue.

Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program language continues to be an issue for watershed groups intending to use this funding to match federal 319 funding.

ECRR by-law revisions were reviewed and discussed. After additional slight revision regarding length of term, term limits and face to face meetings, the motion was made by Dewey to accept the revised by-laws, seconded by Sam. Motion was carried, and the by-law revisions were accepted.

The next meeting will be at the Pine Mountain Settlement School on May 14th.