



SUMMARY

CLEAN WATER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

www.nc-cleanwater.com

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

July 14, 2020, 9:30-11:30am

Webex meeting ([recording](#))

Present

Ashley Allen- City of Creedmoor
Charles Brown- Town of Cary
Carmela Teichman- City of Raleigh
Carrie Mitchell- Town of Wake Forest
Christy Perrin- (Guest Speaker) NC WRRRI
Laura Wood- (Guest Speaker) Lincoln Heights Environmental Connections Magnet Elementary
Darrel Smith- City of Oxford
Deanna Rosario- Town of Spring Lake
Drew Blake- Chatham County
Heather Fisher- Town of Hillsborough
Ike Archer- Town of Knightdale
Jaclyn Stannard- Town of Garner
Jennifer Mitchell- Fuquay Varina
Jessica Batten- Johnston County
James Misciagno- Town of Apex

Laura Smith- City of Durham
Lauren Neaves- Durham County
Liz Barbulescue- City of Raleigh
Marie Cefalo- Town of Cary Stormwater
McKenzie Myers- Durham County
Phil Ross- City of Roxboro
Sammy Bauer- Town of Chapel Hill
Shauna Haslem- City of Fayetteville
Stephen Wensman- Town of Smithfield
Susan Locklear- Town of Clayton
Tommy Jones- Nash County
TJ Cawley- Town of Morrisville
Tony Morris- Town of Morrisville
Will Lampe- Smithfield Stormwater Action Committee
Randy Lansing- Town of Nashville

Program and Budget Updates – Maya Cough-Schulze

Spring/Summer 2020 mass media campaigns are proceeding well, wrapping up at the end of July. CBC has garnered over 8 million impressions to date; Spectrum, nearly 2 million. TV Ads Everywhere continue to see the highest video completion rate (98%.)

CWEP did not secure the \$9000 grant from Clif Bar Foundation to put on Watershed Game trainings in FY21. Staff are still waiting to hear back from NCDOJ EEG grant program about \$40,000 application to kick off a Regional Creek Week incubator for 3 years. We expect to hear back in Sept-Oct 2021, and plan to proceed with a Regional Creek Week in some form regardless (more pared down if we do not get the grant funds.)

The group discussed the pollutant theme for FY21 and chose to focus on landscaping-related pollutants (to include grass clippings, pesticides, fertilizers among others.) This will be timely since many are working from home and doing more gardening/landscaping.

Several partners mentioned that we should not create universal materials related to leaf collection since that varies by jurisdiction. To cover this, we will prioritize adding links to local government leaf collection pages to the CWEP website.

James Misciagno: Residents often notice and report algae blooms particularly in stormwater ponds; this is an opportunity to educate them about sources of nutrient pollution that cause algal blooms and algal toxicity (potential harm to dogs)

Jen: This is timely since many people are paying more attention to stormwater ponds and algae blooms on walks around their neighborhood while working from home. We can use at-home activities and virtual outreach to educate on this topic

Phil Ross: A lot of parents are getting their kids (students) involved in home gardens, etc.

CWEP's Role in Promoting Equity

CWEP is currently promoting equitable access to stormwater education by prioritizing education in Title I schools, making sure all our materials are in Spanish, participating in Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association educational series for residents of East Durham and Braggtown, etc. Any similar educational initiatives we can support, or partnerships we can build? What else can we do?

- Mass media (equity of investment)—expand radio advertising to cross the digital divide?
- Create more content related to equitable clean water outcomes?

Discussion:

- Christy Perrin: I highly recommend CWEP Partners participate in Racial Equity Training (REI). They are now offering their shorter intro course online. I think understanding systemic racism is key to moving forward.
- Drop off educational materials/giveaways at local governments' food sharing locations?
 - Hannah: Before shutdown, gave away activity bags including CWEP resources and snacks. We included snacks as kids who depend on free lunches may be food insecure right now
 - Used opportunity to educate kids about litter when they had to decide what to do with their snack wrappers
- Christy Perrin: Kids masks before school would be helpful!
 - Laura Wood: Spoonflower in Durham might be an option for mask printing
 - Liz Barbulescu: Would not want to litter masks - could use that as a messaging point
 - Laura Wood: Students at Title 1 schools would have families less likely to afford reusable masks... so maybe a key audience if that is an option moving forward
- Marie: Just noting we are talking about two focuses- yard waste as well as litter (masks, snack wrappers, etc.). These ideas are running in parallel but are not directly connected. Is there a way we could connect them?
 - Could reach landscapers with our focus on yard waste which is a largely untapped audience
 - Also need to consider tie ins to COVID- could we create a mask print that is related to yard waste if we give away masks?

- Maya: Landscaping happens on school grounds, and Christy Perrin has experience with implementing demonstration rain gardens on school grounds. We can tie these together.
- Marie: I am concerned that we're talking about schools without even knowing how schools are going to operate this year. If we have intel, it would be nice to hear in advance of this presentation.
 - Laura Wood: Governor Cooper will be speaking at 3pm today about school reopening.
 - Maya: Hannah will be discussing what we know so far about school reopening later.
- Susan Locklear: Not sure this year is a good idea to engage with schools with the COVID situation.
- Jen: Bringing it back to the 5-year plan, we have talked about doing something at the State Fair in the past- We can check if they plan to have a virtual platform. We have also talked about a stormwater runoff 5k- going virtual would make this event easier because in-person creates a lot more logistics.

Wake County Green Schools Partnership Presentation – Christy Perrin, NC WRRRI and Laura Wood, Lincoln Heights Elementary

- Goal: connecting formal and informal educators and providing resources for stormwater educators
 - Kicked off with a big meeting right before shutdown
- How Wake County educators can get involved:
 - Google group coming soon!
 - Create and share videos for teachers to add to virtual lessons
 - Host live outdoor virtual events in parks or by a creek
 - In future, WCGSP plans to provide educational opportunities for teachers, with PD credit. Additionally, provide teachers with tours of stormwater infrastructure on their grounds to equip them with spots for outdoor learning, and give hands-on support identifying, building, maintaining GSI on school grounds
- Suggestions to apply the Green Schools model in other counties:
 - Assemble an interdisciplinary team
 - Ask teachers what they need, don't assume you know (could include education for teachers, students, addressing on-site issues and opportunities?)
 - Meet and set short-term goals to work together right away
 - Having a 3rd party facilitator (like Christy) can be helpful

Wake County Green Schools Partnership's online teaching resources:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vkvM0SE0AiE_Wm9CBxpTUBEFTSJUl8oOWfSN8CtWQho/edit

Discussion:

Laura Smith: After any virtual lessons, recommend providing an editable Google Doc as a follow up resource with questions/suggestions for teachers.

- Also, make content something students can interact with and hand back as a completed assignment
- Durham Science Alliance is a similar model, led by the science coordinators for Durham Public Schools and meets quarterly to vision, set goals, have a presenter, and allow nonformal educators and classroom teachers to network and share opportunities.

Ashley Allen: Granville County has already started their virtual academy signups as well

Direct Education Updates, Lesson Demo, and Plans for Next Year

Congratulations to Hannah on her second week as a part-time staff member of CWEP! She can continue to provide great resources as she also begins an MS in experiential and outdoor education through Western Carolina University.

- Overview of FY20 direct education accomplishments during Hannah's AmeriCorps term:
 - At least 3000 people reached (via in-person or virtual event; does not include social media)
 - 21 community programs
 - 11 school visits
 - 8 virtual programming events
 - Reached 570 students at 6 Title 1 schools
 - Created 4 new NC curriculum standard-aligned lessons
 - 940% increase in Facebook post engagements since Hannah took over CWEP's social media
 - Updated and restructured CWEP's website
 - Assisted with writing of 2 grant proposals

School reopening guidelines / implications for FY21:

- Guests will not be allowed in schools in fall, so Hannah will focus on continuing to create virtual lessons and connect with teachers to deliver virtual lessons (particularly in Partner communities who did not receive an in-person visit in FY20 due to COVID). Her lessons are curriculum-aligned, so teachers should see them as a part of the curriculum, not an add-on.
- Governor Cooper was to make an announcement July 1 about school reopening which was postponed until 3pm today, 7/14
 - *Per N&O, 7/14/20 3pm: "Cooper announced that K-12 public schools will reopen under a "moderate social distancing" plan that limits how many people can be on campus, forcing many students to get a mix of in-person and remote instruction. The reopening plan requires daily temperature and health screening checks, maintaining 6 feet of social distancing and face coverings to be worn by all school employees and students."*
- Several resources may be helpful for teachers/informal educators (living documents linked below):
 - [Lighting Our Way Forward](#): NC Guidebook for Reopening Schools (Dept of Public Instruction)--most up-to-date guidance for school reopening
 - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit](#) (Dept of Health and Human Services—link includes Spanish version, various other resources). Specifies how schools should integrate state health guidelines with reopening plan (recess, handwashing, meals, etc.)

- [eeGuidance for Reopening Schools](#) (NAEE and EENC)—outlines how environmental education can be integrated into reopening plans, aligned with NC curriculum standards

Nearpod virtual lesson demonstration

- Showcases virtual options Hannah can deliver in CWEP communities in FY21 (Hannah can also provide guidance to partners/teachers who would like to use Nearpod)
 - Access the student-paced version by going to <https://nearpod.com/student/> and enter code YSHRU (note that interactive offerings that require multiple participants don't work in student-paced version; view recording to see these)
 - Nearpod offerings summarized:
 - Interactive features:
 - Quiz competition where students' cartoon avatars answer questions about stormwater to climb a mountain--students get points based on how fast and correct they answer.
 - Other similar platforms include Kahoot, which Phil Ross has used for the Envirothon and Laura Wood says is used frequently in elementary schools.
 - Students' answers to quiz questions can be saved/exported for teachers to evaluate learning outcomes
 - Matching photos of green stormwater infrastructure with definitions
 - Posting answers to an open-ended water question on a virtual corkboard
 - Presentation features:
 - Can upload a 360-degree photo as a Virtual Reality experience for students. Hannah uses a photo of the river basin the students reside in, and asks students how they see people interacting with their watershed in the VR experience
 - Hannah gives an overview presentation about stormwater that can be customized for any age group; easy to import an existing presentation from Google Slides

Virtual/in person education needs poll for the coming year

Hannah shared a poll question: What remote/ virtual resources for stormwater education will be most useful to your local government in FY21? Multiple choice answers included:

- PSA videos about stormwater topics
- Recordings of stormwater lessons/ activities
- Virtual field trips
- Resources for at-home activities and lessons
- Online modules to share with teachers and other educators
- Promoting community-wide/region-wide challenges (BioBlitz, litter clean-ups, storm drain clean-ups)

The top categories of those who responded were PSA vides (33%) and self-paced online lessons (33%) followed by virtual field trips (20%). Please feel free to email Maya, Hannah and Jen if you did not get a chance to respond to the poll.

Ideas/Discussion

Laura Wood: I know access to digital resources is a concern for some families... check with your local school system if so. WCPSS has ensured that every student has access to a device when we left school in March.

Mayor TJ: Stormwater themed poster contest for local schools? Could be done virtually

- Reach out to schools early in the summer so that teachers can make it a part of their curriculum
- Could invite students to share their posters with the town council

Phil Ross: Students could have another time of virtual media-based presentation contest