

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Program (CEP)

Monday June 24, 2024 · 10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Zoom joining info

Video call link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84268159372?pwd=SjE3T0FhbE9yV3g1d2hEb1p1SVlwdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 6815 9372

Passcode: g#57k&

Dial by your location

1.312.626.6799 - US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 842 6815 9372

Passcode: 835000

All are welcome to attend the entire public meeting. Public participation begins at approximately 10:30 a.m. If you are unable to attend the business meeting, comments regarding agenda items may be submitted for public record to Michelle Wilson at Michelle.Wilson@dnr.iowa.gov or 502 East 9th St, Des Moines, IA 50319 up to 24 hours prior to the business meeting. Grant applicants are highly encouraged to attend via Zoom or on the phone during the Review of Proposals starting at 1 pm to answer questions the REAP CEP Board may have for the project.

Agenda Topics

10:00 AM - Welcome - Michelle Wilson

Approve Meeting Minutes - December 11, 2023

REAP CEP Coordinator Updates -Michelle Wilson

- Status of Active Grants
- EO10 Update
- Senate File 2385 - Boards and Commissions
 - Administrative Rules Update Process
 - Schedule of REAP CEP Future Grants

REAP CEP Board Member Updates

General Discussion

Lunch Break

1:00 PM - Welcome & Video Meeting Tutorial - Michelle Wilson

Introductions - REAP CEP Chairperson Alliss

REAP CEP Coordinator Updates - Michelle Wilson

- Grant application award guidance and assistance

Process for Reviewing Proposals - REAP CEP Chairperson Alliss

Review of Proposals

Adjourn

Optional – Review of Remaining Applications for Improvement with Applicants

Funding

Available REAP CEP Funds \$400,000

REAP Conservation Education Program Fund Request \$270,520

Recipient	Grant Title	REAP Request
The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium	Prairie & Floodplain Interpretation and Programs	\$33,600
Upper Iowa University	Learning and Living in a Changing Climate	\$10,000
Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools	Outdoor Adventures in the Dubuque Community Schools	\$36,225
University of Northern Iowa / Green Iowa AmeriCorp	Resilient Neighborhoods Program	\$33,616
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden	Learn on Saturdays	\$12,345
Izaak Walton League of America	Breaking Down Barriers to Water Quality Monitoring in Iowa	\$32,803
BioEco Research & Monitoring Center	Building Better Birders and Citizen Scientists Workshops 3	\$81,200
Madison County Conservation Board	Cultivating Connections (CC)	\$23,731
City View Community High School	City View Outdoor Education Program	\$7,000

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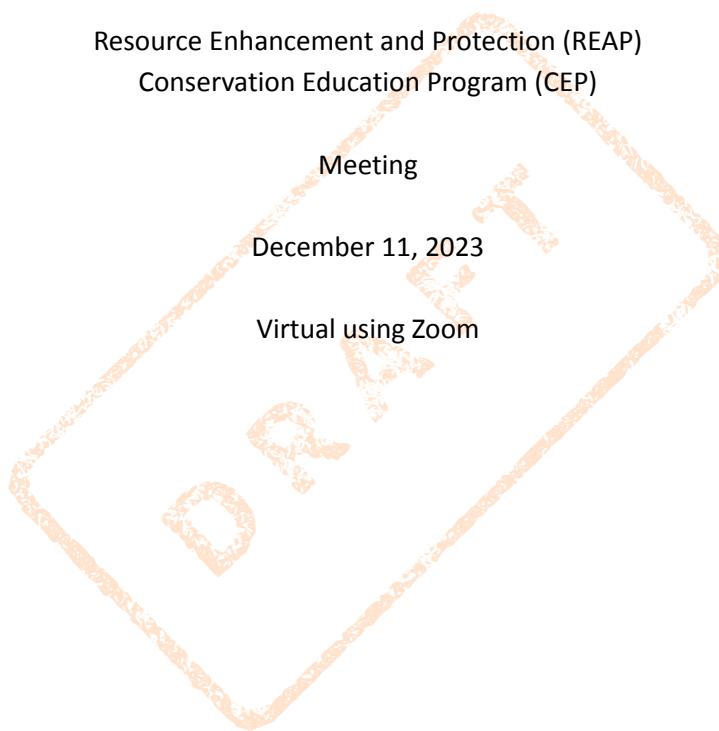
Board Approved: _tbd_

Minutes of the
Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
Conservation Education Program (CEP)

Meeting

December 11, 2023

Virtual using Zoom



Call to Order

The meeting of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Program (CEP) was called to order by Board Administrator Michelle Wilson at 10:57 am on December 11, 2023 via video conference using Zoom.

Board Members Present

Victoria DeVos, Iowa Association of Naturalist (IAN)
Patrice Petersen-Keys, Iowa Association of County Conservation System (IACCS)
Rachel Alliss, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Christopher Like, Department of Education (DOE)
Peg Steffen, Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC)

Welcome

Michelle Wilson, REAP CEP Coordinator, welcomed the Board members present.

Quorum and Voting

DNR General Counsel, Tamara McIntosh

The Conservation Education Program Board is created by Iowa Code section 455A.21, and the Board has promulgated some rules in 571 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 12 (Part I). Per statute, the CEP Board is composed of five members. The statute and the rules are silent on the number required to have a quorum and the number required to take action; thus, it is reasonable to rely on the baseline standard for each in Robert's Rules of Order. Accordingly, we're assuming a quorum is a majority of the Board, or at least 3 members. It is also reasonable to assume that a majority of the quorum must vote YES in order for the Board to take action. As such, the Board's defacto rules of business are as follows:

At least 3 members must be present at all meetings in order for the Board to conduct any business.

If 3 members are present (threshold quorum), 2 members must vote YES.

If 4 members are present, then 3 members must vote YES.

If 5 members are present, then 3 members must vote YES.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Patrice Petersen-Keys to approve the June 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Peg Steffen. Motion carried unanimously. Approved as presented.

REAP CEP Coordinator Updates

Status of Active Grants

Michelle Wilson provided an update on grant status as presented in the comprehensive grants update document. There are three grants that will be providing their mid-term reports and three that will be sharing the final report yet this month.

Extension Request for Grant #22-13- Seed Savers Inc., A Working Seed Preservation Farm: Signage to Enhance the Visitor Experience.

Michelle Wilson presented the request for an extension on Grant #22-13. Motion by Patrice Petersen-Keys to extend the Seed Saver REAP CEP Grant up to an additional year. Seconded by Christopher Like. Motion carried unanimously. Approved as presented.

2024 REAP CEP Board Meetings Proposed Calendar

- March 25, 2024 Board Business Meeting
- May 15, 2024 Application Deadline
- June 17, 2024 Board Meeting and Grant Review & Selection
- September 23, 2024 Board Business Meeting
- December 16, 2024 Board Meeting and Grant Review & Selection

Michelle Wilson presented the schedule and proposed to start meetings at 10:00 AM. Motion was made by Victoria DeVos to approve the 2024 proposed Board Meeting calendar starting at 10:00 AM. Seconded by Rachel Alliss. Motion carried unanimously. Approved as presented.

Executive Order 10 Update for REAP Conservation Education Program Administrative Rules

Michelle Wilson informed the Board that the Natural Resource Commission at their October 10, 2023 meeting approved all Notice of Intended Action items moving all of this year's Executive Order 10 Administrative Rules now into the formal rulemaking process. There will be at a minimum two more opportunities for citizens or organizations to comment on rules, dates to be determined as well as at the Natural Resource Commission meeting when it returns on the agenda for approval of the final rule. Michelle anticipates the rules will be in effect by April or May barring no significant issues brought forth by the public.

REAP CEP Board Member Updates

Victoria DeVos, Iowa Association of Naturalist (IAN) - Chris Like participated in the last IAN workshop and there is another one in April in conjunction with the National Association of Interpretation's Heartland Region Workshop.

Christopher Like, Department of Education (DOE) – 220 teachers attended a co-training/partnership with DNR. There is a state leadership meeting in January including discussion on how to move science leadership forward in Iowa. Asking additional questions on how to engage with large districts.

Patrice Petersen-Keys, Iowa Association of County Conservation System (IACCS) – Winterfest is January 23-25, Chris Jones, the author of Swine Republic, is a Keynote. MyCountyParks Website is going through improvements and it should relaunch later in 2024.

Rachel Alliss, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) –. Formal and Non-formal training will be the week of July 8th for the different offerings in DNR. A Google Site for formal and non-formal educators has been developed. Gus Elliott is now with the DNR and a great addition to the team.

Peg Steffen, Iowa Conservation Education Council (ICEC) - ICEC's Winter Workshop theme is Climate Smart Agriculture: Rethinking Iowa's Land, Water, and Food Production. We are looking for funding for Project Wild Workshops. Game Jam is starting, getting teachers to sign up in order to learn about game design focused on conservation.

General Discussion

Board Member Steffen will be serving as chairperson for the afternoon grant review.

Peg Steffen moved to adjourn for lunch. Rachel Alliss Seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Approved. Break for lunch at 12:00 PM.

Chair Peg Steffan called the REAP CEP Board back to order at 1:03 PM

Review and Selection of Grants

Funding

Available REAP CEP FY 24 Funds - \$396,359

REAP Conservation Education Program Fund Request - \$302,458

Recipient	Grant Title	REAP CEP Request	REAP CEP Award
City of West Des Moines	City-Wide Stormwater Education and Pollinator Habitat Signage	\$15,932	\$15,932
Polk County Conservation	Yellow Banks Park - Outdoor Interpretive Exhibit	\$35,527	\$35,527
Iowa Young Birders	At-Home Summer Birding Program: Birding for youth self-guided nature engagement	\$15,080	\$15,080
Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America	Development of an interpretive nature trail for conservation education	\$3,500	\$3,500
University of Iowa School of the Wild	Statewide School of the Wild Phase IV	\$48,723	\$48,723
Iowa Association of Naturalists	Iowa Association of Naturalist Workshop Scholarship	\$10,000	\$10,000
Butler County Conservation Board	Iowa's Prairie - Past, Present and Future Display	\$86,033	-0-
Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council of Iowa Department of Education	Iowa STEM Environmental & Conservation Teacher Externships for NEW educators	\$38,400	\$38,400
Vince Jetter Community Center	Youth Conservation Education, Winter Outdoor Awareness & Appreciation Programs	\$3,500	\$3,500
River Action Inc	2024 Explore the River Summer Education Series	\$6,560	-0-
Izaak Walton League of America	Breaking Down Barriers to Water Quality Monitoring in Iowa	\$32,803	-0-
Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation	Connecting Agriculture and the Environment Through Online Educator PD	\$6,400	-0-

Motion by Patrice Petersen-Keys to cease funding after Vince Jetter Community Center was approved. Rachel Alliss Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Victoria DeVos, Yes; Rachel Alliss, Yes; Patrice Petersen-Keys, Yes; Peg Steffen, No; Christopher Like, No. Approved to cease funding.

Adjourn

Motion by Christopher Like to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 p.m. Seconded by Rachel Alliss. Motion carried unanimously. Approved.