

## September 2009 RC Meeting Minutes

### In Attendance:

Kathleen Meehan Coop	Sander Robinson	Diana Payne
Allison Byrd	Mary Anne	Joy Irby
Pat Cooper	Judith Coats	Erin Blackwood
Bill Wise	Ariane Grubb	Gina Petruzzelli
Kim Knoll	Caroline Joyce	Melanie Reding
Victoria Hill	Sue Anderson	Dionne Hoskins
Dani DiIullo	Kim Lievense	Matthew Ogburn
Jordan Lewis	Dennis Hanisak	Teresa Greely
Staci Lewis	Susan Lynds	Marietta Mayo
Jim Hiney	David Guay	Phyllis Shoemaker
Julie Massey	Julie Hahn	
Laura Florence	Ray Beiersdorfer	

**Sunday, September 13, 2009**

### I. Introductions

- a. Sarah Weiss transitioning in to be the Mtn Mariner Challenge RC next year
- b. Dolphin Challenge just hired a RC to start in November
- c. Sea Lion Bowl just hired new diversity coordinator
- d. Discussion of logos on t-shirts vs. in program or on big sign
  - i. Regional sites need to promote sponsors of the program in at least two locations at their regional bowl. Those locations can be in the program, on a banner/poster and the t-shirts.

1. Sites are not required to put the logos on the backs of the t-shirts, as long as they showcase the sponsors' logos in at least two other locations.
- ii. Idea: post regional site's programs on the RC protected page so that others can see the different programs.
- e. Discussion of teams and coaches dropping out
  - i. Bay Scallop Bowl has a coaches workshop to make coaches bring their teams on competition day
- f. Discussion of recruiting kids and coaches (participation, recruitment, etc)
- g. Discussion of individual team sponsorship
  - i. Teams are allowed and can be encouraged to find their own sponsors to help cover travel and training costs
- h. 3 person team discussion- what if a team shows up with 3 people?
  - i. Discussion Points
    1. Currently, wouldn't be able to advance to finals
    2. Otter bowl- allowed them to compete, but scores didn't count
    3. Bay Scallop bowl – put on coach, need 4 people to play or you can't play
    4. Aloha Bowl – a lot of teams fly in so if someone shows up they let them play because they travelled so far to get here
    5. Automatic forfeits make it unfair for other round robin players
    6. Sending wrong message if we tell them not to come and they won't be eligible for Finals
    7. Encourage sick teams to find a 4<sup>th</sup> player either at their school
    8. Swine flu issue- in this day in age we need to be sensitive to sicknesses and germs; yet be mindful of the rules of the game
    9. Mention of keeping kids engaged after RR—let them keep competing
  - ii. **Final decision:** TEAMS OF THREE CANNOT COMPETE

1. National Office will post a letter for RCs to pass out to coaches that encourages them to recruit enough team members to ensure that the team can participate on the day of the event.
- i. Schools not allowed to travel?
  - i. Budget issues/reasons
  - ii. No worries except CO & NC
- j. Open conversation
  - i. Volunteers day before competition
  - ii. Choosing good moderators/judges for the final competition

## **II. 2009 Updates**

- a. Video contest
  - i. Open to all high school students; want to promote marine science
  - ii. Working with NMEA, 13 regional winners, 1 national winner
  - iii. Videos submissions due January 25
- b. NMEA round table
  - i. What makes a good team; great dialogue, notes and info posted on website
  - ii. Create a strong a team environment; emphasis on FUN
  - iii. Students should be encourage to write their own questions, could post on facebook and communicate with other students (argue with or answer the questions via facebook).
  - iv. Can we say you can't have access until you post questions – secure facebook page, to get access you have to provide questions. Drawing for a textbook if you post 100 questions.
- c. Diversity Grant
  - i. NSF liked the proposal, but we did not get grant
    1. one excellent, three very goods, & one good
    2. will review comments when received and will consider reapplying

- ii. Have looked into other funding sources, but most require reducing the time and funding request.

### III. eNOSB

#### a. Overview

- i. eNOSB is modeled after the moderator and the binder EXACTLY, can be modified and adapted for further advancements later

- 1. Only includes the buzzer rounds of the competition

- ii. **Training will be provided:**

- 1. user manual, 1 page refresher, oral training,
  - 2. Mid January – call into tech support (IT call)
  - 3. Identified supported contact person on competition day

- iii. General Issues/Questions:

- 1. Back and next buttons –answered by Jordan
    - a. Options: do we want next, back, correct, incorrect?
    - b. **Decision:** Vote: (majority rules) - Option 1: (just next and back ) – 6, Option 2: -17
  - 2. Future option: Selection buttons at beginning to check computer experience
  - 3. Font bigger/color coded buzzer vs. bonus
  - 4. Include practice rounds
  - 5. Lines along bottom to separate answer
  - 6. Password discussion-password protected?
    - a. **Decision:** Password protect the computer/screen saver for 2010
  - 7. Want to be able to massage the questions, make edits
    - a. eNOSB does not allow for edits on final day based on personal preference

- i. Option 1: as we see it now – no editing capabilities when final version of questions arrives from the National office
  - ii. Option 2: able to made edits separately – separate documents that the RC would need to merge individually for each moderator to ensure that his/her edits showed up on that individuals assigned computer.
- b. **Decision:** Option 1
  - i. Vote: (majority rules) – Option 1: 18 Option 2: 5
- iv. Implementation at your site
  - 1. Willing to implement in at least one room?
  - 2. Contact the national office in writing if implementation is going to prove a hardship by 2013

**Monday, September 14, 2009**

#### **IV. Future of NOSB**

- a. Funding
  - i. NOSB's grant money feel short of the full expected amount, Sarah Schoedinger works very hard at getting us our money, transferring of funds b/t agencies can be very difficult and time consuming
  - ii. Diversity will get \$1200; Colorado, Hawaii and Alaska will get some travel funds
  - iii. No money specifically set aside for internships and scholarships; Scholarship money will be fundraised, internship program will be put on hold in order to redefine its goals and program
- b. Fundraising
  - i. Working with Tom Piazze - Director of Development for CMS USF, working hard to get \$ for finals
  - ii. Following up with new funders that funded us last year to thank them and ask for more funding next year
- c. Regional site responsibilities:

- i. New page in handbook specifically stating regional site roles and responsibilities
- ii. Eight schools participating at a minimum, rather than just eight teams
- iii. eNOSB- encourages all sites to use it, 2013 deadline for completely implementing the software into all the competitions
- iv. TCQs- submit 10 for the competition
  - 1. No oceanographers, so she has to write questions herself
  - 2. Some people pay for questions, still not enough of an incentive
  - 3. Consider hiring TCQs writers and letting the RCs write buzzer questions
    - a. The national office will look into this idea in 2010
  - 4. Thanks for sending edited TCQs back this year
  - 5. Try to use old questions, rework questions
  - 6. Encourage researchers to use their own data,
  - 7. Can the National Office write a letter thanking them for their broader impact for them to keep in their file?
    - a. **Decision:** The national office will send a letter to scientists that the RC submits a request (email) about
- v. Submit FSR by July 31
- vi. Sites can charge a registration fee if they need to
  - 1. no more than \$125
  - 2. must notify the national office
  - 3. establish guidelines is offering any registration fee scholarships
- d. Professional Development opportunities:
  - i. Deep Earth Academy is working with NOSB to provide an online webinar training for coaches on marine technology.
  - ii. National office will email the RCs a paragraph about PD opportunity
  - iii. Open the webinar up to all coaches interested in bowl and other teachers.

1. **Decision:** Sites should email the names of registered coaches and a separate list of coaches that are interested but not registered.
  - a. All registered coaches will receive propriety registration in the webinar.
  - b. All non-registered coaches will be offered a space as space is available.

## V. Conversation about 8 questions vs 6 minutes

- a. Time is the major issue
- b. Can we make 18 or 17 questions per round?
- c. Could we drop it down to 5 minutes? Would make competition shorter.
- d. Ask your rules judge how often you run out of questions, is this really an issue?
- e. When to stop during the competition – at Question 8 or at the 6 minute buzzer
  - i. How many of you stop at 8 questions?
  - ii. **Decision:** You must STOP at whichever comes first – Question 8 **OR** 6 minutes
- f. Where do you pick up after your break? Where you left off or at question 9?
  - i. **Decision:** At the end of 6 minutes, pick up where you left off.
    1. If a room only made it to question 5 at the end of the first 6 minute half the moderator should start off with question 6.
    2. If the room made it all the way to question 8 before or when the buzzer went off, the moderator should start with Question 9 for the second half.
- g. Room Lock Down - Amendment to rules
  - i. **Decision:**
    1. no cell phones in competition rooms in use
    2. No communication to anyone outside of the room of any kind during the competition

3. The regional sites and/or the rules judge in the room can make appropriate decisions on whether audience members can enter and stay in the competition room during the break.
  - a. However, new audience members are not allowed for any reason to talk with competitors during the break.
- h. Do we replace a question if the moderator messes up?
  - i. **Decision:** Since even a seasoned moderator can make one error a 17<sup>th</sup> question will be added to each round to ensure if an error is made the students in the room still have the ability to answer 16 questions.
    1. RC responsibility list- add one question for the moderator to use if they mess up – The questions can be handed out separately or be included in the notebook, but should be specifically labeled as an EXTRA Question
    2. It is the RCs responsibility to recruit good moderators, so no additional questions will be added to a round if a moderator makes more than one error.

## **VI. Emphasize good sportsmanship – discourage your teams from frivolous challenges**

## **VII. Fundraising**

- a. Challenges – time, bad economy, dealing with rejection
- b. Who to approach – look at a company’s mission (education, environment, community involvement, desire to expand customer base), what they sell – is it water related, approach company’s in the different home town’s of teams (community involvement), current university vendor
- c. NOSB benefits – highlight the benefit to the company. It is more about them than it is about you/NOSB. Unlike an RFP most company’s aren’t soliciting a proposal for a sponsorship
  - i. Provide exposure to a new or expanded audience, use benefits from an established partner to solicit additional benefits (ie. Aquarium tickets for high \$ donation); company name/logo in press release or publicity on campus, invite to present as part of a career panel, find out if support of NOSB can also be showcased in your university’s/department’s newsletter or annual report
- d. Compared two sponsorship letters



- e. Making the connection
  - i. send a formal business letter with a packet of information (NOSB brochure, university/department brochure, sponsorship levels & benefits page, one pager highlighting NOSB regional accomplishments, your last event program
  - ii. Follow-up with a phone call in 2 weeks – a necessity!
- f. Ran out of time to full discuss collaborative regional/national effort
  - i. General plan is to approach funders to support the regional efforts and support the national team's travel to Finals
    - 1. not a perfect solution because depending on foundations and length of time to apply certain regions will receive assistance and other might not.

### **VIII. eOSB break out session**

- a. Thoughts or concerns about implementing eOSB?
  - i. How would we manage extra question issue? Recommend that you use a paper pile next to the laptop for an EMERGENCY use
  - ii. Warning button at the 8<sup>th</sup> question
  - iii. User manual
    - 1. Screen shots of how to do EVERYTHING
    - 2. Recommend hard copy of initials of how you got through the competition
    - 3. Setting up a second screen or share, depends on science judge preference
    - 4. Want directions on how to set up an extra screen,
    - 5. Is there a way to make the laptop a drone monitor, where the buttons are inactive?
    - 6. You could use two monitors individually and let the science judge operate their own program
    - 7. File security – automatically deletes or “expires”
    - 8. Have a person designated as an E person at ocean bowl central.
    - 9. Concerns about vetting questions-timeline
    - 10. Help: user manual, one pagers, rules

#### 11. FAQs –

- a. Has anyone thought about training volunteers?
- b. Suggest people use/bring mouse
- c. Send survey to moderators asking for feedback

### VIII. Diversity

- 1. Brief overview of current program
- 2. Define diversity for NOSB
  - a. NSF definition
  - b. Students that are at diverse science charter or magnet schools or diverse students that do not have a lot of current exposure to science
- 3. Decide upon one main national approach rather than 25 unique regional approaches
  - a. Depth vs. Breadth
- 4. **Action:** The national office will follow-up in October with the Diversity Committee to discussion points and a date to have follow-up phone meeting

### IX. Evaluating your regional competition, Laura Florence

- 1. Why evaluate your regional?
  - a. Are we meeting our goals and objectives? Are we using the right approach?
  - b. Show successes, program strengths
  - c. Demonstrate concrete results to funding sources
  - d. Improve your competition
  - e. Evaluation can be a good place to start with program development
- 2. Web resource I used: MEERA (My Environmental Education Evaluation Resource Assistant, [www.meera.snre.umich.edu](http://www.meera.snre.umich.edu))
  - a. MEERA provides an 8-step process for guiding you through an evaluation, including constructing a logic model, setting goals and

indicators, choosing design, collecting and analyzing data, and reporting results.

- b. My evaluation goals were: improving recruitment and retention of teams to the Great Lakes Bowl. I collected qualitative and quantitative data through a focus group and survey of the coaches. Findings helped focus our recruitment strategies for the coming year.
- c. MEERA is a good resource for in-house evaluations with limited time and resources. It's great for beginners who have never done an evaluation before, as well as for experienced evaluators looking for additional resources.