

WWIN Quarterly Membership Meeting 4th Quarter – June 15, 2010

June 15, 2010, 3pm -5pm

WSU Extension, 1000 N. Forest, Lrge meeting room

In attendance: (6 members of Steering &/or Sub-Committee, 4 general members)
Sue Blake, Kym Fedale, Emily Johnson, Nancy Olsen, Rebecca Schlotterback, Gwen Duvall, Cheryl Lovato-Niles,

3:00 – 3:10 Welcome and introductions

3:10 – 3:20 Quick Updates – EConet, Other Items

3:20 – 3:30 WWIN – First Year Reflections; Enhance Your Participation!

To evaluate our last year, we used the WWIN ground rules as a framework for our discussion. The ground rules outline our methods for communication, participation and decision-making. We also discussed whether or not we feel we're meeting our mission.

A detailed review of the topic is attached ("WWIN Quarterly Membership Meeting Evaluation")

Synopsis of **Communication** group discussion:

- Challenging: Would like more meetings if possible, but recognize time is limited for most members to attend meetings
- Would like meeting minutes from Steering Committee and sub committee meetings
 - Posted on the website (www.whatcomwin.org)
 - Sent through email with a reminder to visit the website
- More emails would be okay, especially with important content
- Post **all the** meeting dates on web in advance for people to schedule
- A header at the top of the email explaining what's included is helpful
- There's a good level of communication

ACTION:

As the website becomes more established, Meeting minutes will be posted as soon as possible after the meetings as well as a notice sent by email to members regarding the posting.

Synopsis of **Participation** group discussion:

- Some members didn't know what the current committees are - Make sure people know.
- Add committee updates to emails

- Keep people in the loop with background info. New members may not understand the structure and scope of the organization when joining.
- Add “portal” of information to members to become involved in committee work
- Update the website and use it more
- Keep DropBox (online file sharing) for committee use and use the web for the general group
- Outreach for more participation from those already on the email list.
- Surprised to hear the number of organizations included on the email list (above).
- Why participate? To learn about new programs and resources and to collaborate
- Would like links to member organizations on the website to facilitate networking (share programs), a contact list
- Presentations at each membership meeting from participants, etc.
- Presentation from each group/organization , short, all at one meeting (annually)
- Send out a survey to increase participation
 - What will get you there?
- an evaluation (via survey) would be helpful
- define the goals of the organization to make sure communication and participation satisfies goals
- ask what members are interested in learning about

Synopsis of **Decision-Making** group discussion:

- Ask for more feedback on decisions and we may get more participation
- EConet decisions were made as a whole group
- Decision making takes place among the subcommittees- includes the members who are taking time / roles in involvement
- Short and specific surveys among membership is a good way to get feedback on key issues

Synopsis of **Are we Meeting our Mission** group discussion:

- Yes. We’re supporting and improving watershed education and information exchange, stewardship, and public involvement but the degree is uncertain.
- We would do well to have a strategic plan. Should we take that on?
- We have measurable objectives in the sub-committee projects
- We need to increase participation
- Yes. We have information exchange, we can ask questions, we have additional resources.
- We should call other major players that we’d like to see more involved
- We need to identify the barriers to becoming involved with WWIN
- WWIN can be a vehicle for communicating common goals and objectives
- Can we get the objectives from the group as a whole?

- What is our purpose? Why?

Additional comments:

- If a survey or questionnaire is given, ask open-ended questions and give people a chance to respond to details
- Check with goals and evaluation process (from Project Design and Evaluation workshop) to make sure this group is effective
- This group could help to coordinate organizations working together on grants, so as not to compete for funding

3:30 – 4:00 Annual Work Plan

Information: A quick review/update of our first year activities will be provided (speakers series, program design & evaluation training) with most time reserves for discussing possible new activities/outcomes for the coming year. Come with your ideas to share!

Of the 3 chosen activities on last years work plan:

1 was completed – the **Project Design and evaluation workshop** and was extremely successful on the basis of attendance and value;

2 are well in development – **the Speakers Series** – WWIN members and MRC have been working together and are in the process of establishing a schedule and venues for speakers for the next 12 months.

- **the Water Festival** - Whatcom Water Week will be held September 18-25 this year.

General discussion for the upcoming years work plan:

Upcoming year (goals)-

How to (should we) reach out to K-12 - Should we do a Needs Assessment to determine the limits to and opportunities for supporting science educ. in the schools –

Teacher trainings? Trends?

Perhaps have a k-12 subcommittee for WWIN?

Establish a Calendar of Events – WWIN Calendar – to be shared / expanded on WEB (council of Non-profits?) – link to other calendars

Need larger group participation to take on new projects (how to involve more members in the work of the WWIN ?)

Define long term outcomes more clearly

Work on collaborative funding (shared funded projects) – fundraising

Perhaps a Grants / Fundraising subcommittee??

Survey members for feedback on 2011 work plan – include options for training topic

4:00 – 4:45 Water Week – Sharing Ideas and Finding Partners

Information: Here is your chance to share ideas and find potential partners for Water Week (September 18 – 25) Updates on first/last day activities will also be provided – your feedback and ideas would be appreciated

Water Week committee has been meeting regularly and developing the event. The scale of Water Week event this year will be influenced by the level of participation among WWIN members There are currently over a dozen “hosted” activities or events

scheduled for Water Week by various groups. By the end of this month we expect to have more Hosts and sponsors and their activities identified.

WWIN Members would like the List of Ideas

ACTION:

The list of ideas will be added to the website and notice sent by email with attachment along with an update to members of the current hosts and the activities.