

PROJECT CLEAN WATER

2002 CLEAN WATER SUMMIT

Education and Resource Development Track

Summary of the Afternoon

June 21, 2002



Afternoon Program:

- I. Michele Stress outlined the format of the afternoon session and gave a brief presentation on the Education and Resources Development TAC, its place in Project Clean Water and the Outreach Work Group. She reviewed the 7 specific action items developed and progress to-date towards the achievement of those action items. She stated that the purpose of the meeting today is to determine the TAC priorities and direction for the coming year, with regional consistency in mind. Ms. Stress indicated that additional work is underway to expand and supplement initial progress towards the development of a better baseline inventory of water quality issue awareness, and in community adoption of Project Clean Water as a strong regional identity for outreach efforts, as well as in measuring the effectiveness of our activities to change behaviors. One identified goal of the TAC is to continue to promote education and outreach through the development of partnerships in funding and resources.
- II. Comments on the future priorities for the Ed-TAC were listed and posted for discussion.
 - A. A centralized database with a standard format was suggested as a useful tool to collect data to measure pollution prevention effectiveness in which students and community members could contribute. The link to the Science & Technology TAC was noted.
 - B. A link to listings of Projects in the local areas and a centralized contact list with reciprocal links to municipal agencies/individuals doing the same water quality work. It was noted that some information suggests that teachers are not aware that such projects and resources exist and an accessible link would be helpful.
 - C. A symposium for teachers and resources or a workshop was suggested. It was noted that teachers are extremely busy and participation has been low historically. Ideas on incentives to increase district/teacher/student participation. It was noted that annual workshops already exist for teachers

and a better idea might be to go to these established teacher trainings rather than add a new one or at least make a good case for attendance at our workshop.

- D. A symposium for students was also suggested in place of or in addition to the teacher's symposium. This symposium could empower students be an impetus to bring more water quality curriculum into the classroom.
- E. Developing a specific curriculum for teachers was suggested. Comments on how to then get this curriculum into the classroom and how to train teachers to use it then ensued, including integration/development of this curriculum in ROP classes. Many agreed that this curriculum must clearly cross literacy, social studies, technology and math frameworks to be most useful to teachers and to address district priority "blueprints". Ranger students added that not just curriculum but exciting learning techniques, including "catchy slogans" and use of student mentors must be addressed to make learning successful enough to change habits.
- F. Developing a survey on teacher's needs related to clean water curriculum was suggested. It was noted that a survey was published just last May that did not relate specifically to water quality but did generally address environmental education and that another survey was not necessary.
- G. It was suggested that high-ranked staff must develop personal relationships with the individual district superintendents and principals to advocate the importance of this curriculum and to support teachers to promote its use.
- H. It was suggested that an ED-TAC meeting be dedicated to focus on school education and perhaps form a subcommittee devoted to this effort.
- I. Current plans on marketing the Project Clean Water as our regional identity such as movie theatre slide PSAs and upcoming industrial-commercial workshops were discussed. It was also noted that jurisdictional activities of individual copermittees of the stormwater permit as well as other agency activities related to other water issues will be ongoing locally. It was suggested that all events be published on the Project Clean Water website. A comment was received on the continued need for a broad-based vision and collaboration regarding general community outreach regionally. Additional comments and suggestions on the topic of general outreach then concluded due to lack of time.

- III. The group came to agreement on summarizing the major direction of the Ed-TAC in the coming year with two goals:
 - 1. To develop strategies to empower educators in promoting and teaching water-based environmental curriculum, and,
 - 2. To identify ways to more effectively disseminate a unified message that resonates with the public.