

**Working Group Meeting #4
June 9 (12:00 - 4:00)
Location: 191 Provencher Blvd (MAST)
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

The following participated in the meeting:

PARTICIPANTS	AFFILIATION
Asu, Vicki	Environment Canada
Bruce, Graham	Pembina Trails School Division Superintendent
Creech, Heather	International Institute for Sustainable Development
Froese, Hilda	Manitoba Association of School Trustees, Winkler, MB
Hardesse, Lisa	Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources
Morrow, Dallas	Manitoba Advanced Education and Training
Robinson, Gordon	Education Faculty (CRYSTAL), University of Manitoba
Shymko, Randal for Jim Bakken	Green Manitoba
Stoeber, Rodelyn for Len Rivard	College St. Boniface
Tetrault, Amanda	Teacher
Wishart, Rick	Ducks Unlimited
MESDWG Secretariat	
Adamson, Bob	Learning for a Sustainable Future, Winnipeg
McDonald, Christina	Manitoba Education, Citizenship (MECY) and Youth/Advanced Education and Training
MESDWG Support	
Tran, Yolanda	Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth/Advanced Education and Training

The following members sent regrets:

Carruthers, Brendan	Manitoba Hydro
Gowanlock, Lorraine	Frontier School Division
Holst, Heidi	Lord Selkirk School Division
Nadolny, Barry	Manitoba Council for Leadership in Education
Najduch, Aileen	Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
Reimer, Brad	Mennonite Central Committee
Olafson-Dyck, Renee	Fort Whyte Centre
Peterson, Glenn	Manitoba Conservation
Pham, Khang	MB4Youth Advisory Committee
Sadler, Nicole	MB4Youth, MECY
Waito, Barry	Louisiana – Pacific

The following results arose from the meeting:

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members were welcomed to the 4th meeting of the MESDWG.

An overview and status of the National Expert Council for ESD meeting held on May 4th, 5th in Toronto was presented by the co-chairs and members of the Steering Committee who were in attendance.

May 4th was an opportunity for a meeting of representatives of the six jurisdictions that are in the process of establishing ESD working groups per the Manitoba pilot model. Manitoba representatives (co-chairs and steering committee members) participated and provided information/experiences of the establishment of the MESDWG. The May 5th meeting was the first planning meeting for the establishment of the National Expert Council for ESD. In addition to the representatives from the seven jurisdictions in the process of establishing working groups, other participants were also invited to provide input into the process of establishing the NEC. Both meetings allowed for considerable opportunities for sharing and communication.

In addition to the two meetings, LSF held a dinner hosted by the Bank of Montreal as a part of their AGM. Participants included a cross section of senior business officials, academia, youth, NGOs, Council of Minister of the Environment staff and others. Two youth from Northern Manitoba, (RD Parker School students) reported on the Youth Forums held in Thompson this past February 2006. The students eloquently highlighted the partnership between LSF, MECY and the Aboriginal Student Council at RD Parker School (Thompson) and the positive impacts it has had for both them and their peers. Gerald Farthing and the Minister of the Environment (Ontario) provided Keynote addresses during the evening.

Documents distributed from the May 5th meeting included a participant list, a visioning session document and a draft model of the proposed structure for the NEC.

The MESDWG Steering Committee suggested the possibility of inviting other ESD Working Groups from other jurisdictions to Manitoba to get together and participate in one meeting of the MESDWG. Members expressed an interest in forging linkages, sharing best practices with other jurisdictions but questioned the productiveness/usefulness of having other WG members participate in Manitoba's Working Group meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of April 19, 2006 were approved. Gordon/Graham.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Contact Lists: The Secretariat distributed the contact mailing lists for all sub-committees, the Steering Committee and the MESDWG.

Representation on the MESDWG: The Secretariat/Steering reported on the process of acquiring Aboriginal representation for the MESDWG with the Aboriginal Education Directorate.

Actions: The Secretariat to ensure that all sectors as identified in the Discussion Paper are represented on the MESDWG.

The Secretariat will contact both Niji Mahkwa School and Children of the Earth and South Wpg. Aboriginal College to identify possible representatives for current sub-committees.

The Secretariat will send a letter to organizations that still require representation. (IE City of Winnipeg – Environmental Committee / Alex Stuart)

Action: MESDWG members to contact Chris or Bob with updates of any new members to our current subcommittees.

Confirming Membership: A table was distributed that indicated the letters received by the Steering Committee confirming organizational membership on the MESDWG.

Action: The Secretariat to follow up on members that need confirmation and those not represented on the WG.

SUB-COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

CURRICULUM; PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; LEARNING RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Subcommittee provided a presentation on possible models for an ESD curriculum template. The presentation included the possible audiences for ESD with reference to the possible addition of youth, professional associations, community groups such as 4H Clubs and girl guides. Definitions for ESD were discussed with more emphasis being placed on the WCED (Our Common Future) definition. The Working Group agreed that, no matter what definition is used, the goals should be one of inclusiveness so that people can identify with whatever definition is accepted. The presentation also included slides developed as part of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. This systems approach illustrates how Ecosystem services form the linkages between social, environmental and economic components included in all SD models. The MESDWG agreed to development of a framework (images and descriptive words) that is simple but one that will reach people on a variety of levels.

Action: Posting of this presentation (and future presentations) on the MESDWG website should be considered as part of the website development discussion at the next meeting of the MESDWG.

POLICY; PRIORITIES; GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee verbally reported on the outcomes of their most recent meetings. The subcommittee is still open to new members with the executive Director for Take Pride Winnipeg recently joining the Sub-Committee. The Subcommittee members conducted a gap analysis of what SD policies exist. A policy is what the organization is using to govern or direct their SD activities. Many of the organizations interviewed / polled had non-written policies on SD. Many of these SD policies if they exist are focused on the environmental dimension. Interestingly, even though no policies were in place in some of the organizations polled, those organizations felt that there was a culture for SD. The culture they were referring to might be an “environmental” culture instead of an SD policy. The Committee distributed SD Act policies (Guidelines Regulations, etc.)

The Subcommittee recommended to the MESDW that selected organizations be approached to present to the MESDWG the policies that they have – i.e., Red River Community College and University of Winnipeg might be possibilities for presentations. The idea is to share SD policies with the MESDWG and then later at a general Consultation.

The Subcommittee recommended that a website of policies be made available. IISD has a sustainable campuses policies bank (1991). When people are aware of existing policies on SD, they could be encouraged to write their own policies. The Subcommittee suggested that the MESWG try to recognize groups that have policies in place. Many organizations report on policies through annual reporting processes (i.e., provincial government and Manitoba Hydro). Approximately 12 organizations were approached regarding the extent to which SD policies were developed in their organizations including nine school divisions that were contacted.

The Sub-committee recommended that the broader consultation be a two-way communication process.

The MESDWG agreed that the Sub-Committee should contact organizations to request presentations (why they got started, what was there process) for presentation at Sub-committee meetings. The learning from these presentations could be incorporated into plans for the larger consultation. The Policy subcommittee should identify policies that should exist in organizations.

Given the reports from the Sub-committees (ESD framework/definitions and ESD Policy), members suggested that the Secretariat, with participation invited from the three working groups collaborate to develop a definition/simple framework for the September meeting.

Action: The Secretariat to work with WG members to develop the ESD framework/definitions piece and present to MESDWG at the next meeting.

SCHOOL AS A LEARNING FACILITY; MODELS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

A written report with next step actions was provided by the Sub-Committee (attached) and endorsed by the MSDWG. The Sub-committee recommends development of case studies and a gap survey as a next step in order to get the information required. To take the work to the next level of development a payed consultant may be required. Several web sites were suggested for the subcommittee to review to gather case study information.

REPORTS

The fourth version of the UNECE ESD Indicators were distributed. The Indicators will be finalized by the ESD Expert Working Group (UNECE) in November 2006. The Indicators might be used by the Sub-committees to benchmark where the status of ESD is in Manitoba.

The following agenda items were held over to the next MESDWG meeting:

- MECY/IISD Research Initiative report
- MESDWG ESD website design/development
- Consultation
- Communication Plan for MESDWG (call for Sub-committee – how to we structure; who needs to be involved?)

Given the full Agenda on June 9th, the “overview of decisions reached” was not communicated.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:20

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 21, 2006