

**Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development
Working Group Meeting
November 9, 2006 (12:00 - 4:00)
Location: Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
1645 Field Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

RECORD

The following participated in the meeting:

PARTICIPANTS	AFFILIATION/REPRESENTING
Asu, Vicki	Environment Canada
Bruce, Graham	Pembina Trails School Division Superintendent
Carruthers, Brendan	Manitoba Hydro
Creech, Heather	International Institute for Sustainable Development
Froese, Hilda	Manitoba Association of School Trustees, Winkler, MB
Gowanlock, Lorraine	Frontier School Division
Morrow, Dallas	Manitoba Advanced Education and Literacy
Murray, John	Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
Olafson-Dyck, Renee	Fort Whyte Centre
Swayze, Natalie	City of Winnipeg
Tetrault, Amanda	Teacher, River East/Transcona School Division
Watts, Dale	Red River Community College
Wishart, Rick	Ducks Unlimited
MESDWG Secretariat	
Adamson, Bob	Learning for a Sustainable Future, (LSF) Winnipeg
McDonald, Christina	Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth (MECY)/Advanced Education and Training
MESDWG Support	
Tran, Yolanda	Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth/Advanced Education and Training
Invited Guests	
Burgess, Terry	Learning for a Sustainable Future (Toronto, Ontario)
Dolan, Pat	Environment Canada (Ottawa, Ontario)
Farthing, Gerald	Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
Kingsbury, Susan	Environment Canada (Ottawa, Ontario)
Kozak, Stan	Learning for a Sustainable Future (Toronto, Ontario)
Najduch, Aileen	Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
Perry, John	Retired Manitoba Educator (Grades 3 to University)
Schwartzberg, Pam	Learning for a Sustainable Future (Toronto, Ontario)

The following members sent regrets:

PARTICIPANTS	AFFILIATION/REPRESENTING
Atleo, Marlene	University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education
Buhay, Bill	University of Winnipeg
Clement, Joan	Manitoba Association of School Trustees, Winkler, MB
Diduck, Al	University of Winnipeg
Druwe, Marcel	College Universitaire de saint boniface
Hardess, Lisa	Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources
Holst, Heidi	Past President, Science Teachers Association of Manitoba and & LSSD
Bakken, Jim	Green Manitoba
King, Leslie	University of Manitoba
Penner, Rob	University College of the North
Peter, Selvin	University College of the North
Peterson, Glenn	MB Conservation
Pham, Kang	MB4Youth, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
Robinson, Gordon	Education Faculty (CRYSTAL), University of Manitoba
Sadler, Nicole	MB4Youth, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
Steeves, Gord	City Executive Council, City of Winnipeg
Waito, Barry	Louisiana – Pacific

The following results arose from the meeting:

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members were welcomed to the 6th meeting of the MESDWG. New members in attendance included Dale Watts representing Red River Community College. As well we had in attendance a number of guests both from Manitoba and from Ontario. Welcome to representatives from: Environment Canada and Ottawa, Susan Kingsbury and Pat Dolan; from Learning for a Sustainable Future Pam Schwartzberg, Terri Burgess and Stan Kozak; from Manitoba Education Citizenship and Youth Deputy Minister Gerald Farthing and Aileen Najdich (School Programs Divisions) and John Perry (retired educator contracted to work with MECY on the identification of SD-focused curriculum resources and the integration of SD concepts into technical/vocational programs).

REVIEW OF RECORD

The Secretariat conducted a presentation of the EDS website (now live at: www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd) to review the Record of October 5th, 2006. The Record was approved with no changes.

REPORTS FROM INVITED GUEST

1. Update from Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Gerald Farthing provided an update of activities related to ESD at the national and international levels. Canada attended a United Nations meeting in Vilnius and adopted an ESD Strategy. Manitoba led the delegation. The meeting was important in that it brought home and contextualized and crystallized the importance of ESD and the work that we have done and are doing. The Vilnius meeting led to some practical outcomes. One outcome, the ESD framework has specific expectations for countries to work towards over the Decade including Canada. Canada has signed on to the framework and is working towards meeting those expectations. There will be annual reporting back by each country to the European region (UNECE). Manitoba is actively involved in the reporting process and has a lead role to play in this regard. Prior to undertaking this UNECE work, our focus was regional. However, being involved in the process has made me us look at ESD from a national perspective and look at what we are doing collectively as a country. When we report back to the UNECE, the report will be from a national perspective. The questions we are grappling with are how to report nationally and whom do we work with to do so? Currently the CMEC is working with LSF through the National Expert Council, Environment Canada and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. Whereas Manitoba has the lead for CMEC; it is a team effort that takes partnership and collaboration. Manitoba is pleased to work with its partners regionally and nationally.

Gerald highlighted the recent presentation he made in Newfoundland to Deputies at a Council of Ministers of Education meeting in September 2006. Canada's involvement in the European region was highlighted at that meeting and Canada's approach to ESD. He reminded Deputies that Manitoba was designated as the lead on the ESD file and requested the continued support of the CMEC of Manitoba being the lead. The CMEC was comfortable with Manitoba maintaining the lead of the ESD file and being the "spokesperson" for CMEC. There were no concerns expressed by the Deputies and support was unanimous.

In December, Gerald and others will be attending another Steering Committee meeting of the UNECE in Geneva.

Manitoba, being the ESD lead in Canada is playing an important role in ESD and promoting ESD internationally. The opportunity to represent Canada and to lead this file is very exciting and rewarding and we intend to continue in this regard.

Gerald noted that ESD in Manitoba is not a new idea. Manitoba's school divisions are and have undertaken numerous ESD initiatives but noted that they might be labeled by other terms. This includes creating locally developed courses for students. Manitoba has a lot of people committed to ESD and advancing ESD in the province. The Province of Manitoba is interested in furthering that work and is looking for ways to support the good work that is already going on in our communities. We recognize and acknowledge what others are doing.

2. CIDA China visit report

Rick Wishart, Duck Unlimited, reported on a recent presentation by Ducks Unlimited (Not for Profit Organization), Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth (government department) and Pembina Trails School Division (educators) to a CIDA sponsored delegation from China. This delegation contacted many jurisdictions across Canada, including Manitoba focusing on developing ESD-focused curriculum for Party Schools in China. The focus of the requested presentation was on ESD and partnerships in that regard. Manitoba was identified as a key presenter due to the recognition that Manitoba is viewed as having taken action through partnership and collaboration in the area of ESD. The joint presentation included an overview of the Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group and the progress we are making together. Feedback from the delegation through CIDA was very positive and was identified as one of the most informative presentations that the delegation has received since the program began. Manitoba was pleased to have been recognized as a lead in this area and the potential to influence a country such as China in its efforts to teach students to make decision and take action from a sustainability perspective.

3. MECY Sustainability Education Report

Amanda Tetrault and John Murray provided a draft power point presentation that is being designed for use in schools and for teachers across Manitoba. The purpose of the presentation is to bring key ESD curriculum resource messages to schools such as: How would I integrate ESD into my day-to-day classroom activities? How is ESD already happening and how can one help it to grow? How do we encourage the recognition that teachers are already connected to good ESD? What does the term sustainability mean – what is a good educational interpretation?

This presentation is an extension of the ESD priority in Manitoba and is complementary to the work that the MESDWG is embarking on. The presentation to schools is paralleling the important work that the working group is accomplishing. Amanda Tetrault is taking the lead for delivering these presentations to schools.

Amanda conducted the presentation for the MESDWG and solicited feedback from the Working Group and guests. It was noted that there is some difficulty of representing graphically the complexities of the priority areas without creating a rigid framework that seems to be selective about what issues/themes fall under the sustainable development umbrella.

- When we talk about “Justice”, there is a need to pull in the social, economic and environmental perspectives as well. It was indicated that with “Justice”, it might be harder to do than say with a topic such as agriculture.

Further feedback included:

One-hour presentation. What can you do in one hour? What is the most important thing we can do? Is it knowledge that is going to get us there? Personal decision as to whether you do it? How much should be about information, skills, attitudes and values. Take the pyramid turning it on its point. The application phase – video clip (engaging, eye

opening,) would serve that purpose. Get people's attention right away and get "what's in it for me" message across. Talk about what is already going on in Manitoba such as raising money for Africa, creating hampers for the less fortunate, etc.!

It was established that teacher knowledge needs to be addressed. Discussions ensued about how to present this to teachers.

Action: MESDWG members to forward further feedback on the Presentation directly to John Murray (copy Amanda).

THE SECRETARIAT/STEERING COMMITTEE WERE TO:

- **Follow up with the City of Winnipeg regarding representation on the WG**

The Secretariat reported that a letter was sent to the City of Winnipeg, City Naturalist Office for Natalie Swayz, (City Naturalist) to be named to the MESDWG. A letter of support for Natalie Swayze was received from the City of Winnipeg nominating Natalie as a WG representative. Note since that time Natalie has been hired as the new Executive Director for the national group EECOM and from that perspective will also make an excellent representative of the WG.

- **Contact and seek representation from the Aboriginal community**

The Secretariat reported that a presentation will be provided to the Education Directors with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs on November 22, 2006 to invite representation from the Aboriginal community.

Action: The Secretariat will report to the MESDWG regarding the outcome of the presentation to the Education Directors at its next meeting.

- **Receive information from MESDWG members if they required letters of participation.**

The Secretariat reported that no members of the MESDWG contacted them in this regard and that at this time all members who were in need of letters of participation have received them.

- **Convene a meeting of the chairs/co-chairs regarding a demonstration of the on-line community.**

The Secretariat reported that a meeting of the chairs and co-chairs and the Secretariat will be held on November 20th with Janet Dent from MECY regarding a presentation for the proposed on-line community

Action: A report to the MESDWG regarding the utility of the online community will be provided at the next meeting of the MESDWG.

- Receive a report on the Sustainability Education Project

See special reports above #3 made by MECY and the sub-committee reports in this regard.

- **Receive feedback from the sub-committees on the UNECE Indicators of Progress**

See reports from Sub-committees on this action

- **Receive feedback from sub-committees on a proposal for an ESD Conference in 2008**

See reports from Sub-committees on this action. Also see EECOM leadership team report on a vision and plan for an ESD Conference to be held in 2008.

- **Receive a report from the EECOM leadership team on the Leadership Clinic held at the EECOM Annual General Meeting and conference in Nova Scotia October 18th and 19th**

See EECOM Leadership Conference report.

- **Obtain approval from the WG on the contact information posted on the MECY ESD website**

The Secretariat reported that all members have had an opportunity to review the contact information posted on the MECY ESD website.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum; Professional Development; Learning Resources:

The Chair of the Subcommittee provided a written report on the subcommittee meeting of October 30 and discussed the ESD indicators alignment with the subcommittee. The committee reported that there was an alignment of the UNECE Indicators to the subcommittee objectives and mandate. The subcommittee also provided feedback in regards to the Sustainability Education Project presentation, which was made to the committee. The subcommittee deferred comment on a conference until after the EECOM Conference Report to be made at the WG meeting on November 9th.

School as a Learning Facility; Models and Innovative Practices

The Co-Chair of the Sub-Committee provided a written report on the subcommittee (inspiration graphics) regarding a Network of SD schools and a data collecting method. The subcommittee will conduct a survey based on *Draft Inventory of Education for*

Sustainable Development Activities (LSF) but will revise it to make it more appropriate for schools. The Secretariat will post the finalized survey on the website.

Policy; Priorities; Guidelines and Regulations

No report was presented, as the subcommittee has not met since the October 5th MESDWG meeting.

B. LEADERSHIP MEETING: CONFERENCE PLAN AND PROPOSAL

The Leadership Team conducted a presentation of the outcome of an EECOM leadership Clinic held on October 18 in Nova Scotia. Five members of the team were in attendance at the Clinic. The Team focused on two main issues – to develop a strategic plan for a Manitoba ESD Conference, and to explore options for a Manitoba EECOM. The Team was comprised of the following individuals: Cheryl Bailey, Bob Adamson, Christina McDonald, Rick Wishart and Brendan Carruthers. The Team also had an opportunity to attend workshops focused on strategic planning, communication, and program evaluation. Opportunities to meet with other teams from other jurisdictions were also provided during the Leadership Clinic. Powerpoint presentation and handouts were distributed.

A presentation outlining a proposal for a Manitoba Conference on ESD was made to the MESDWG. The proposal addressed the rationale for an ESD Conference, how the proposed ESD Conference aligned and addresses the MESDWG Terms of Reference. The proposal also articulated suggested conference titles, goals, objectives, structure, keynote/panels, target audience, outcomes and indicators of success. The proposal also identified potential locations, dates, themes, logistics, expenses/revenues and next steps for the MESDWG.

Action: The Secretariat to post the final presentation on the MESDWG website.

It was proposed that additional funds raised for the 2008 ESD Conference be used to follow up and support the development of a Manitoba ESD Action Plan and to support the continued work of the MESDWG.

Input from MESDWG members were requested.

The MESDWG provided feedback and noted that,

- In order to attract educators from Manitoba, the MESDWG should explore the ESD Conference proposed for 2008 could be the only option in 2008 for the Special Area Group (SAG) Professional Learning for educators similar to what was done in 1990 at the World 90 Conference. It was noted that the Manitoba Teachers Society must be on side to make this reality.
- It is important to take the time to plan the Conference and do it well.

- The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development should be approached (potentially for funding) when the ESD Conference Proposal is better developed.
- there might be a way to connect the Conference to the Sustainability Education Academy (Toronto)
- The National ESD Expert Council, once established, could convene a meeting in Winnipeg and representative could attend the Manitoba ESD Conference 2008.
- The Conference be aimed all stakeholders (government, community, youth, industry, business, academia, international organizations).
- There may be an opportunity to work with the Science Council in terms of conference and showcase planning.
- That the Conference needs to be planned by a professional event planner.

Action: Chairs of the Subcommittees are to convene a meeting of their groups before Christmas to discuss conference proposal.

Action: The Secretariat is to follow up with consultants that specialize in conference planning and report back to the MESDWG.

NEXT MEETING:

January 11th, 2007 (12:00 to 3:30)
Pembina Trails School Division Office
181 Henlow Bay
Meeting rooms to be announced