

Environmental Education Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Reminder of Virtual protocol

I. Call to order, Breigh Rhodes: 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Commissioner's Present - Denise Bennett, Dean Blackett, Joey Breaux, Ashley Cain, Chris Conner, Murt Conover, Morgan Crutcher, Jessica Dixon, Heather Egger, Brian Gautreau, Dinah Maygarden, Ronnie Morris, Robin Narez, Breigh Rhodes, Brian Salvatore Ph.D., Kea Sherman

Also in attendance: Nathan Corley; and Chanda Johnson, LDOE staff

III. Consideration of emergency installation of chair

Nathan Corley paused to re-call roll to ensure a quorum.

Brian Gautreau motioned and Kea Sherman seconds, without opposition, to allow the chair-elect, Morgan Crutcher, to finish the remaining term, as well as remain in place for the regularly elected term, which will begin in January.

IV. Minutes of the previous meeting

Morgan Crutcher motions and Heather Egger seconds to accept the February 11, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carries without opposition.

V. Old Business

Keisha Payton, a representative of the LDOE financial team, presents a synopsis of the current budget, projected outlook for the upcoming year, and requested supplemental funding for the 2021 fiscal year.

Morgan Crutcher provides an update to the commission on the progress of the Environmental Literacy Planning Committee and the resuming of work on the Environmental Literacy Plan in August.

VI. New Business

A. Consideration of new LDWF appointment

Chris Connor, an outreach biologist, greets the committee.

B. Consideration of emergency election of interim chair-elect

Brian Gautreau nominates Kea Sherman. Kea Sherman accepts the nomination. No other nominations are suggested by the committee. Breigh Rhode motions and Dinah Maygarden seconds the installation

of Kea Sherman as interim chair-elect until the next regularly scheduled officer elections. The motion passes unanimously.

C. Consideration of staff recommendations for governor's appointments

Kea Sherman motions to recommend Mayor Harry Lewis for the position of Local Government Representative. Ashley Cain seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Brian Gautreau motions to recommend Kimberly Walden for the position of Environmental Advocate Representative. Murt Connover seconds. The motion carries without opposition.

VII. Louisiana Social Studies Standards Revisions, LDOE

Samantha Chaisson, a representative of the LDOE social studies department, provides a brief overview of the Louisiana Social Studies Standards Revision committee member selection process and current workgroup progress, including the five major priorities as outlined by the BESE Board.

Heather Egger motions to accept the report and Kea Sherman seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

VIII. Water Literacy: A Shared Vision for K-12 Environmental Education, Ripple Effect

Guest speaker, Claire Anderson, the executive director and co-founder of Ripple Effect, whose subject was on research conducted on ways to empower the youth of south-east Louisiana to become water-literate leaders centered around the intersection of climate change, sea-level rise, and environmental education and equity. She provides both qualitative and quantitative reflections from interviews with over 70 teachers, scientists, community members, etc., and the summarized findings from six stakeholder reports, (K-12 Teachers, Pathways and Progressions, Challenges and Transitions, Community Voice, Working Together, and Shifting the Paradigm).

Nathan Corley asks if there are any further questions. Breigh Rhodes moves and Kea Sherman seconds to accept the report. The motion is passed without opposition.

IX. Adjournment

Breigh Rhodes moves to adjourn. Kea Sherman seconds. The motion passes without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.