



MEETING MINUTES

Outreach Committee

July 2, 2008 – SNJV Conference Room, Las Vegas, NV

Members Present: Hal Sullivan, Chair; Joe Boylan, Vernell McNeal, Herb Spiegel, Walter Wegst

Members Not Present: Lee Geiser, Helen Neill, Genne Nelson, Ron Salzano

Department of Energy: Kelly Snyder, DDFO

CAB Facilitator: Rosemary Rehfeldt, Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc.

EM Public Involvement Staff: James Stover, Dona Stevens

Rosemary Rehfeldt opened the meeting with a review of the meeting's agenda. In Hal Sullivan's opening remarks, he reiterated what had been discussed at the last committee meeting pertaining to the possible creation of EM-related lesson plans for use in classrooms that would satisfy Nevada Education Power Standards.

Kelly Snyder gave an overview briefing on the Environmental Management (EM) Outreach Program. This briefing outlined each of EM's outreach initiatives, which include:

- ◆ Community Advisory Board (CAB)
- ◆ Operation Clean Desert
 - Interactive children's display
 - Activity book
 - Computer game
- ◆ EM fact sheets
- ◆ EM displays
- ◆ EM website
- ◆ UNLV Community Query – questionnaire surveys
- ◆ EM News Flash (electronic news page)
- ◆ Public Reading Rooms / Electronic mailing list

Ms. Snyder explained to the committee that the CAB's Charter empowers the CAB to give recommendations to the DOE on current and new EM-related material. Once the committee has formulated their ideas or activities, such as the creation of lesson plans, the CAB would make their recommendation to DOE by drafting a recommendation letter that must be approved by the entire Board. DOE reviews all of the CAB's recommendations and takes the following guidelines into consideration when deciding to accept or decline those recommendations:

- ◆ Funding
- ◆ A need in the community
- ◆ Whether or not to accept the CAB's complete recommendation or a portion of the recommendation

- ♦ If the DOE is unable to accept a particular recommendation, or a portion of a recommendation, the CAB is always given an explanation as to why the recommendation could not be accepted

Herb Spiegel told the committee about a children's science book that he co-wrote and had published. The book explains simple science experiments that children can perform at home using common household items. He suggested that the Outreach Committee possibly look at using this as an example to create a PowerPoint presentation or a children's book for DOE to distribute to the general public.

Mr. Spiegel asked if CAB members are able to go out to the community with outreach products, or just make a recommendation to the DOE to create the products. Ms. Snyder told the committee that conducting EM outreach to the community is DOE's responsibility. However, the CAB could conduct outreach on CAB activities.

Ms. Snyder also told the committee that DOE welcomes suggestions from the CAB for hands-on activities that can be used in classrooms. Within the CAB's purview, the Board would make recommendations on any proposed hands-on classroom activities for DOE to take into consideration.

Rosemary Rehfeldt explained that the Environmental Management (EM) children's display, *Operation Clean Desert*, had been assembled for the committee meeting, so the members can experience and comment on the display, activity book or CD if they chose to. Members also received copies of the accompanying *Operation Clean Desert* activity book and computer game CD.

The committee began to discuss the EM children's display, *Operation Clean Desert*. Members suggested that DOE look into taking the display to the Andre Agassi Boy's Club, or the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. Mr. Spiegel asked if DOE thought about using the display at the Mad Science summer camps. Ms. Snyder said that she would look into this option. Ms. Snyder told the committee that DOE is open to the CAB's suggestions for venues to display *Operation Clean Desert*. Mr. Wegst asked if CAB members could staff the display. Ms. Snyder said she would determine if this was acceptable. When the committee asked how much the display has been used, James Stover responded that it varies, but is used anywhere from 6 to 12 times per year. The last display was at Rosemary Clarke Middle School in Pahrump, NV, and reached 600 students.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that DOE research which Nevada Education Power Standards are being met for the school grades that are participating at a particular event where the display is being used. He said that, because of the "No Child Left Behind" laws, school principals and teachers are more likely to use the display if the Power Standards apply, perhaps with a lesson plan to go along with the display.

Ms. Snyder told the committee that UNLV, under a grant from DOE, has sent out a questionnaire to small communities surrounding the Nevada Test Site (NTS). Hopefully this questionnaire will help the DOE understand the community's perspective on EM activities at the NTS. The results will be shared with the CAB.

Walt Wegst asked if DOE has displays that demonstrate radioactivity and Geiger counters, showing the radioactivity of common household items. Ms. Snyder confirmed the Nevada Site Office has these supplies.

The following recommendations will be drafted into a letter for Full Board approval:

- ♦ Create a list of venues for the EM children's display *Operation Clean Desert*, and its related materials
- ♦ Look at Nevada Education Power standards that apply when using the *Operation Clean Desert* display and related materials
- ♦ Look into the establishment of an EM science fair at local schools that are competitive and judged, with awards and certificates given

The next meeting date and time was set for Wednesday, August 6, 2008 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. The meeting location is to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.