

CANADIAN GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION NETWORK

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Minutes of the Canadian Geoscience Education Network Meeting held in Vancouver, January 31st 1998

IN ATTENDANCE: Fran Haidl, Katherine Bergman, Godfrey Nowlan, Alan Morgan, Baxter Kean, Pat Dillon, Dave Sinclair, Jeremy Hall, Chris Barnes, Dileep Athaide, Brian Bornhold, Pierrette Tremblay

PM : Howard Donohoe, Denis St-Onge, Sherry Elchuck, Maureen Lipewick

1. OBJECTIVES FOR THE MEETING

- 1) To see what refinement is possible to the CGC PAES draft in order to solicit CGC's support.
- 2) To discuss how recommendations are complementary to existing programs in place. We want to avoid direct competition of programs for funding and investigate how recommendations are complementary to programs in place;
- 3) To discuss how to achieve better communication and coordination between existing programs which tend to be local/provincial; identify appropriate funding, targets in education.

2. GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION CONFERENCE (Alan Morgan)

GEOSCIED II was held in Hilo, Hawaii in July 1997. At that conference, an international geoscience group was formed and it will develop a newsletter. Proposals were requested for the next conference. CGEN developed a bid in time for the September 15th deadline thanks to Alan Morgan but the bid from Australia was favoured. Canada was offered to host the next conference after that.

After discussion, it was agreed that CGEN would host / coordinate GEOSCIENCE IV to be held in Canada probably in 2002. Holding this international venue would come strategically at a very good time for CGEN and certainly give it more credibility and hence higher funding levels.

Many ideas were discussed like run a symposium around the theme of teaching and bring teachers from all across Canada. The theme *Teaching at the local level* was suggested. There will be a need to raise funds to support teachers.

Alan Morgan agreed to be our representative to keep in touch with the Australia group.

ACTION : Alan Morgan to circulate comments by e-mail and solicit venues and proposals for GEOSCIED IV by May 1998.

3. EARTHNET

The \$4000 funding from CGC was gratefully acknowledged by AGS and came at a critical time. A report has been submitted along with a request for more funding.

In the absence of an AGS representative, Godfrey Nowlan is asked to provide a brief overview of the development of Earthnet. It started as a directory of Earth science materials available in Canada. Graham William was the main proponent. Pat Mackin did most of the work. Earthnet has become a nice website. A new upgraded database will be put on site soon. Office space and server space are supplied by GSC-Atlantic.

It has grown by leaps and bounds and is on the verge to become interactive as lesson plans developed by teachers are being put on line . One major limiting factor has been the lack of sustaining funding.

People discuss

Link other websites to Earthnet

Setting up a national teachers advisory committee

AGS to draft a letter suggesting they invite other societies to link to Earthnet.

The following suggestions/comments/questions were made

Who does Earthnet report to?

The

4. SPECIAL SESSIONS AT QUÉBEC 1998

CGEN is co-sponsoring two special sessions at Québec 1998

Towards Ecotourism : a Geoscientist Perspective 1/2 day

New Partners in Earth Science Education : a full day ending with a one-hour plenary session.

ACTION : Pierrette Tremblay to get in touch with Mia Boidiry from Science North for Sudbury 99 to discuss a special program on PAES.

5. EdGEO NATIONAL PROGRAM (Fran Haidl and Kathy Bergman)

Financial support was provided for 10 workshops involving 206 teachers during 1997 from Calgary to Nova Scotia.

EdGEO has \$22 603 in bank.

Major sponsors for 1997 were the Geological Association of Canada, the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and the Canadian Geoscience Council.

Fundraising campaign is getting on a roll. Lynn Kelley has accepted responsibility for this effort. A list of potential donors is being "shortlisted". The issue is raised whether

People who run workshops cannot carry-over money. They must return unused funds to the

national account. Brochures are being revised to reflect changes in policy.

Fran passed around a promotional item developed from the article published in The Reservoir that can be used for publication in newsletter of member organization. This will be used in fundraising campaign

Comments - need to include phone and fax number, e-mail address

- send as one-page ready to be published in

Explain linkage to CGC and CGEN

A draft version of the first EDGEO newsletter is circulated. It is suggested that the contents be put on internet. Discussion followed on how best This newsletter

Part-time position (120 hours a year at \$15 an hour) is being created to take care of routine matters (general administration and fund raising) so that executive members can concentrate on expanding the EdGEO program.

6. Plan of action for Public Awareness of science in Canada - a discussion

Background :

Following the recommendations of the Barnes report, the Canadian Geoscience Council (CGC) struck four committees in May 1997 to address the main issues : Cooperation, Economic Growth, Earth Science and Public Awareness of Science. CGEN was asked to develop a plan of action for public awareness of science in Canada for CGC.

How CGEN came into being was reviewed by Godfrey Nowlan. CGEN act as a coordinating body, offer advice, support delivery of programs at the local levels, examine curricula. We discussed how to encourage constituent societies to buy into some of the PAES programs we will identify as key programs or to develop some programs themselves

Some of the questions raised

Have we fully established what other non CGC related groups are doing? The need to create linkages with other groups was mentioned.

Can we deal with the broader scale of public awareness or should we concentrate on- school programs? The group felt it was perhaps overambitious at this stage to attempt more than concentrate on curriculum for K-12.

Should we work out a more aggressive approach to education and challenge industry to support these successful programs if we want to expand them on a much larger scale.

Should one of CGEN's role be to target successful programs for expansion?

CGEN is linked to all the boxes but the boxes are not linked together. May be as a starting point we should focus on developing these links between already existing programs. As an example, EdGEO committees have been made aware of Earthnet and teachers participating in EdGEO workshops have been asked to provide lesson plans for Earthnet.

The group felt it was important to survey our member organizations and find out what they are currently doing. We cannot act as a coordinating body until we know what our member organizations are doing.

Who is involved or would like to be involved

What are they doing?

and let them know how they can help.

This compilation will allow to identify gaps and target those areas and find the tools to deal with those gaps.

There was also a discussion on whether we should put our resources into curriculum development or is it the responsibility of other bodies. CGEN had significant impact into the development of Pan Canadian Science Curriculum. Curriculum materials should be provided by provincial & local organizations.

Are we providing what teachers need?

We need to involve teachers in generating materials and passing this material along to other teachers.

After much discussion, we focussed on actions that could be achievable in steps.

ACTIONS

- 1) Compilation of active players in the area of PAES
- 2) Expansion of the EdGEO program across Canada
- 3) Support of Earthnet activities
- 4) Evaluation of curriculum resources (such as the BC Mining Association package)
- 5) Support of WAT ON EARTH as a medium for geoscientific exchange
- 6) Hosting of GeoSciEd IV conference in 2002

We discussed how much money would be needed to support these programs.