

MCCC Steering Committee Meeting

March 27, 2014

East Lansing, MI

Minutes

The meeting was held at the USDA-NRCS State Office, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250 East Lansing, MI

Present: Brian Bourdages (Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy), Sandra Clark (DNR MI Historical Center), Ray Fahlsing (DNR Park and Recreation Division), Janet Howard (Mi Workforce Development Agency), Nancy Krupiarz (MTGA), Jennifer Marfio (MFB), Chuck Nelson (MSU), Lori Phalen (MACD), Steve Philip (DNR former MCCC Leader), Matt Evans (MUCC), and guests Sarna Salzman and Bill Watson (SEEDS), Harry Bruell (Conservation Legacy), Carl Linqvist (Superior Watersheds Partnership & Land Trust), Carol Huls (Corps Network), Lisa Brush (Stewardship Network) .

The meeting was called to order by Lori Phalen at 9:40 am.

Sandra Clark motioned to approve the 2-27-14 minutes, second by Matt Evans. Carried.

CCC Background

Harry Burell

Harry Bruell runs the Conservation Legacy in Colorado. He has 22 years of experience with the Corps Core Network. Background provided: 6 million young men were in the core between 1933 and 1942. In 1981 funding was eliminated. There is a new federal corp movement encouraging play, learn, serve, and work. There are 80-100 corps today and they are made up of 39% female and less than 47% have a high school diploma. The corps encourage career prep, education, support, skill training, and life skills. The ages of participants are usually 16-25 years old with allowing veterans up to age 35. The corps include interns, advanced crews, and charter school crews. The California Corps recruit, enroll, assess and train, public service work, transition, and then a job. 70% of corp workers continue their careers in conservation. The average budget for a corp is 1.5 million. The 21 CSC program is the national network of programs around the country. The 21 CSC started in 2009 and is a movement to bring back the corps to aid young and unemployed conservation projects. Their goal is 100,000 participants. Harry encouraged the group to try and get a commitment from the DNR and State for contract income. He also suggested connecting to AmeriCorps and to partner with MI Community Service Committee. There is a corp network in Washington DC that supports organizations starting a corp. The group has standards for corps to follow.

SEEDS

Bill Watson/Sarna Salzman

SEEDS is a non-profit group that started up in 2009. They have a holistic perspective and focus on ecology, education, and design. SEEDS crews are made up of 5 members and 1 team leader. Most of the workers are 16-24 years old and "at risk". The cost for the crew is \$120/hour to cover costs and break even. Most crews are full time in the summer and part time during the school year. The group focuses on academic benchmarks, job readiness, formal training and certifications, a social/emotional learning environment, and exposure to prospective employers and mentors. The groups budget is 1.5

million with \$503,000 government grant/contract work income, \$135,000 from private funding, and \$856,000 is earned through work. The group participates in projects that require light carpentry, trail building and maintenance, small scale farming, historic restoration, and invasive specie removal. The SEEDS group faces challenges such as year round work opportunities, cultivating new clients, long term member tracking, and funding for training and professional development. SEEDS partners with Corps network which provides access to scholarships, Michigan Department of Education which 21st Century Community Learning Center funding helped launch youth corps programs to join with local schools and ISD's, and the National Park Service. SEEDS would like to see the CCC create work and not competition among corps, to partner and engage with what is working, an intra-government "gardening" where agencies can work together and synergize State resources, and State consistency in all corps.

Superior Watershed and Land Trust

Carl Lindquist

Based out of the UP the SWLT group has 10 year around staff and work in 15 counties with a budget of \$2 million. Their funding comes from a fee for service, private donations, and contract work. This summer the group will have 5 crews. Each crew consists of 6 members, 1 assistant leader, and 1 leader. Carl stressed the importance of a collective impact from the corps.

Due to time constraints, Janet Howard of the Michigan Workforce Development Agency will be moved to the next meeting for her presentation.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Marfio