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**9am – 10am: Trainer Recertifications**

Recerts administered by Seira at 9 am

**10am – 12pm: Meeting**

Raleigh Keagan, Lori Forrester, Will England, Callie Moore, Hayley Wise, Sarah Sweat, Brenda Jackson, Mike Kahle, Sammi Eubanks, Harold Harbert, Seira Baker, Jane Pearce, Lina Yazbak, Bailey Crapps

**Introductions**

*Upcoming AAS workshops and meetings listed below.*

➤ **Updates from the State Office:**

- Thank you, Mary Lou. Welcome Bailey Crapps!
  - ML's last day was Tuesday → accepted a position in the private sector. State Coordinator position has been posted and it closes Oct.2, but will be re-posted for a second round.
- Confluence 2019: Friday & Saturday, March ~~23 – 24, 2017~~ (22-23, 2018) at Unicoi Lodge, Helen, GA
  - Conference planning – sessions, agenda, keynote update
    - Attendance may be down, but people may want to stay. We need to book 30 rooms as a part of our deal with Unicoi. (rate code is 08009) All food is included except for Friday dinner. We could all go to Helen (restaurant there called Paul's? with large covered outdoor seating area we could look into reserving). Pizza (careful because of GF people) & salad and a taco bar were both suggested.
    - Friday is the social: Brenda and Raleigh have trivia questions, Sarah and Hayley volunteered to lead again.
    - Key note will be at 10am on Saturday with maybe some sessions before and sessions after. Some sessions will be shorter than 2 hours. S'mores suggested for Saturday night.
    - Sunday suggestions: guided hikes (contacted Duncan Hughes), stream restoration site tours by Callie and Raleigh with HRWC (would need numbers ahead-minimum 12 people-of time for vans and probably at least two hours), Smithgall, Duke's Creek, Anna Ruby Falls (separate fee because federal land), discounts for zipline, classed at Unicoi, Macro session, fly fishing, winery tour (EEA did this), fly fishing.
  - AAS Water Science Poster session
    - Target surrounding schools= UNG, Young Harris
    - GA Science Fair is the weekend before and the Atlanta Science Festival is the same week
  - Fundraising suggestions  
Responses from survey
- Awards update  
Draft New Teacher Award shared from Ruth:  
Excellence in Teaching: more difficult for teachers to compete with less documentation in database. Nominations will start in next couple of weeks on the website. Deadline is Jan 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Nominee has gone above and beyond at exposing students to the goals of AAS.
  - Nominee involves students in water quality testing, watershed cleanups and stream appreciation both in the classroom and in the field

- Nominee has involved students in protecting their watershed
- **Manual/Website Updates**
  - Format review of new manuals
  - Volunteers for Manuals Committee?
  - Database manual/intro to database for community coordinators and for volunteers to register, input data, and viewing and understanding their data
  - Bacteria photos in powerpoints need to be updated (unclear photos)- TNACI and Callie could send in photos of good examples
  - List on CC on website updated?
- **Database Survey**
  - Review of potential questions
  - Agreement that there needs to be a database survey and most said they would be happy to review the questions before it was sent out.
    - Questions on how to delete sites/ errors and typing in lat/long.
    - New calendar system since the Google account has locked CC's out from inputting own events; get IT to change the window once we figure out a new system.
  - Numbers have gone down since SC has initiated their own program
- **Veteran Trainer point system**
  - Voucher for one year of recert
  - A way for veteran trainers to train new trainers
  - Point system
  - Resume worthy, professional development incentive for meeting attendance/ involvement, trainers will keep up with everything then submit at a certain time, define criteria.
- **Rivers Alive update:** revise waiver/combine waiver and sign-in/streamline

➤ **Updates from Community Coordinators**

- Lori: worked with master naturalist (Cherokee and Forsyth) and did full trainings and tests with volunteers; did a mystery watershed activity with kids where they go into the database and analyze the data
- Callie and Raleigh: Young Harris College Intro. to Chemistry students are also utilizing the database to analyze data for classes, trained 30 volunteers this year- double the number of previous volunteer base=increased interest in the program! The NC program person has not emailed Callie back since their vacation time.
- Brenda: partnering with McMann and Polk counties in TN next summer to do a water ed program (4H20); rivers alive clean up is at the end of the month
- Sarah, Hayley, Sammi: grant funded teachers only workshop Oct 27-teachers will go home with chem. and macro monitoring materials; bacterial workshop Nov 17; worked with Catoosa 4H this summer; they travel as far as Dalton, Murray, and Whitfield. They had 8 Rivers Alive sites. Tammy Hutchinson (Dept of Ag) interested in EE.
- Mike: working with lots of high schools; a local church donated money and he wants to create a scholarship for Confluence- application process/criteria still needs to be drawn up→ share criteria from WAWA meeting if any.

**12pm – ~4pm: Tours of TNACI & TN Aquarium**

Tour of TNACI, lunch at Mojo Burrito, Sammi gave tour of TN Aquarium

**Upcoming AAS Events**

**Volunteer Workshops:**

Thu, Oct 4: Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Workshop

Wed, Nov 7: Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Visual Stream Survey

**Events:**

October 1: Community Coordinator Meeting, Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, Chattanooga, TN

October 6: Coast Fest, Brunswick

October 6-8: GRN Paddle Georgia Fall Float on the Flint River Monitoring & Chemical QA/QC Workshop