

# November Board Meeting Agenda and Notes

## Quick Links:

[VEEN October Board Meeting Agenda & Notes](#)

**Date:** November 7, 2023, 6pm-7pm

**Attendees:** Nicole, Emily, Mandy, Ali

**Absent:** Keri, Lauren, meg, harmony

**Secretary:** Mandy

## Board Meeting Agenda

- I. 3 minute updates per person – timed (led by Emily)
  - A. Outdoor learning and nature playscape resources for Nicole
    1. [https://naturalstart.org/sites/default/files/benefits\\_of\\_connecting\\_children\\_with\\_nature\\_infosheet.pdf](https://naturalstart.org/sites/default/files/benefits_of_connecting_children_with_nature_infosheet.pdf)
    2. <https://naaee.org/programs/eeworks/benefits-early-childhood>
    3. <https://youngandresilient.wordpress.com/portfolio-2/the-importance-of-environmental-education-in-schools/>
    4. <https://naaee.org/programs/eeworks/benefits-k12-students>
    5. <https://www.nwf.org/Kids-and-Family/Connecting-Kids-and-Nature/Nature-Play-Spaces#:~:text=The%20idea%20behind%20a%20nature,outdoor%20play%20and%20learning%20environments>
- II. Recap from last meeting- Ali
  - A. Webinars- Mandy
  - B. Membership drive
    1. Emily and Ali will send out an email
  - C. Membership gathering
- III. Northeast Affiliate meeting 10/27- Ali
  - A. 2-hr Friday meeting in which folks more personally and richly engaged (EE folks enjoying getting to know one another in community!)
  - B. Meeting notes:
  - C. Completed spreadsheet on all affiliates part of the meeting and different skills they are both good at and would like to grow support/capacity in
  - D. Diverse Board across higher education, individual groups, etc.
  - E. **All VEEN Board Members strongly encouraged to attend any/all meetings in future, even if it is just one**

- F. Likely to collaborate on mini-grants or other funding!
- IV. [Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program Seeks Proposals for Education and Organizational Capacity Initiatives](#)
- A. **Organizational Support (up to \$20,000)**  
 These grants support projects that will support increased organizational capacity and long-term effectiveness of watershed organizations working to implement elements of *Opportunities for Action*.
    - a) November 3, 2023
    - b) January 5, 2024
  - B. **We should apply for organizational support!**
  - C. “The intent of this grant category is to assist watershed organizations with the early stages of their development or to assist established watershed organizations in strengthening their organizational capacity. The goal is to increase capacity, not develop new programming (this work can be requested in other LCBP grant competitions).”
  - D. Proposal should center how VEEN is arguably a “watershed organization” (e.g., environmental education spanning all Vermont watersheds) and center language from [Opportunities for Action](#), including: “advance critical objectives that address the goals of that plan: Clean Water, Healthy Ecosystems, Thriving Communities, and an Informed and Involved Public” and “overarching themes . . . the mitigation of **climate change impacts** in the **Lake Champlain watershed** and a focus on including **diverse voices and communities** with **environmental justice** concerns in this work.”
  - E. Who would like to take the lead?
  - F. **Action Items:**
    - 1. Emily/Ali - Circulate notice of the grant to Board for *all Board Members* to review by December meeting
    - 2. Emily - Share Google Doc to crowd-source information
    - 3. Schedule one working meeting (~2-3 hours) for subcommittee to crank out a complete grant proposal before holidays
    - 4. A few folks work asynchronously on final edits/research
- V. What **action steps** need to be taken by our next board meeting?
- A. Emily+Ali - Write an email for membership
  - B. Emily/Ali - Email notice of the grant for *all Board Members* to review by December meeting with availability pool for grant-writing co-writing workshop. Include Google Doc to crowd-source information?
- VI. Pick a meeting date for Dec - time TBD
- A. **Tuesday 5th**
  - B. 12th?
- VII. Please approve last month's [meeting notes](#) and [September](#)