

RCE Severn Steering Group Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 28th April 2016, 11.00am Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham

Attendees:

Meg Baker, Katherine Foot, Gareth Parry

Apologies:

John Blewitt, Alex Ryan, John Henry Looney , Paul Warwick,

Minutes prepared by MB, meeting chaired by MB

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. Round table of introductions and welcome
- 1.2. Unfortunately John is currently unwell therefore Meg chaired this meeting.
- 1.3. The small turn out brought about a conversation regarding finding ways of improving attendance, this is included in AOB at end of minutes.

2. Actions and updates since last meeting

- 2.1. Update from GP regarding GWTs latest community engagement project - Working with Avon Wildlife Trust, GWT has recently secured a £1m grant for the Natural Estates project. This project will train over 1,000 18 - 24 year olds in community engagement and conservation skills and work with more than 7,000 young people over the next 5 years as a response to youth unemployment. Young people in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewksbury will be engaged in the project, housing organisations, youth groups and educational organisations across the area are involved with the project too.
- 2.2. RAU have recently been awarded the winner of the Guardian University award Sustainability category
- 2.3. Updates from RCE Severn are covered in the rest of the meeting.

3. Projects and collaboration

3.1. Arts Project – “Sharing the Planet in the Anthropocene”

- 3.1.1. MB updated on the community engagement arts project and explained that the collaboration between Good Works Publishing and RCE Severn provides a good example of how RCE partners can benefit from working with the network to raise the profile of initiatives, activities and events.

- 3.1.2. Feedback from the group was that the “What we are looking for” section of the project overview needs simplifying to maximise engagement with young people and members of the public beyond academia.
- 3.1.3. The project will be launched as soon as the UoG website is launched (May) in order to provide a platform for the project to be communicated. Any support from RCE steering group members in promoting this project would be appreciated.
- 3.1.4. Meg is also seeking sponsorship for prizes - GP recommended a contact with Ecotricity and GWT may be able to offer something.

3.2. RCE Severn Forum

- 3.2.1. The RCE Forum will take place on Monday 18th July, from 1pm at Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham.
- 3.2.2. The group agreed that this will be a good opportunity to raise partners’ awareness of opportunities associated with being part of the RCE network. It is hoped this will become an annual event. It is important that this is an interactive event with opportunities for networking and potential for attendees to develop tangible outcomes from discussions.
- 3.2.3. Some small changes were discussed for the order of programme

Actions:

- ***Support from steering group in promoting the arts project and the RCE Severn Forum***
- ***Any steering group members aware of potential arts project sponsors - please contact Meg: rcesevern@glos.ac.uk***
- ***Please pass the details of the RCE Forum on to any organisations/ individuals you think may be interested in joining the network. The final agenda will be sent out in the next few weeks.***

4. AOB

4.1. Steering group membership and meeting attendance

- 4.1.1. KF suggested offering skype meetings as an alternative to the face-to-face meetings of the steering group in order to reduce time taken out of members’ ordinary work, this would also reduce carbon emissions/ costs of attending meetings.
- 4.1.2. The question was raised as to whether nominating a vice chair for the steering group may be useful, this was particularly poignant given John’s circumstances.
- 4.1.3. Discussion of governance structure (i.e. vice chair/ terms of steering group membership) will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Next meeting

- 5.1. This should be either before or after the summer to try to maximise attendance. If steering group members feel a skype meeting would be more feasible, please reply with comments.