



Midwest EE Conference Evaluation **Appendices**

This document is part of the full evaluation report from the 2005 Midwest Environmental Education Conference. The full document is available from www.iowaee.org or the Iowa Conservation Education Council. The full report (73 pages) is available in three sections - the primary report (26 pages), the appendices (47 pages), and Appendix 6 Outcomes - Personal and Professional (7 pages).

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Key Evaluation Contributors

For the 2005 Midwest Environmental Education Conference

July 20-23, 2005, Mason City, Iowa



Iowa Department
of Transportation



REAP Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP): Invest in Iowa, our outdoors, our heritage, our people. REAP is supported by the state of Iowa, providing funding to public and private partners for natural and cultural resource projects, including water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, parks, trails, historic preservation and more."

Appendix 1

Logic Model for Work Plan

1. Stated Objective/Link to EPA Strategic Plan	2. Grant Funding	3. Work plan activities and time frame for Accomplishments	4. Results of Activities	5. Projected Environmental Improvement	6. Established Baseline for Measurement
<p>The MEEC will address EPA Goal 4 <i>Healthy Communities and Ecosystems</i></p>	<p>The MEEC will utilize \$10,868 of federal dollars, matched with \$57,100 of non-federal dollars and in-kind funds to:</p>	<p><i>Bring in compelling speakers</i> for the MEEC on July 20-23, who have expertise and information about <i>health and the environment and citizen stewardship</i>; and <i>provide in-depth field training</i> to stimulate critical thinking, and inspire educators so that they will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. continue to teach EE (in spite of obstacles that lead to attrition) 2. adopt new curricula or methods that fit their teaching needs 3. incorporate information that is new to them 4. examine their personal knowledge of issues for accuracy and balance <p><i>Develop and implement a model</i> by February 2006, for future use by EE conference planning teams to help them <i>plan, survey participants and evaluate</i> their work so that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future conferences can include both formative and summative evaluation so that 2. The process of 	<p>To produce a high quality professional development event that attracts 400 educators and natural resource professionals (including 55 Iowa educators new to EE workshops) who will return to promote <i>healthy communities and ecosystems</i> where they teach.</p> <p>To produce a manual on a website for future MEEC conference planners including an evaluation section</p>	<p>The MEEC inspires these educators to teach about <i>healthy communities and ecosystems</i> or engage citizens in environmental stewardship activities for <i>healthy communities and ecosystems</i>.</p>	<p>The criteria used to gauge performance will be:</p> <p>60% of participants surveyed will have used conference-based information/activities in their educational efforts to promote <i>healthy communities and ecosystems</i> within 6 months after the conference</p> <p>40% of participants surveyed will have made a personal environmental/cultural change related to <i>healthy communities and ecosystems</i> within 6 months after the conference</p> <p>A meta-evaluation will determine whether the evaluation model was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. successful in providing data that was timely and effective for conference planners (based on qualitative data), was 2. effective in reaching a sufficient number of participants based on the total conference attendance (based on 25% for e-mail survey and 25% for phone survey) 3. effective for eliciting outcomes data from respondents.

		evaluation during and after an event becomes easier for planners to do because a model exists so that 3. EE events can document a direct route to environmental stewardship.			
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Appendix 2

Midwest EE Conference 2005

Overall Conference Written Comments

Survey Completed Immediately After Conference

We needed a map of campus where the individual rooms are as it is difficult to get around if you are not familiar with the area. We need signs outside the buildings and doors to which sessions are where. My schedule says "Gym" there is no "Gym" on my map!! The sessions are not always named the same thing from one part of the packet to the next. The times are not listed the same from one page to another either? There is no where to evaluate the field trips or to gather info on why lots of people didn't attend one. [Field trips were evaluated on separate forms.]

Very well organized – good sessions/speakers. I would suggest putting all the 90 minute sessions in the same time slot so don't have to miss out on other speakers.

The film "The Tallgrass Prairie" with Dr. Daryl Smith was an excellent presentation. On Friday the time from returning from field trips until dinner did not allow enough time to clean up after a very hot and humid day.

Thanks for all the hard work a wonderful job!

The nametag lanyards w/tickets were WONDERFUL! Conference notebook packets were extremely useful. Thanks!

I really enjoyed the conference, but it seems ironic to me that most of these conferences concerning the environment take place inside air conditioned buildings.

GREAT!!!

I really appreciate being given a pad of paper and pen at a conference. The MEEC folder was very nice, too and I will re-use it. I thought the MEEC keychain/holder for our name-tags was nice, but not something I'll ever re-use.

Field trip to Clear Lake etc. was wonderful. Best guide I've had at any EE conference (15 years!). Best logo for any conference too! Good job Carol!

A great conference! I wish I'd had time to attend more of the sessions/speakers. Everyone was very positive and friendly. The field trip was great and I thought it was very affordable.

45-60 minute sessions are good length.

Best workshop I have been to!

Local emphasis was GREAT! Well organized.

May 2006

Iowa Conservation Education Council

Great organization and signage – wonderful location. Great silent auction!

Last conference we had a book swap – that was fun. Think of doing that, maybe?

Thanks to Carol for great organization and help when I needed it.

My Thursday lunch session with Deborah Lee was well-organized and very informative as was my Friday Field trip with Same Thayer and Mike Krebil – neither of these were on this sheet, but they were my favorite sessions.

It's always unfortunate when there's more than one good concurrent at a time could concurrents be offered more than once during the conference?

Of all the conferences I've attended, this is the most consistently interesting, stimulating and welcoming I've attended. Very enjoyable. Well organized. Great silent auction items.

Canoe trip was excellent with many useful conversation and connections being made among people all day.

Music – I really enjoyed Curt and Tom – their bluegrass and John Prine songs. The lunchtime herbal program on Thursday contained some misinformation. Dr. Pete Myers' message is incredibly important and one of the main reasons I decided to attend MEEC this summer. Alisa Meggitt was an exceptional presenter with a real connection with Senegal and an ability to make the connection between first world consumption and third world deprivation. She presented three very concrete activities I can use.

It would help to have more college level material. Muir presentation was fine theater. Criteria on the gradient won't do it justice.

Need more outside discussion time. For instance – the John Muir re-enactment and the music should have been around a campfire, or at least under the stars. The air conditioning was nice during the day though!

Tallgrass Prairie video was excellent.

Allow more time between field trips and dinner/evening social activities so people can clean up.

I liked the field trip day between days of concurrents – it breaks up the information overload.

The herbal lunch presentation was a bit sketchy – I think the presenter only knew about half of what she was talking about, and is a better saleswoman than educator. I wanted to know more about how to prepare the herbs more than a very general overview.

For breaks during the concurrent sessions it would be easier time-wise to have the coffee break items in the same area as the concurrents, instead of on the opposite end of campus.

We stayed at a Bed & Breakfast, wanted to bird at 6:30 (too early for B&B Breakfast). We were told we could have breakfast at the dorms but encountered locked doors on that building.

Chad Pregracke was a dynamic way to end the conference.

90 minute sessions made some choices difficult. Wanted to be at the next session too so had to miss part of one.

Carol Schutte, you did a great job! (sending you a hug for that!)

Maybe include a map of the city and its streets to be included with the more basic map of the interstates. (found one on 3rd day of conf. in a pamphlet in our package).

I thought there would have been more outdoor workshop, live entertainment, etc.

Great conference, great food, great entertainment!

The whole conference was extremely well planned and carried out!

Please have some sort of information about who donated the silent auction items – people/organizations give items as a marketing tool yet if the participants don't have that info, no marketing takes place and it may be harder to get items in the future.

We attended Thursday only. Great AM keynote. Please use kenaf, recycled content or other eco-appropriate paper for all conference materials.
Perhaps a speaker next time "Case Histories on Successful Organizing for Environmental Purposes."

Campus confusing at first – long way between concurrents.

Spectacular!

I was a presenter and couldn't be here for these other events but heard a lot of positive comments about Pete Myers. Sessions could easily have been 1 full hour. I am bummed I missed these – next time hopefully.

Directions to get here not so good. Include a list, e-mail/address of participants?

Signs for registration/conference workshop [need to be] better!

Workshops that can be utilized: grantwriting/funding sources, EE program ideas, community resource availability, etc.

Make sure times/dates are all the same (workshop times were off)

Field trips were excellent and recommend them.

Evening speakers/presenters accommodate evening atmosphere

Scholarship availability was great, the reason I was able to attend.

I had a great time! Thanks for all your hard work!

Wild Edible Field trip was GREAT. So very much preparation and sharing!!! 10
Deborah Lee was great – not on form.

Could put location of session also on description.

Could put speaker contact info in brochure.

Mention to participants verbally and in program to use cell phone etiquette – talk away from other people and turn off cell phones during programs.

Maybe a reminder that we'll be in air conditioned building – some forgot to dress appropriately.

Remind speakers to read over their session description and follow it. Save time for questions.

May 2006 Iowa Conservation Education Council

Preferred music didn't get interrupted by silent auction final bidding.

Overall, a great, well-organized, friendly conference. I'll remember it as most filled with interesting speakers with a theme of rivers – interesting to see rivers from different perspectives.

No breaks to really visit and interact.

I thought this conference covered a good range of subjects. It seemed well planned and to run smoothly.

Great job planning all of the conference.

Thanks so much for all the hard work that went into this! Great food, great ideas, great people.

Wonderful, wonderful, thank you, thank you.

Wild edibles field trip was great!

Directional arrows could have been a darker color.

Thanks and hats off to Carol for a wonderful job well done.

Chad was, by far, the best keynote.

Red dots made me uneasy!!! A target?

The program (printed) contains a wealth of information and obviously was constructed with a lot of thought...but...I somehow missed the whole idea that Friday was just for field trips. Perhaps if I had had the program before I arrived it would have helped me but perhaps I just need to read more carefully.

Appreciated the civic consciousness too with empty bowl, etc.

Well run. Bravo for all the hard work.

Need more signs of where to go especially when people first arrive – where to meet for field trips, direct to the other building, have student guides to help.

Identify main coordinators w/ special shirts or name tags. I never knew who to ask for help.

A job opportunity board – something where jobs are posted.

Field trips were good and needed. It was nice to take a break from sessions.

The banquet dinner was nice as well. It was good to have a sit-down type dinner.

Try to break up sessions more. You had 2 recycling programs following one another.

Vendors were okay. Information was good to see.

Thought there was a good variety of speakers and topics. It was hard to choose at times.

The field trip I took – landscapes of Iowa was outstanding! A very good time – outstanding presenters and beautiful places. Learned a lot of new things related to organic farming.

Appendix 3 MEEC 2005 Concurrent Sessions Ratings (Full listing from After-Conference Survey)

Scores from 1-10 with 1 = "didn't reach me" and 10 = "best I've EVER heard." First score = "speaker stimulated you to think critically" and second score = "speaker inspired you to take action."

CONCURRENT SESSION	Responses	Low score	High score	Average
Stolen Future (think)	4	6	8	7.25
Stolen Future (inspired)	4	6	10	7.50
Sustainable Living (think)	10	4	9	6.40
Sustainable Living (inspired)	10	4	9	6.80
Service Learning (think)	5	4	8	6.80
Service Learning	5	4	9	7.40
Kindernature (think)	6	3	9	6.83
Kindernature	6	3	10	8.00
Mountain Lions (think)	11	5	9	7.45
Mountain Lions	11	5	9	7.45
Solar (think)	2	8	8	8.00
Solar	2	8	8	8.00
Population (think)	1	1	1	1.00
Population	1	1	1	1.00
South Africa (think)	2	8	8	8.00
South Africa	2	4	5	4.50
Food & Farm (think)	5	5	9	7.20
Food & Farm	5	4	9	7.60
Water Quality (think)	4	3	7	5.25
Water Quality	4	4	7	5.25
E Books (think)	12	4	9	6.42
E Books	12	3	9	7.00
Snakes (think)	5	5	8	6.60
Snakes	5	4	8	6.00
Citizen Science (think)	10	4	9	7.20
Citizen Science	10	3	9	7.10
IA County Cons. Boards (think)	2	5	7	6.00
IA County Cons. Boards	2	5	6	5.50
Symposium (think)	3	4	8	6.67
Symposium	3	6	8	6.67
Restore (think)	7	4	7	5.71
Restore	7	4	9	6.57
Invader (think)	1	8	8	8.00
Invader	1	8	8	8.00
Sustainable Energy (think)	2	3	6	4.50
Sustainable Energy	2	2	3	2.50
Bison, B.B. (think)	8	5	10	7.38
Bison, B.B.	8	5	10	7.50
K-12 Energy (think)	2	6	6	6.00
K-12 Energy	2	6	9	7.50
Where Go (think)	6	5	8	6.83
Where Go	6	5	19	8.50
Sensory (think)	5	3	10	7.00
Sensory	5	4	10	8.00
Ecophobia (think)	6	6	10	8.50
Ecophobia	6	7	10	8.67
Life on Prairie (think)	2	8	8	8.00

Life on Prairie 2 7 9 8.00
 (1st score = think critically, 2nd score = inspired action)

CONCURRENT SESSION	Responses	Low Score	High Score	Average
Family Farm (think)	4	5	10	7.00
Family Farm	4	3	9	6.75
Field & GPS (think)	3	5	8	6.67
Field & GPS	3	6	8	7.33
Park Packs (think)	6	6	9	7.33
Park Packs	6	7	10	8.67
Tracking (think)	11	4	10	8.18
Tracking	11	6	10	8.45
Food Land & People (think)	4	5	6	5.75
Food Land & People	4	6	8	6.50
Depression stories (think)	4	5	9	7.50
Depression stories	4	3	9	6.50
Recycling (think)	6	5	9	6.33
Recycling	6	5	9	6.67
Nature Mapping (think)	2	8	10	9.00
Nature Mapping	2	8	10	9.00
People/Population (think)	3	4	7	6.00
People/Population	3	5	7	5.67
Science Clubs (think)	2	5	8	6.50
Science Clubs	2	6	8	7.00
Hawk Identification (think)	13	7	10	8.62
Hawk Identification	13	6	10	8.54
Ding Darling (think)	1	8	8	8.00
Ding Darling	1	8	8	8.00
Trail of Tears (think)	5	6	7	6.80
Trail of Tears	5	4	6	5.40
Wind (think)	3	4	10	7.00
Wind	3	5	10	8.00
Land (think)	3	7	10	9.00
Land	3	6	10	8.67
Interactive (think)	3	5	9	7.67
Interactive	3	6	9	8.00
Iowa Wildlife (think)	4	4	10	7.00
Iowa Wildlife	4	5	10	7.00
U. of IA Wild (think)	4	6	8	6.50
U. of IA Wild	4	4	10	7.00
E. Design (think)	4	3	10	6.00
E. Design	4	3	10	6.00
Change (think)	4	6	10	8.00
Change	4	6	10	8.25
Australia (think)	1	9	9	9.00
Australia	1	9	9	9.00
Music (think)	4	8	10	9.25
Music	4	7	10	8.75
Honeybees (think)	5	4	10	6.60
Honeybees	5	4	10	7.20
Looking Back/Ahead (think)	11	5	9	7.55
Looking Back/Ahead	11	5	9	7.64
Superconductivity (think)	0			
Superconductivity	0			

Appendix 4 Field Trip Written Comments

	Iowa Nature Centers	Alternative Energy	Fossils	Biking
Field conditions-safe/unsafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was hot, but had AC and beverages at various locations Walk was great All was fine Liked using comfortable air conditioned vans 	Some seat belts did not work.		
Problems resolved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not long enough at each center because of travel time 2 Coach was late so had to skip one center One center was not handicap accessible 			
Endorsed fieldtrip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Great topic – like to see what other people are doing. Need more time. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great hospitality 	
Other Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Too much time was spent driving Time with the NC staff was long enough, but would like to see some of the outdoor habitat Travel time was much longer than told Schedule fewer centers Need activities when traveling between NC sites Wanted to learn about the actual landscape and other visual things between NC Naturalists need to give out info. On subject areas taught at center 8 Needed more time to visit all sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Good variety of information 		<p>Give choice to bring their own bikes and helmets</p> <p>Give choice of packing own lunch</p>

	Canoeing	Landfills	Wild edibles
Field conditions-safe/unsafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I did not like the requirement to wear life jackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needed better info.on what to wear in order to get inside of cement company Shoewear caused problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Poison ivy – very bad Heat
Problems resolved			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader needs to consider how they handle where they stop and how they speak to the group 2 Group logistics of when speaking to a large group – wait to speak to everyone. No real problems due to extensive preparation
Endorsed fieldtrip			
Other Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A great deal of networking & informal learning Do an impaired water area to give a different learning experience Quality of leaders is very important (many comments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Facility Guides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give overview at beginning of day Questions asked were vaguely answered while on the hike Very organized for food preparation Would have liked some handout to ID plants Taking the session from foraging to feasting is important. Handouts is important Info. for novices on how to set up a class like this.

Appendix 5

MEEC 2005 Food and Facilities Written Comments

From After Conference Survey

Food

Need other drink sources besides OJ (some are allergic to citrus) even at lunch!!

Meals were great except white bread for box lunch on field trip was not very good. Preferred wheat or rye.

Pretty darn good

Delicious! It would have been nice to have had the hors d'ouvrs labeled as to what each was (particularly sausages) we were all very curious as to what everything was.

A MUST TO HAVE LOCAL FOOD! Please have good coffee too, nice organic and shade grown – I'd pay extra for this if it was offered.

OK, but that's a lot of effort!

Delicious, I even ate the beets and I don't like beets. Crisp was wonderful.

Pork? Corn?

Thursday lunch was a little blah. Thursday supper was SUPERB!

Excellent food and facilities – nice to have the campus camping option.

Great food – make sure you keep the fruit coming! Perhaps offer bagels, cream cheese – something less heavy – I'm a cereal person myself!

Food – It was really great to have local fresh produce and sustainably produced meat, mile and poultry. Not being able to eat onions, garlic, and related spices, it was very painful to look at all the beautiful homegrown tomatoes Thursday evening and not be able to eat one. Maybe leaving dressing as an option (instead of putting it on the salads) would help.

The dinner with LOCAL food was GREAT!

The soy milk and cookies for a snack was a nice touch and needed!

Coffee would have been good at breaks.

High value on local foods – great food!

Thank you for emphasizing local/regional foods.

Food was excellent

Food was alive. Really appreciated the efforts to obtain locally grown.

Coffee, tea would have been nice to have during the day.

Facilities

Use reusable table service, please! Cold in every room! Campus staff were unaware of conference.

Very cold!! Otherwise, nice.

If you have a disability (walking) you need to have more time to get to area for concurrents or have them closer.

Dorms hot!

Turn down the air!

Camping great option but 2nd and 3rd night no door left open for bathroom.

Camping option was great but during the second and third nights I woke up at 2:30 to use a restroom to find that all doors were locked. The previous night the door at the end closest to tents was unlocked. This was great as the restroom was right inside the door.

May 2006

Iowa Conservation Education Council

The construction detracted a little.

Venues too scattered. Directions to campus and to some rooms unclear. Locker room availability a plus.

Since the general meeting area was so far from concurrent session area it would have been nice to have a little more transition time, and maybe golf carts, vans, etc. available for people not able to walk as quickly between sites.

Maybe more signs to mark rooms. I was confused on PC 106A, 106B etc. Got in the wrong room 1st time.

Better signs please and mark which door to go in.

Very nice, just spread out a bit.

Too spread out for number of people.

If this conference could include recycling bins near the conference room or lunchroom or gym or near the classrooms – that would be great! This would make sense, especially with the message of this conference – (finally found some but had to walk some distance to get to them – still no mixed paper recycling).

Please have signs out earlier – during preconference please- signs to classes and in driveways to find buildings and which door to go in.

Needed more signage between parking and registration site.

Signage to get about campus not so good – need more.

Camping on the lawn was OK but the doors were locked overnight – be sure to let the campers get into the restrooms overnight.

Why not group camping at State Park – we are outdoor people. Pre-conference survey??

The facilities were great with the exception of location and number of restrooms available.

Appendix 6

Outcomes – Educational and Personal

- Wild edibles incorporated into some programs
- River clean up
- Nothing that I wasn't already doing

- Haven't had a chance yet-looking to do the conservation club
- Buying organic more-nice job on food and programming, addressing that
- Not right now

- Using more sign language in my programs-inspired me to take a class and use it more;
- Go to the river and do one of their clean up days with Chad Pergrake
- Taken a Sign language class; simplifying my life (speaker had an impact); speaker gave a lot scary of information on plastics-impacted me personally
- Shared information with coworkers

- Networking-connecting with those who led sessions-sharing with them; using ideas that were shared
- set up a clean up in Dubuque which was cancelled due to the hurricane-went down there instead
- Personal knowledge in general
- Chad's clean up-participated in his clean up

- Inn Serendipity-shared with board and others, spouse used books for classes 1st grade teacher
- We do lots of things, nothing set in motion by this conference
- Bed and Breakfast, new bike trail that we will use that we wouldn't otherwise, learned new songs

- More monarch tagging at audiences that I hadn't before-care facility; Jim Pease's Iowa Wildlife concurrent-used info to work on our exhibits and signage-history of wildlife in Iowa
- Listening to the CD that I got;
- fieldtrip bicycling –planned a field trip for our nature club to go up there

- Bracelet activity-sharing the nations water supply-shared, was of extreme value; attended the mountain lions of Iowa; visiting with vendors-shared with teachers
- Helped reestablish a mind set that I have for an appreciation for the environment

- Poisonous Snakes of Iowa I have incorporated into reptile programs here.
- Would like to ask speaker to present here. I have attended a tourism conference that was inspired by the workshop.
- Trying to use more organic foods-meals very good.
- Carter and Connelly were brought to Winter Solstice.

- Connections made with people...very important...spurs me on to do more Networking and connections are number 1; being supported by others in this part of the country
- Mark Edwards...finding wildness in the self; ourselves as creatures
- In the works...participating in discussion-local regional food groups, strengthen our economy; bring people closer to the source of their food
- Center for sustainable arts-for kids, community based arts
- Discussion group started with sub groups from it-creating a car coop, eco-village, network of local farmers
- Homestead couple were inspiring-incorporating their personal mission with the tourist industry
- Wild edible workshop; keynote on chemicals in body, health impacts
- Wild edible workshop contacted educator
- Use less plastic if possible. More conscious of heating stuff up in the microwave.
- I have mentioned the Nalgene water bottle to other people. I have shared the information with my husband.
- Program pretty set-nothing
- Presented [water quality program] to others
- I don't drink out of Nalgene any more;
- Extreme clean-up we did this year
- My intent was to open up a regional dialog to talk about monitoring and citizen science.
- Struck by how many wind farms there are out there-I would love to have that incorporated into my place ...alternative energy sources.
- Personal renewal
- Some of what we talked about in Nature Deficit disorder small group
- brought students to Mason City to visit the architect (energy fieldtrip)
- Incorporated some energy efficient stuff into our home and lives-solar battery chargers, thermal heating
- As a result of energy field trip-into our home
- The Park Packs-given the information to different teachers; plant a tree somewhere in the community (camp participants)
- Personal land-we have talked to INHF since then; don't microwave my stuff in plastic containers; roadside management on personal land
- I told my husband, my mom, a friend who is a dietician about plastics; recommended the INHF to others who have land
- Opened up my job search, expansion of knowledge and resources
- More active in REAP-attended meetings; used some information in class presentation and papers; become a member of CCB
- Organized regional REAP meetings in our area-to be more active and hopefully get more resources for the county

- Monarchs and Park Packs-an excellent idea for camps
- Nursing home residents do monarchs with them
- Choose more organic stuff, looking at the labels more closely; Susan Fowler is very inspiration-reminds you why you were in this field to begin with
- Encourage my family to bring their own canvas bags to the store

- 2 wild edible public programs, good ideas about prairie programs, learned a lot at keynote about plastics phthalates
- Networking with Sam Cummings; using more glass products versus plastics; getting word out about park packs to a national audience

- Contact some of the folks who didn't bring everything –lesson plans etc; I did look through everything
- Nothing that I wasn't doing before

- Food topic conference-incorporated it into curriculum on food issue; fossil boxes; river clean-up trying to get him to speak to her class
- Try to do mini river clean up; hands on stuff on food-community garden
- Inspired me to volunteer a day or two a week

- Trying to be more green myself and teaching others to be green
- Park Pack-wrote a grant and put together her own park packs
- Green aspect-learning where my products are coming from; eating more healthy
- Planning a larger garden, planting more apple trees and raspberry bushes-more things at home

- Wild edibles was the biggest thing, history, methods of programming through Susan Fowler's methods
- Wild edibles, pet rabbit too

- Info on water quality; renewable energy sources
- Trip to lime creek for Environmental Science class; water quality testing in the river near school
- Joined Midwest Renewal Energy and attended conference; installed corn burner; attending the NEED conference; collected wild edibles

- Food was great!
- Good selection of speakers.

- Made some changes in the way I present...monarch
- When we did our fall prairie workshop-we looked more specifically at the service learning portion
- Purchased a CD that I listen to in my car
- Probably not, a lot more monarch larvae monitoring

- Tried to provide more info on environmental books on my website

- Tried to have Susan Fowler come to speak here
- Cosmetics-thought more about it
- Nalgene bottles-purchased a steel one, plastics-changing the use
- Inspired by Chad (river cleanup)-we went out and did more IOWATER testing that every before
- Looking ahead to future farm practices on their own farm-making changes
- Keynote-don't use anything but #1 and #2 plastics; Canoeing the Upper Iowa-dream come true
- Can't think of anything specific- I know there was things that I used, but can't remember what they were
- Renewal for me-being with others of similar beliefs-renews what I believe-both in personal life and professionally; ecotourism speakers-be more sustainable at home
- Sharing sustainable living practices with my wife-doing a lot of that-live simply
- The tour session, field trip, around Clear Lake also visited an outdoor classroom. Incorporated a lot of things from that and from the nature centers for displays that I have worked on and created. My inspiration was from those sessions.
- When I teach environmental science, always incorporating info. Especially white tailed deer, nice to get some new perspectives.
- Some of the workshops that I went to for example, alternative energy, that workshop had to do with the different types of energy efficiency, in your home, education or work. Light bulbs, windows. One of the other things, watershed, done through Living Lands Waters. Not working with children at this point. Working with adults, can't say that I have incorporated any one specific activity.
- We have done a lot more with alternative fuel. Brought in more research, information that I got on alternative energy
- Used some of the content, some of the professional contacts, as new resources. A couple of the places that we went. A field trip, I have incorporated in my lab activities.
- My visit with the venomous snake section helped me to help with education and local snake handling and identification. Make the public more aware of the nonvenomous snakes that are being destroyed.
- Much more active now in lowater.
- Stewardship-wise, did go on the canoe field trip. From that I did end up taking some water quality training classes from loWater.
- Really, haven't done anything yet. Planning to do more next month. We are going to be, working Monday with my co-teacher to do some planning.

- Some of the foods from the displays and bazaar that was going on in the gym especially the composting and materials. The education, knowledge I have learned from the sessions, including the venomous snakes, I have included in my personal life.
- Own an acreage, 10 acres, hoping to convert the six acres in row crop to native prairie.
- We have reduced our use of plastic bottles.
- Back to that main speaker, he was talking about some of the everyday chemicals that we come in contact with. Made me a lot more aware, check labels, do some reading, things that are not good but are not regulated and used in everyday products.
- I upped how much I select the wind energy from Alliant.
- Some of, the energy field trip, some of the things they talked about reducing electricity and alternative sources. I have adopted several new technology/activities to reduce my energy consumption.
- The id and awareness of the Iowa tall grass prairies has given me more awareness of what our area looked like before and a personal mission to try to restore as many of the tall grass prairies plants as I can.
- Trying to drive less than six thousand miles a year with our car, riding my bike to work. Put a trailer on my bike so I can take it to get groceries.
- Worked on cleaning up a little bit along the river front.
- No.
- Incorporating some of the ideas back into my teaching and in my career itself and around my home.
- hands-on restoration
- Have refocused programming on nature play after seeing Ken Finch and spending time with him and others. Read "Last Child in the Woods" and am using that information to reach educators and better understand this next generation of teachers.
- Additional methods of getting the resources out as a result of the networking
- Much of what was presented was not new to me, but that doesn't mean I didn't pick up a few extra pieces of useful information. I have passed along the information I received during the solar presentation.

- Sessions such as "Activities Connecting Sensory Awareness in Young Children to Nature" joined the conference as a whole in providing a great deal of relevant materials, resources, and methods for supporting the way we do environmental education in the elementary school. I purchased books, a "critter cage", puppets, and other resources
- more speaking
- none, information supported what I already do.
- No new environmental service activities, but I've shared info, enthusiasm, and handouts with colleagues. Have renewed zeal for working with my students on environmental problems and studies. In teaching, I've incorporated the enthusiasm, the stories, and the kinesthetic approaches shared by presenters.
- ideas and information on alternative energy water testing
- Susan Fowler's method of story telling, acting, involving audience works very well with students. Chad P.'s inspirational speech is a constant reminder that we all can make a difference if we just start somewhere.
- Collecting and observing monarch butterflies as they progress from egg to caterpillars and eventually hatching. My next plan is to tag monarchs this coming summer. I have been able to share this with a variety of people.
- Our grade is rehabbing the trail in our local park. I'm new to this position and school, so I think I'll be able to get more done in future years! I appreciated hearing what others are doing as inspiration for the future.
- NONE
- None, I was only there for part of the conference.
- We have begun looking at Pre-school aged programs more. Also we found a "free space" on our property where kids could run and get dirty without worry of destroying natural habitat or someone's experience in it.
- Learned from Larry Stone's presentation--more information that can be shared with 3rd. and 4th graders in class and in after-school programs.
- Monarch Project.
- none--bio class got cancelled.
- plastics usage
- awareness

- Have plans to visit rattlesnake den site in Winterset. Have purchased and shared with others Nieman family pork.
- Most have been in the professional area.
- I am quite active in the environmental realm, but one interest that was renewed was edible wild foods.
- I have spent hours sharing with my siblings, friends, and coworkers information on wildflowers and the Loess hills. The dangers of using certain plastics in freezers and microwaves, as well as the dangers in cleaning them with bleach and hot water has resulted in reducing my use plastics and changing how I handle those I continue to use.
- more research
- While some might say that such a conference is like "preaching to the choir," I came away feeling re-energized & rededicated to a sustainable Earth. I couldn't help telling friends about "John Muir" and Chad Pregracke.
- ideas for energy efficiency changed most of our light bulbs thinking twice about using so much plastic using more organic products
- I carry garbage bags with me on my hikes to pick up trash instead of just relying on the limited space of my pockets. I'm planting for wildlife, even if it's small areas.
- I have started carrying a garbage bag with me when I kayak my stretch of the river to clean up whatever I can.
- NONE
- None, again I didn't attend many sessions.
- overall greater awareness.
- Greater appreciation for the birds in our life and the value of taking time to observe them.
- Not heating food in plastic containers in the microwave.
- I finally got around to replacing the rest of my incandescent bulbs with fluorescent ones.
- hawk id

Appendix 7

E-mail Survey Comments (6 months after conference)

Living Roadways Trust Fund & Iowa Department of Transportation Programs

- LRTF is great and glad to see the support for EE
- It was enlightening to be told that the DOT is responsible for everything along the roadways. I think they have done a good job of communicating to the EE community that their practices are conservation as well as fiscally oriented.
- More planting in the roadways -- they are great.
- While I am very happy with LRTF's interaction with the environmental community, I hope that they continue to try to manage the roadsides in a better manner. Mowing? Burning? Let's not undo that which has been done! Additionally, I'd like to see more cooperation with engineers to develop safe critter crossings in high-traffic areas, whether adjacent to wetlands (turtles, snakes, etc) or prairie or woodland, we need safe connections across roads.
- This was one of the most exciting things I took from the conference. The sheer enjoyment I have found in the programs surprises even myself.
- OK
- Hope that they are funded forever!
- Great effort
- Keep up the good work. Love the booklets as well as the calendars. The roadways in Benton and Iowa County are looking great.
- Plants I have seen along the road have spurred me to get a wildflower book to learn more about various plants.
- I am getting a grant for a mini forest from ICEC, so it's a good thing
- Great project, wish we could do more in Iowa.
- Good idea. Keep it up.

Appendix 8

Respondents' Highlights Remembered 6 Months after the Conference

- Wild edibles workshop was awesome; all keynotes were very good
- Karen Koenig starting a conservation club, after school-very useful; keynote-molecular biology-was nice because it was higher level program, very indepth-nice change
- Susan Fowler-her program sticks out the most; great place to have a conference
- Overall I was very happy with it. Chad Pregracke and his presentation. Sessions were very good
- Real good conversations-networking is one of the best thing that happened there
- Entertainment ...and Connelly
- General discussion of future of EE
- In Serendipity-Bed and Breakfast
- Bike trip was good
- Pre-workshop on monarch butterflies-very motivating
- Film-Americas lost landscape
- Chad Pregracke
- The networking opportunities were fabulous-meet with teachers in the area
- Speaker from CDC-morning keynote was fabulous [Dr. Pete Myer]
- Lewis and Clark workshop –watershed of the MO river-very interesting and valuable resource as well
- Keynotes were very, very good. Air conditioning was too cold. I liked the variety of sessions.
- Workshop that Mark Edwards did, discussions with him
- Workshop with Susan Fowler
- Field trip-wild edible
- Very good, we invited a presenter to do a workshop here
- Nalgene bottle-enjoyed the presentation
- Organic farm tour-Clear Lake really cool
- John Muir presentation was the most memorable thing I saw... Carol's effort to use local products "...significant accomplishment"

versations with (small group session) Nature Deficient Disorder person-he was terrific; keynotes were particularly good; enjoyed all of the sessions I attended including the early morning bird; one of the better conferences I have attended in all 32 years; energy field trip was absolutely great-the best

- Keynote speaker-plastic in nalgene bottle, really interesting what he said about his research; park packs concurrent session-pretty cool; Joe McGovern INHF-putting the land back into what it was historically-that was awesome; my first conference; loved the meal-Iowa grown, organic-still can taste the tomato
- Variety of topics available
- Mike Havlik-raptor identification; one of many; all great
- Pre-workshop Monarchs in the classroom
- Wild edible workshop field trip with Sam Cummings,
- I have been contacted by a committee member for the National Association of Environmental Educators conference in the twin cities in October , who attended my Park Pack session (REAP-funded program)- she invited me to submit a proposal to attend and present
- Food from the area was awesome
- Interesting variety of sessions-herbs
- Really enjoyed the couple who had the Inn
- I didn't have a bad session-can't often say that
- Easy to get around, find your way
- Really liked the Rockford fossil park; met a lot of interesting people-quality; stayed in dorms-pretty happy with them
- Speaker that talked about having the green Bed and Breakfast; talking with Lori Foresman-Kirpes about Park Packs
- Wild edible workshop it was really really good-I plan to use a lot of the information for my summer day camp
- Wild edibles field trip
- Speaker on the river
- Campus setting was beautiful
- Entertainment Carter and Connelly were very good
- Networking
- Susan Fowler; meeting Alisa Meggitt from Iowa City-now a friend of mine; Nalgene bottles-purchased a steel one

- Networking-regional perspective, fieldtrip-fantastic
- Inspiring speakers-types of talented people we were able to bring in-Chad V (just as good the 3rd time that I have seen him); entertainment was very good
- Young woman who did a presentation, handed out M & Ms of different colors and they somehow represented different socioeconomic and cultural groups around the world. Neat demonstration of the inequity of food resources in different parts of the world based on their energy supplies and how they could potentially use the food. Keith Myers, talking about endocrine disruptors, hormone disruption. Have used some material from his talk in my class.
- Went one day, the one program that really was very interesting, eye opening, presenter was talking about chemicals affects on embryonic life. The lethal doses of certain chemicals, parts per million, effect on embryos at very minute qualities. This is the forefront of research now.
- Field trip, Chad's speech, people
- I attended the butterfly thing. That was really interesting to see the butterfly do their cocoon. My daughter was in the one with Lewis and Clark so I popped over there and that was really interesting. Very informative.
- I really liked the session by Chad, very inspiring. I was disappointed that the clean-up didn't happen because of conflicts.
- I really enjoyed Pete Myers talk and it just so happened, knew about the conference, took a class assigned to read his book, Our Stolen Future. Was able to attend for one day, that day he spoke. Other speakers were also quite good, bed and breakfast, enjoyed the sessions. Day well spent. Got some good information.
- Had a booth there. Response from people there was extremely good. Interested in knowing more about the products. About renewable energy in general. RV, solar powered, a lot of interest. Went on a canoe trip that was really interesting.
- Some of the questions pertaining to the family farm. First, what is a family farm, how do you define it. That varies an awful lot. When we, our program was slides as well as talking so they could see. I think our family farm is unique because it is quite small as compared to I would say the average farm in Iowa or in the Midwest. Our presentation and feedback from the people there were probably the highlights.
- There was so much. It is hard to think back. There was a man and woman there, trip to Africa, slides, something that I would like to do some day. There was a lady there, she talked about the Depression, how people lived during that time, antique gadgets. Really interesting. Young lady, storyteller, impressed with how she involved everybody in the group. One of the stories was an African type story. One I had never heard before. The stories that they would tell their children.

- She picked people out of the group to help tell. We went on a field trip and found wild edibles. I was really impressed with that. It was a younger fellow when we were picking wild plants, took them back to a kitchen area, cleaned and cooked. Really impressed with that. Meal was good. Not to eat a whole lot of it, our system not used to do. It would be a fun thing to do, people who knew what to do. There were a lot of people in that. Went to the Solstice, hard to separate. Went to something in Davenport with birds.
- I enjoyed providing the session we did. Had a very good group. Had a good experience getting set up. Very positive. Enjoyed the interaction with the other people, other presenters and participants. Attended some sessions and have used in some of the ed programs we are doing. Food was good too. Interaction with other people was usually the most valuable thing to me. Also went to a session over the lunch time, woman who spoke on medicinal plants, personal interest. Took notes, haven't used the notes, but plan to.
- Would have to say the beginning conference with the prairie grass, first evening with the tall prairie grass video.
- The white tail deer seminar.
- field trip, Chad keynote speaker
- I would say the one thing that sticks out the most was the key speaker, John Peterson Myers, his presentation.
- I really enjoyed doing the wild food field trip.
- The field trip was very informative and helpful. Gave me some resources
- speaking
- Assistance & leadership of chair. Help from Lime Creek Nature Center staff where our session was held. Dynamic personality and enthusiasm from co-presenter. Music by Carter & Connelley.
- campus layout
- How expensive it was for me to present to about 3 people!
- in session discussions
- material that I can use in the classroom.
- enthusiastic audience at my session
- Would be nice to incorporate more restoration, or application of environmental learning.

- It was a well planned event with a great variety of speakers and activities
- I liked that there was a regional "spotlight" featuring the food, alternative energy, and watershed issues. I think the discussion about the future of EE may be a difficult one but important to address.
- They are a good resource for those that attend. Need to understand the value of a multi-state conference even if most participants are from the home state. Expect that they are a lot of work.
- I'm not sure if I was in a bad mood or what, but the ending speaker, Chad, seemed very arrogant as did his groupies. I hope he grows up soon. Therefore, the conference did not end on a positive note for me, which is unusual. I do know that there were many fine speakers and a lot of work was done to make it a success. Congratulations and thank you for making it happen!
- The conference attracted my attention because of a Reap refund and the offering of graduate credits. I continue to be impressed with the impact the conference has had on my person life choices as well as on my teaching.
- Need to get many more people involved
- It was a great setting, speakers were great, and field trips were great also.
- While alcohol was probably a big money-maker, I've enjoyed conferences more where it wasn't allowed. Those that wanted it could go off-site. I found the loud talk of those slightly inebriated to interfere with my ability to hear the entertainers, especially Joe Paulik. This is especially frustrating to me, as the entertainment part is one of the things I enjoy most about a conference. Participatory singing, where the audience is invited to sing along, builds group cohesiveness. We missed out on that; it had been a strong point of previous Midwest conferences. I was especially vexed because Curt Carter and Tom Connelley are personal friends. I appreciated Carol's relocation of their performance, but it still fell short of ideal because of the associated noise of conversation from drinkers. I attend many folk singing concerts during the year. I reckon that's what I was looking for, with an intermission instead of the continual background noise.
- I am glad I had the opportunity to go. Little things from speakers, field trips, and other sessions come to mind often. I think the impact of this conference will continue into my future.
- The people I met were inspiring. Not just the presenters, but the other participants. The food, accommodations, overall sessions were all well prepared. I don't think people realize how much time and energy goes into preparing such a workshop. Kudos to all who had a hand in it.
- Some of the nature centers that I visited on field trips have given me ideas to use as I do work with children at the arboretum. The bee session has started me on a mission to do further reading regarding bees, and I have developed activities about bees to use with children.

- It is important for me to remember that there are people out there doing wonderful things armed only with a good heart. There is no excuse for me to just sit and say "If only I had. . ."
- I did not attend any of it - I just presented one, and really poor attendance, and it was expensive to have to pay to present at the conference.
- I didn't attend many of the sessions. I felt the registration cost was excessive, but maybe in this day and age that is to be expected. I was disappointed that more Iowa educators were not present. Whether this was due to a summer schedule, cost, advertising, etc., I really don't know. Overall I felt the committee did a good job of putting together a conference agenda.
- It was a great experience for someone like me who is new to the field. I learned a lot and had fun too.
- There was no communication following the conference until now. There should have been, at the very least, a thank-you sent to the presenters and maybe some comments shared from the evaluations. The conference was well planned and had a wide variety of interesting sessions. The cost is high for teachers and others to present who have no organization to back them. The time to connect with others who care is worth the expense. Maybe even a meal offered to presenters would mean that they are appreciated. The displays with their wide variety of topics were very good.
- A lot of good classroom material and new contact people that can help me with new material for my classroom. Thanks
- It's good to see educators making an effort to improve environmental awareness. I've certainly tried to do so myself, with limited success.
- Little things I learned from different sessions and good friendships renewed.

Appendix 9
2005 Midwest EE Conference
Registration Survey

Please write one or two sentences stating what you hope to gain at this conference personally.

1. Getting to know other professional and enjoying their company through mutual activities and learning opportunities.
2. Again, I usually get rejuvenated at workshops, so I'm hoping that happens here.
3. Meet others to share ideas with.
Visit with others interest in environmental tours and travels.
4. Renewal of EE friendships.
5. A conference of this caliber always brings together old friends and leads to new acquaintances which create energy toward more envir. Productivity.
6. Meet some people with similar interests; help learn more to help us start up the nonprofit organization we have recently started.
7. Insight from others to improve my investigations.
8. New programs in EE.
9. A chance to network with peers and to teach others how to incorporate monarchs in the classroom.
10. See old friends, and meet new ones, and have fun during the field trip and entertainment.
11. I hope to gain new ideas and concepts related to teaching, work, and just everyday life – what is happening with the environment and what we can do.
12. A reason to go back to work.
13. I want to spend time with people sharing views to help me expand my personal perceptions on what is needed in EE.
Have fun with peers.
14. Personally, I'm interested in sustainable and alternative agriculture.
15. Same as professional gain.

16. Personally I hope to get my creative side going again after attending this conference by being involved in the workshops and gaining new ideas.
I also hope to form new friendships & be able to bounce new ideas with or work in the future.
17. dialogue, network with other professional and enjoy and discover the Mason City area.
18. None
19. Meet new people with similar passions and commitment.
Expand my knowledge about varied EE topics – like “herbal mysteries revealed” – what fun!
20. Time between sessions to process conference session gains.
21. Time to learn and have fun.
22. personally, I am interested in learning more about Iowa’s recent (last 25-50 yrs) conservation history. I’ve heard a little about conservation/environmental programs from the Cedar Falls area and the Rockford area (Fossil & Prairie Park)
23. None.
24. Having been environmentally oriented throughout my life, I’m always interested in learning all that I can about issues and concerns that involve our environment. I look forward to spending time with others that are of like mind.
25. I want to be more aware of environmental agencies that help the environment and what I can do to help as well.
26. I am relatively new to the field and hope to gain connections with other environmental educators.
27. I hope to learn about positions and opportunities in the field of conservation education. I know there are avenues I will learn about that will help me with the direction of my career.
28. I enjoy the outdoor. Anything that broadens my perspective is a definite plus.
29. better understanding and knowledge base.
30. Relax and enjoy a canoe trip and make new friends.
31. I hope to be re-energized and meet new friends.
32. Network – meet new people – visit with old friends.
33. Learn about a new section of the country.

34. I hope to get information and methods that I can use both now in everyday life, education, and in my future classroom.
35. Inspiration & recharge
36. I hope to network and learn more about the EE field.
37. I hope to gain networking opportunities with other formal and nonformal envir. Educators.
38. Meet new educators and be able to network as well as renew old friendships and share ideas and problems.
I hope to encourage others to keep teaching about our Earth.
I also need encouragement to keep up my enthusiasm while working with teachers and students.
Attending conferences keep us going like the energizing bunny.
39. As a lifelong community organizer and environmental activist, I am looking for networking possibilities, inspiration and regional allies.
40. I know that having this time with people with similar passions will encourage and inspire me.
41. New ideas. Great vendor info.
42. EE Contacts – progressive teaching community.
43. I just started this job.
44. I am looking forward to networking.
45. Networking with other EE people.
46. Encouragement and camaraderie of my peers.
47. Same as above and also picking up new ideas and talking with others with same interests.
48. I hope to meet equally environmentally minded people and have good time learning.
49. Rejuvenation, meet new friends, see old friends.
50. I hope to meet others interested in providing quality experiences in the natural world.
51. Broader understanding of EE.
52. None
53. Contact with friends and former students in the field of EE

54. I need to improve my canoeing abilities for my job as well as for my own fun.
55. Meeting interesting people.
Learn new EE techniques and info.
56. Encouragement to continue reaching children and adults to preserve Iowa's natural resources.
57. I hope to connect with people who share an understanding of the importance of preserving the natural world. I hope to be inspired and comforted by learning about what other people are doing to teach EE.
58. Interaction with friends, rejuvenation.
59. Meet new people.
Enjoy activities, area, food, and friends.
60. Cool facts & activities & ideas to teach my students.
61. Conferences like this always give me a "shot in the arm" of enthusiasm to continue teaching about conserving and protecting our environment.
62. Improve myself as a professional as well as a human being.
63. Opportunity to learn and support this kind of event. Thanks for your hard work.
64. I am a sculptor and installation artist and have been using environmental concerns in my work for years.
65. Rekindling of my drive to promote EE. Networking opportunities.
66. Confidence and encouragement from others that the above have done.
67. Things that I can share with all the people young and old that I meet with my part-time job in gardening.
68. Contacts. Encouragement
69. new friendships and retreat
70. Hope to learn more about sustainable practices so I can implement it in to my personal life. Always looking for new friends.
71. I hope to meet others in the field and establish relationships for partnering in the future.
72. Inspiration & hope are two very important aspects for any conference that focuses on the environment and conservation.

I hope to also be entertained and motivated by the other presenters and fellow participants. I also want to learn about conservation issues and the battles being fought for them.

73. None

74. Fellowship

75. I hope to learn more that will help me develop better knowledge of issues.

Appendix 10 Metaevaluation checklist

This checklist is adapted and simplified from those developed by the Joint Committee Program Evaluation Standards and a Program Evaluations Checklist available from The Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University.

The following checklist is presented as standards met, or unmet with notations, in this project. These standards could be given a ranking or score as to how well they were met (see original source listed at end), if scores would be useful to a stakeholder. The selected checkpoints are useful for reflection on the evaluation, as a final closure to a multi-state conference evaluation project. Comments in brackets have been added to highlight aspects or conditions that are not noted elsewhere in the final report.

Metaevaluation Checklist for Midwest Environmental Education Conference 2005 (adapted from Program Evaluation Metaevaluation Checklist, The Evaluation Center, Western Michigan University)

UTILITY

Information Scope and Selection

- Assign priority to the most important questions [**driven by logic model for EPA**]
- Allow flexibility for adding questions during the evaluation [**timing made this difficult**]
- Obtain sufficient information to address the stakeholders' most important evaluation questions
- Obtain sufficient information to assess the program's merit
- Obtain sufficient information to assess the programs' worth
- Allocate the evaluation effort in accordance with the priorities assigned to the needed information

Values Identification

- Consider all relevant sources of values for interpreting evaluation findings, including societal needs
- Determine the appropriate party(s) to make the valuational interpretations
- Provide a clear, defensible basis for value judgments
- Distinguish appropriately among dimensions, weights, and cut scores on the involved values
- Take into account the stakeholder's values
- As appropriate, present alternative interpretations based on conflicting but credible value bases

FEASIBILITY

Practical Procedures

- Minimize disruption and data burden [**participants did not complain about so many evaluations but could have as they were assessed many times for this project**]
- Appoint competent staff and train them as needed
- Choose procedures in light of known resource and staff qualifications constraints

- Make a realistic schedule **[this was missed in several categories but was OK on others]**
- As feasible and appropriate, engage locals to help conduct the evaluation **[field trip leaders explained use of the evaluation forms and collected them]**
- As appropriate, make evaluation procedures a part of routine events

Cost Effectiveness

- Be efficient
- Make use of in-kind services **[NIACC provided duplication and preliminary data processing services and provided the registration data base]**
- Inform decisions
- Foster program improvement
- Provide accountability information
- Generate new insights

PROPRIETY

Service Orientation

- Assess program outcomes against targeted and nontargeted customers' assessed needs **[did not consider nontargeted customers' assessed needs - this is an interesting question for EE providers, who are our nontargeted customers?]**
- Help assure that the full range of rightful program beneficiaries are served **[did not survey EE members who did not attend, potential participants, particularly teachers]**
- Promote excellent service
- Identify program strengths to build on
- Identify program weaknesses to correct
- Expose persistently harmful practices **[none noted]**

Formal Agreements, reach advance written agreements on:

- Evaluation purpose and questions **[included in contracting phase with EPA and within the grant applications]**
- Audiences **[not formally included in contract, assumed to be only conference participants, but planners and non-participants could have been included for evaluation]**
- Editing **[not formally included in contract, assumed to be the responsibility of contractor]**
- Release of reports **[not formally included in contract, rights to reproduce were included]**
- Evaluation procedures and schedule **[this was more rocky than anticipated but was eventually resolved in writing]**
- Evaluation resources **[agreements on resources were co-developed and evolved as the process raised unanticipated needs. This could have been clarified sooner but for various reasons was not developed beyond what had been included in the grant applications that were eventually funded.]**

Rights of Human Subjects [lead evaluator is certified for Human Subjects Review, ISU, 2003]

- Follow due process and uphold civil rights
- Understand participants' values

- Respect diversity
- Follow protocol
- Honor confidentiality/anonymity agreements
- Minimize harmful consequences of the evaluation

Human Interactions

- Consistently relate to all stakeholders in a professional manner
- Honor participants' privacy rights **[all comments separated from identifiers]**
- Honor time commitments
- Be sensitive to participants' diversity of values and cultural differences
- Be evenly respectful in addressing different stakeholders
- Do not ignore or help cover up any participant's incompetence, unethical behavior, fraud, waste, or abuse **[none noted]**

Complete and Fair Assessment

- Assess and report the program's strengths and weaknesses
- Report on intended and unintended outcomes
- As appropriate, show how the program's strengths could be used to overcome its weaknesses
- Appropriately address criticisms of the draft report
- Acknowledge the final report's limitations
- Estimate and report the effects of the evaluation's limitations on the overall judgment of the program

Disclosure of Findings

- Clearly define the right-to-know audience **[there was not a prior-agreed mechanism to report findings to participants who may benefit from the shared findings]**
- Report relevant points of view of both supporters and critics of the program **[few criticisms were found – all reported]**
- Report balanced, informed conclusions and recommendations **[Conclusions reported separately from recommendations]**
- Report all findings in writing, except where circumstances clearly dictate otherwise
- In reporting, adhere strictly to a code of directness, openness, and completeness
- Assure the reports reach their audiences

Conflict of Interest

- Identify potential conflicts of interest early in the evaluation **[handled through contracting agreement and earnest attempts to avoid conflict of interest – not sure what more could have been done or if there are unanswered concerns. Not fully resolved.]**
- As appropriate and feasible, engage multiple evaluators **[phone interviewers]**
- Maintain evaluation records for independent review
- If feasible, contract with the funding authority rather than the funded program
- If feasible, have the lead internal evaluator report directly to the chief executive officer
- Engage uniquely qualified persons to participate in the evaluation, even if they have a potential conflict of interest; but take steps to counteract the conflict

ACCURACY

Described Purposes and Procedures

- Monitor and describe how the evaluation's purposes stay the same or change over time
- As appropriate, update evaluation procedures to accommodate changes in the evaluation's purposes
- Record the actual evaluation procedures, as implemented
- When interpreting findings, take into account the extent to which the intended procedures were effectively executed
- Describe the evaluation's purposes and procedures in the summary and full-length evaluation reports
- As feasible, engage independent evaluators to monitor and evaluate the evaluation's purposes and procedures

Defensible Information Sources

- Once validated, use pertinent, previously collected information
- As appropriate, employ a variety of data collection sources and methods
- Document and report information sources
- Document, justify, and report the means used to obtain information from each source Include data collection instruments in a technical appendix to the evaluation report
- Document and report any biasing features in the obtained information

Reliable Information

- Identify and justify the type(s) and extent of reliability claimed
- As feasible, choose measuring devices that in the past have shown acceptable levels of reliability for their intended uses [**some was experimental but theory based**]
- In reporting reliability of an instrument, assess and report the factors that influenced the reliability, including the characteristics of the examinees, the data collection conditions, and the evaluator's biases [**not done in a special section but in general through report**]
- Check and report the consistency of scoring, categorization, and coding
- Train and calibrate scorers and analysts to produce consistent results
- Pilot test new instruments in order to identify and control sources of error [**not done as well as could be – the after-conference survey was the first full use though the problem of people misreading the form was anticipated. Data input resulted in extensive processing time**]

Metaevaluation

- Budget appropriately and sufficiently for conducting an internal metaevaluation and, as feasible, an external metaevaluation
- Designate or define the standards the evaluators used to guide and assess their evaluation
- Record the full range of information needed to judge the evaluation against the employed standards
- As feasible and appropriate, contract for an independent metaevaluation
- Evaluate all important aspects of the evaluation, including the instrumentation, data collection, data handling, coding, analysis, synthesis, and reporting

- Obtain and report both formative and summative metaevaluations to the right-to-know audiences [**no formative metaevaluations were done**]

Resources

Stufflebeam, D. L., (1999). *Program evaluations metaevaluation checklist*. Retrieved 4/06 from www.wmich.edu/evalctr/checklists

The Joint Committee (1994) *Program evaluation standards*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

Conference Survey Forms



t Environmental Education Conference 2005 “The Winds of Change” Registration Survey

In order to assist future environmental education conference planners, please tell us some things about yourself! We need all participants to complete the following survey and return it in the envelope provided. If we have not received this prior to the conference, we'll ask you to fill one out at registration. Thanks for your help!

Name _____

Daytime phone (during school year) _____ Evening phone _____

e-mail (if only during school year) _____ e-mail (year round) _____

Section A.

1) K-12 Classroom Teachers Only (others skip to Section A-2)

___ Number of years taught

___ Number of years you have included environmental or conservation education topics in your curriculum

___ Number of other teachers in your building who include environmental or conservation education in their work

___ Number of teachers from your building or district who are attending this conference

2) Participants (other than k-12 teachers)

___ Number of years environmental or conservation education has fit into your work

___ Number of years you have supervised/trained/coached others in environmental or conservation education
(leave blank if this does not apply to you)

All conference participants complete remaining sections.

Section B

Estimate the number of environmental education conferences you have attended in the last 5 years.

___ 0 before this one ___ 1 ___ 2-4 ___ 5-10 +

Please check the ONE statement ending that best completes this sentence for you.

When I go to an environmental education conference I most need to get:

___ teaching techniques that fit my topics and audiences

___ the latest developments or trends in environmental and conservation issues

___ the latest information about healthy communities and ecosystems

___ models for including environmental education principles in non-formal education

___ encouragement from peers to continue using environmental or conservation education in my work

___ Other (please specify) _____

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Section C. How did you learn about this conference (please **check** all that apply)?

direct mailed program announcement

postcard

newsletter for statewide environmental education organization

newsletter for local conservation organization

e-mail list serve

heard about it from a friend

other (please specify) _____

Please indicate the best medium to reach you in the future.

direct mailed program announcement

postcard

newsletter for statewide environmental education organization

newsletter for local conservation organization

e-mail list serve

Section D.

Please write one or two sentences (or more) stating what you hope to gain at this conference professionally.

Please write one or two sentences (or more) stating what you hope to gain at this conference personally.

Please complete and mail this survey in the enclosed envelope or to:

Carol Schutte NIACC-MEEC 500 College Drive Mason City, Iowa 50401.

May 2006

Iowa Conservation Education Council



You

Thank

Midwest Environmental Education Conference Feedback Form

Your careful consideration and thoughtful response to each of the questions will help us assess the value of the conference to 1) provide quality networking, 2) stimulate critical thinking, and 3) inspire action. Follow-up evaluations will assess outcomes after six months.

Help us assess the **PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING** aspects of the conference.

Tell us the moment when you:

Felt the most <i>welcomed</i> at the conference	Felt the most <i>distanced</i> at the conference
Felt <i>most connected</i> to other participants at the conference (had goals in common)	Felt <i>least connected</i> to other participants at the conference (had little in common)
Chose to have an informal professional discussion with someone new to you	Chose not to meet and visit with conservation educators new to you

Help us assess the value of the **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS** to you. **Mark an X on the gradient that corresponds to how much the speaker stimulated you to think critically about the topic. Mark an O on the gradient to correspond to how much the speaker inspired you to take action.** Circle NA on the right side if you did not attend.

Dr. Pete Myers, Our Stolen Future

* * * * * * * * * * NA
 Didn't reach me Best I've EVER heard

Lisa Kivirist and John Ivanko, Living the Good Life

* * * * * * * * * * NA
 Didn't reach me Best I've EVER heard

Tim Palmer, Lifelines: the Case for River Conservation

* * * * * * * * * * NA
 Didn't reach me Best I've EVER heard

John Wallace, John Muir

* * * * * * * * * * NA
 Didn't reach me Best I've EVER heard

Chad Pregracke, Living Lands and Waters

* * * * * * * * * * NA

reach me

Best I've EVER heard

Help us assess the value of the **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** to you.

For each set of concurrent sessions – **circle the session you attended** and put an **X** to correspond to how much the speaker **stimulated you to think critically** about the information/issue. Mark an **O** on the gradient to correspond to how much the speaker **inspired you to take action**. Circle **NA** on the right side if you did not attend any session.

Thursday Concurrent Sessions

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------------|------------|---------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|------------|----|
| 10:00 am | Stolen | Sust. Living | Service L. | Kinder. | Mt. Lions | Solar | Population. | So. Africa | |
| * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | NA |
| Didn't reach me | | | | | | Best I've EVER heard | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------|--------|--------------|----------------------|---|---|----|
| 11:00 am | Food & Farm. | W. Quality | E. Books | Snakes | Cit. Science | IA Cons. Bds. | | | |
| * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | NA |
| Didn't reach me | | | | | | Best I've EVER heard | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|----------|---------|----|
| 2:30 pm | Symposium | Restore | Invader | Sust. Energy | Bison, B.B. | K-12 Energy | Where Go | Sensory | |
| * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | NA |
| Didn't reach me | | | | | | Best I've EVER heard | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|---------|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------|---|----|
| 3:45 pm | Family Farm | Field &GPS | Park P. | Tracking | Food (FLP) | Depression | Recycling | | |
| * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | NA |
| Didn't reach me | | | | | | Best I've EVER heard | | | |

Saturday Concurrent Sessions

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|----------|---------|------------|----------------------|------|---|----|
| 8:30 am | NatureMap. | People/Pop. | Sci Club | Hawk ID | D. Darling | Trail/Tears | Wind | | |
| * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | NA |
| Didn't reach me | | | | | | Best I've EVER heard | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-------------|-------------|---------|-----------|----------------------|---|---|----|
| 9:30 am | Land | Interactive | IA Wildlife | UI Wild | E. Design | | | | |
| * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | NA |
| Didn't reach me | | | | | | Best I've EVER heard | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|-----------|-------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|---|---|----|
| 10:30 am | Change | Australia | Music | Honeybees | Looking Back/Ahead | Superconductivity | | | |
| * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | NA |

reach me

Best I've EVER heard

FOOD

Please help us let future conference planners (here and other states) know how valuable the effort to provide local foods was to your conference experience. Mark an X on the gradient to correspond with the value of having local foods.

* * * * * * * * * * NA
 I'd rather starve Perfect conference food

FACILITIES

How were the conference facilities? Mark an X on the gradient to correspond with the value of the facilities to your conference experience.

* * * * * * * * * * NA
 Interfered with my learning Ideal conference facility

Help us assess the value of pre-conference and post conference activities to you.

Circle the pre-conference activity you attended and mark an X on the gradient to correspond to how much the speaker stimulated you to think critically about the information/issue. Mark an O on the gradient to correspond to how much the speaker inspired you to take action.

Project Globe Project WET Monarchs Lewis and Clark
 * * * * * * * * * * NA
 Didn't reach me Best I've EVER heard

Circle the post-conference activity you attended and mark an X on the gradient to correspond to how much the speaker stimulated you to think critically about the information/issue. Mark an O on the gradient to correspond to how much the speaker inspired you to take action.

Becky's Fen River Clean up
 * * * * * * * * * * NA
 Didn't reach me Best I've EVER heard

THANK YOU for your attention and answers. If you have additional comments about the conference, (or the conference evaluation processes), please write them here.

5 Midwest Environmental Education Conference Field Trips Feedback Form

_____ Name of Field Trip

Please respond to the following questions by circling one of the criterion on the right for each question. N/A = not applicable

Low Medium High Very High N/A

1. To what degree did the field tour provide new information? L M H VH N/A

2. To what degree were you able to *hear* what was going on? L M H VH N/A

3. To what degree were you able to see the right things? L M H VH N/A

4. To what degree did the information relate to your environmental education work? L M H VH N/A

5. To what degree did field conditions make it uncomfortable or unsafe for you? L M H VH N/A
Specify condition (e.g., poison ivy, too hilly, too hot, etc.)

6. To what extent were any problems associated with the field session resolved to your satisfaction? L M H VH N/A
Specify problem and resolution:

7. To what degree do you endorse offering the same field tour topic at a future Midwest EE conference? L M H VH N/A

Please write any other comments about the event in the space below.

Please return completed form to a red or blue basket marked evaluation at the conference site, or mail to Carol Schutte, NIACC, 500 College Drive, Mason City, IA 50401.

E-mail Survey – 6 Months After Conference

1. What is your county of residence?
2. How would you describe your role as an educator?
3. How long have you been working or volunteering in the environmental field?
4. What part of the conference stands out in your mind, now 6 months later?
 Field trip
 Memorable meals
 Inspiring speaker
 Disappointing speaker
 Person(s) I met
 Time spent with friends
 Other (please elaborate) _____
5. Please list any environmental service activities you have incorporated into **your educational efforts** that you can attribute to information, inspiration, networking, or encouragement you received from the conference?
6. Please list any environmental or conservation activities you have incorporated into **your personal life** that you can attribute to information, inspiration, networking, or encouragement from the conference?
7. Have you noticed any Iowa Department of Transportation environmental or conservation project around Iowa since the conference? Yes No Don't know
8. Were you already aware of the Iowa Department of Transportation Living Roadways Trust Fund program efforts before the conference? Yes No
9. If you have a comment about the Iowa Department of Transportation Living Roadways Trust Fund program efforts, please write it here.
10. Please share comments about the Midwest EE Conference that are important to you now, 6 months later.

Phone Survey – 6 months After MEEC

Hello _____, My name is _____ and I'm calling about the Midwest Environmental Education Conference you attended last July at the NIACC campus near Mason City, Iowa. As part of the scholarship you received, you agreed to participate in an evaluation 6 months after the conference.

Is this a good time to ask you a few questions about the conference? [If not I'd like to schedule a better time for us to visit maybe 10 minutes or so?]

The conference sponsors require us to evaluate the conference by asking participants what you have thought about or done since the conference. I will be taking notes, but will not be recording our conversation; I may need to have you repeat a portion of your answer so I can catch up! Your answers will be confidential in our report to the conference sponsors, Iowa Department of Transportation, REAP, and the EPA, which provided funding for the conference and have requested evaluation information.

The first questions are quick to answer and are about you.

1. What county are you from?
2. How would you describe your role as an educator? (Are you a classroom teacher grade levels, college instructor/professor, non-formal educator?) [if they are not sure how to answer, ask them to tell you any particular "hat" where they've used the conference information the most]

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> early childhood | <input type="checkbox"/> college | <input type="checkbox"/> govt. admin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> private, non-profit | <input type="checkbox"/> business-based |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> naturalist (public, or private nature center) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> faith-based (school, camp or other) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> scout/4-H/youth organization | |

2a. How long have you been working or volunteering the environmental field?

3. Tell me about any part of your conference attendance that stands out in your mind, now, 6 months later? (this can be anything from where you stayed, memorable meals, inspiring or disappointing speakers great conversations)
4. Tell me about anything you have incorporated in your educational efforts that you can attribute to the conference.
 - 4 a. Can you describe any stewardship activities you have included in your educational efforts that were enhanced by the conference. [prompts may include ideas, inspiration or encouragement, specific information, networking with like-minded educators or partners – have they planned to do something this spring that was set in motion by the conference?] Can you give me more specifics please?
5. Tell me about anything you have incorporated in your personal life that you can attribute to the conference.

you describe any stewardship activities you do that you can attribute to the conference? [prompts may include “did you get ideas, inspiration or encouragement, specific information, networking with like-minded people – have you encouraged others to join you in an effort you had already been doing?”] Can you give me more specifics please?

6. Did you attend a field trip? [If yes, did your tour guide direct your attention to anything along the roadsides or to anything related to work done by the Iowa Department of Transportation? (these are yes or no – they may qualify their answers)
7. [If an Iowan,] Have you noticed environmental efforts by the Department of Transportation in other locations since the conference? [Were you already aware of their program efforts? Have you noticed new activities or efforts in areas as you travel that you recognize as DOT efforts?]
8. Is there anything you'd like to add that I haven't asked?

Thank you for your time today.

