



CHWA CESU Annual Meeting
Friday, June 8, 2018
National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
114 Instructional East
698 Conservation Way
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Minutes

- Dan Filer, CHWA CESU NPS Research Coordinator, welcomed all to NCTC and reviewed various housekeeping details.
- Eric Davidson, Director of the CHWA CESU, recognized project staff and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- Perry Wheelock, Associate Regional Director for Resource Stewardship and Science, National Capital Region, NPS, welcomed all and recognized federal partners and park personnel present.
- Tom Fish, CESU National Coordinator, gave an update on the CESU National Network and the national meeting that took place this week.
 - CESU is meant to overcome various challenges: limited resources, jurisdictional issues, lack of technical expertise.
 - Examples of CESU priorities include landscape scale projects, engaging youth, and maintaining partnerships, among others.
 - Reviewed network regions and history and shared discussions for 20th anniversary in summer 2019. National Network plans to host symposium in conjunction with other national meetings, such as ESA or Colorado Plateau meetings.
 - National trends among CESUs include increases in numbers of partners and introduction of new federal partners, including EPA, FEAA, APHIS, DHS, and State.
 - During this week's national meeting, members discussed the funding process, cross unit partnerships and improved communications and outreach through website, print, social media, and new partner orientations. Additionally, two CHWA CESU partners received awards.
- Dan gave an update on the CHWA CESU.
 - Twelve (12) new partners were added in spring 2018.
 - BOEM is planning to join, as is BIA and possibly NASA.
 - Fifty-five (55) new projects were started in FY17
 - 56% cultural resources
 - 39% natural resources
 - 5% social sciences
 - The spring 2018 CHWA CESU Newsletter and website were also discussed.
- Eric gave a presentation on the proposed CHWA CESU Experts Database.
 - Appealed to members present to view website, read the newsletter, and forward emails to those who might be interested at your institutions.
 - Asked members to let staff know about projects, as projects outside of NPS are difficult to track in current award system.
 - Gave overview of Experts Database
 - Designed by committee: Anne Timm (USFS), Tom Fish (NPS), Claire Jantz (Shippensburg University), David Velinsky (Academy of Natural Sciences), and Katie Kline (UMCES-AL)
 - Based on "lessons learned" from previous attempt.

- Proposed database will allow members to enter some data on the site and then upload a CV, which will become searchable.
- Staff will send reminders to update the CVs, but onus will be on each expert to update his/her own information.
- A discussion about the database followed.
 - Q: Are others doing this? CHWA CESU would be a leader and potential national model.
 - Q: Can we upload examples of project materials? Yes, will need to work on how to make them searchable.
 - Q: Will there be opportunities for folks to make ongoing suggestions? Yes, site cannot go “stale.”
 - Suggestion: Including field to collect DOI codes may be a good way to track projects.
 - Q: Will there be a way to track the “match” when an agency finds an expert (i.e. social network analytics)? Perhaps option for future.
 - Suggestion: It would be great to list the CESU projects the expert has conducted, as this could tie into a national database.
 - Suggestion: Could have field for federal partners with whom expert has worked.
 - Suggestion: Could have option for others to “rank” experts- Eric deferred to committee for further consideration of pros and cons.
 - Q: Will there be options for those with arts expertise? Eric invited member to have someone from institution serve on committee to bring this perspective to the planning.
 - Suggestion: Think outside of the box on how your expertise could be used by other agencies, such as NASA.
- Dan concluded the discussion by explaining the database will be one way to increase partner engagement in projects, as it will enable partners to advertise expertise to federal partners.
- Meeting broke for lunch at 11:30am and resumed at 12:30pm with the following lightning presentations:
 - *Ann Gallagher, NPS, “Natural resources and science”*
 - *Kathryn Smith, NPS, “Tolson's Chapel & School National Historic Landmark nomination”*
 - *Andrew Landsman, NPS, “CESU projects at the C&O Canal National Historical Park”*
 - *Maggie Daniels, George Mason University, “Technology-based visitor use counts and reporting: KOWA pilot test”*
 - *Ami Riscassi, University of Virginia, “The Shenandoah Watershed Study- a long-term stream water quality monitoring program”*
 - *Sean MacDougall, BLM, “BLM eastern states”*
 - *Claire Jantz, Shippensburg University, “On-going and upcoming CESU projects at Shippensburg university”*
 - *Katia Engelhardt, UMCES, “History of parks in science”*
 - *Teresa Mourad, Ecological Society of America, “Ecological Society of America: advancing the understanding of life on Earth”*
 - *Joseph Pitula, UMES, “Disease and population structure of the blue crab in the Maryland coastal bays”*
 - *Bob Sonderman, NPS, “National Park Service, National Capital Region, Museum Management Program”*
- Suggestions for next year's meeting:
 - UDC just built student center near Red Line.
 - Should consider hosting student talks; Teresa Mourad indicated interest in planning student activities.
- Meeting adjourned at 2pm