

PRESENT: Garry Tanuan, Chair
Stan Cameron
Monique Forster
Pamela McCarthy
Anu Sriskandarajah
Thomas Thomas

ABSENT: Angela Grella
Jamaal Myers
Deborah Oldfield
David West

1. CALL TO ORDER

Natural Science and Education Committee Meeting #1/24 was held via videoconference, on February 1, 2024. The Chair, Garry Tanuan, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

The Chair recited the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #2/23 HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2023

RES.#NSEC 1/24

Moved By: Thomas Thomas

Seconded By: Monique Forster

THAT the meeting minutes from the October 11, 2023 Natural Science and Education Committee, be approved.

Carried

5. DELEGATIONS

None.

6. PRESENTATIONS

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8. ITEMS FOR ACTION OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

None.

9. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

9.1 TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM SUPPORTS FOR SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

RES.#NSEC 2/24

Moved By: Stan Cameron

Seconded By: Monique Forster

WHEREAS at the NSEC meeting held on October 11, 2023, members requested that staff provide a report on public transit system supports for student field trips;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the report on Transportation and Public Transit System Supports for School Field Trips, be received for information;

THAT TRCA staff report back to NSEC on potential pilot solutions and funding options for student transportation related to out-of-classroom learning experiences;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff conduct a survey of Ontario teachers on current barriers to participation in out-of-classroom learning experiences related to natural science, conservation and the environment and report outcomes to the Natural Science and Education Committee by Q4 2024.

Carried

9.2 SHARED ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP MODELS FOR OUT-OF-CLASSROOM LEARNING

RES.#NSEC 3/24

Moved By: Thomas Thomas

Seconded By: Anu Sriskandarajah

WHEREAS the Natural Science and Education Committee (NSEC) has a mandate to study and make recommendations related to the long-term provision of out-of-classroom learning related to natural science, conservation and the environment;

AND WHEREAS the Outdoor Education Task Force (OETF), comprised of school board trustees, members of TRCA's Board of Directors and youth representatives, made a recommendation to Advance Shared-Ownership

and Access Models That Enhance and Sustain an Overall Out-Of-Classroom Learning System (Recommendation #4);

AND WHEREAS at Meeting #3/22 held on June 6, 2022, NSEC endorsed a series of minimum standards for student access to out-of-classroom learning related to natural science, conservation and the environment;

AND WHEREAS Recommendation #4 of OETF: Advance Shared-Ownership and Access Models That Enhance and Sustain an Overall Out-of-Classroom Learning System will require enhanced collaboration amongst public-sector bodies to ensure student access to learning opportunities;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the following information report on shared ownership and access models be received;

AND THAT TRCA staff provide a more detailed report on governance and ownership structures for Cooperatives and Consortiums;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA and NSEC's Multi-Stakeholder Staff Working Table report back to NSEC on potential pilot models or programs for shared access to out-of-classroom learning related to natural science, conservation, and the environment amongst participating school boards.

Carried

10. NEW BUSINESS

Stan Cameron shared a good news story about a collaboration between Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Peel District School Board involving students [paddling a canoe](#) created from land based materials at Heart Lake Conservation Park.

11. ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION from Monique Forster, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Garry Tanuan,
Chair