



**OCTOBER 2022 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THE WILD CENTER
Thursday, October 6, 2022 & Friday, October 7, 2022**

October 18, 2022

Day 1

Meeting Date: October 6, 2022

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Location: Zoom

Trustees Present Virtual: Karen Thomas, Board Chair, Lynn Fox, Vice-Chair, Jack Ryder, Vice Chair, Joseph Beck, Treasurer, Linda Rosenstock, Secretary, Paul Alioto, Lee Bailey, Michael Bettmann, Terry Birdsong, George Cigale, Larry Clifford, Kathleen Colson, David Fadden, Charlie Frenette, Sally Hart, Nancy Howard, Peter Kindler, Betsy Lowe, Pamela Matt, Juan Rodriguez, Meadow Rutenbar, Jim Schoff, Joel Treisman, Virginia Valkenburgh, Lynn Birdsong, Emeritus Trustee, and Nancy Simpkins, Emeritus Trustee

Advisory Board Members Present Virtual: Martha Bullock, AB Chair, Ed Forbes, Emily Hunt Forbes, and Ben Ireland

Staff Present: Stephanie Ratcliffe, Hillarie Logan-Dechene, Robert Kronenberger, Nick Gunn, Amy Harvey, and Robin Ellis

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| 1 | Administration
- Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM | K. Thomas |
| | Board Chair Report
Approve June Minutes
No edits or additions made to the June Minutes
Motion to approve June Minutes was duly moved and seconded and unanimously approved | K. Thomas |
| | Executive Director Report
- <i>Climate Solutions</i> Evaluation Results presented. These results were compiled through surveying visitors two weeks after their initial visit to the exhibition. Overall, surveyors liked the solution focus, recognized climate action as the main message and two-thirds of visitors talked about their visit with others. | S. Ratcliffe |

- The Wild Center is in the process of fundraising in partnership with ANCA to install a wind turbine on campus.
- The Youth Climate Program expanded our reach to Northern Ontario, CA. Northern Ontario will host a total of 13 Summits.
- The Wild Center hosted “Plug In” on Sunday, October 9, 2022 - Electric vendor fair, hands on workshops, dance performances, and more.
- Explore the digital exhibition of *Climate Solutions* by visiting <https://wildclimatesolutions.com/>

2023 Board Meeting Dates

- Monday, January 30, 2023 (virtual)
- Monday, April 17, 2023
- Friday, June 30, 2023
- Friday, October 6, 2023

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Financial Report

- YTD 2022 attendance down 14% from last year
- 2022 August YTD results are \$76k behind budget. Revenues are \$184k below budget (primarily admissions), while operating expenses are \$108k under budget.
- September admission numbers are also below budget. If this trend continues through year-end we are looking at a shortfall of about \$175-\$200k.
- Total endowment funds are now just over \$10 mm, including \$2.1 mm in Obie Clifford Fund. Investments have seen a decrease in market value of \$1.9 mm YTD.
- FY2023 budget process has begun

**J.Beck/ R.
Kronenberger**

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Committee on Trustees Report

**T. Birdsong/V.
Valkenburgh**

Board Prospect Criteria and Recruiting

- The COT Committee updated the list of criteria in looking for new board prospects for The Wild Center.
 - Interest in science, the environment, climate change, nature, wildlife, and education
 - Understanding of the unique nature of the Adirondacks
 - Appreciation of the mission and vision of The Wild Center
 - Knowledge, skills and/or connections of value to The Wild Center
 - Commitment to cultivating an inclusive board that embraces differences and ensures that all Board Members are equally heard and valued

Please send board prospect recommendations along with resumes and recommendation letters to Amy Harvey.

Board Skills Assessment Survey Results

- Trustees and Advisory Board members were asked to complete a skills assessment survey in May 2022 that evaluated the board's areas of expertise and basic profile demographics.
- Virginia Valkenburgh and Jack Ryder analyzed the data and presented the summary to the board. Recommendations from the survey results include:
 - COT to develop and recommend a plan to identify and recruit Board prospects who will address gaps
 - Expertise - Digital/IT, Environmental Science, K-12 Education
 - Profile - Diversity (geography/age/ethnicity)
 - COT to assure recruitment plan aligns with Board mission/priorities
 - COT to explore and recommend ways to continually address expertise and profile needs in the Board composition
- If you did not complete the Skills Assessment Survey use the following link to submit your answers
<https://form.jotform.com/221324977754060>

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Development Report

- Hillarie Logan-Dechene broke down the YTD Giving Report that went deeper into the numbers of memberships, operating annual fund giving, operating grants, restricted grants, and endowment funds.
- Annual Fund 2022 Goal - \$1.38 mm
- The first Annual Fund letter is set to drop in the mail October 14, 2022 with the second letter scheduled to drop November 25, 2022.

**L. Fox/ H.
Logan-Dechene**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM

Day 2

Meeting Date: October 7, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Hybrid - The Wild Center & Zoom

Trustees Present In Person: Karen Thomas, Chair, Jack Ryder, Vice Chair, George Cigale, Kathleen Colson, Sally Hart, Peter Kindler, Betsy Lowe, Paul Maroun, Pamela Matt, James Schoff, Virginia Valkenburgh

Trustees Present Virtual: Lynn Fox, Vice Chair, Linda Rosenstock, Secretary, Lee Bailey, Michael Bettmann Terry Birdsong, Lynn Birdsong Emeritus, Larry Clifford, David Fadden, Charlie Frenette, Nancy Howard, Michael Hunsinger, Brooks Reynolds, Juan Rodriguez, Meadow Rutenbar, Nancy Simpkins, Emeritus, Joel Treisman,

Advisory Board Members Present In Person: Martha Bullock, AB Chair, Ben Ireland, Stanley Rumbough, Ross Whaley

Advisory Board Members Present Virtual: Ed Forbes, Rob Gillis, Robin Gosnell, Carl Shedd

Staff Present: Stephanie Ratcliffe, Hillarie Logan-Dechene, Robert Kronenberger, Jen Kretser, Amy Harvey, Robin Ellis, Kerri Ziemann, Leanne Favreau, Libby Clark, Tori Herkalo, Ruth Burnell

1 Administration K. Thomas

- Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM

Discussion K. Thomas

Karen Thomas full comments are enclosed at the end of the minutes.

Digital version can be accessed by clicking here -

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L1iiHl7gncjHFer_Kv6bX054slJG5cAFspLQ-8O_O7Y/edit?usp=sharing

Ross Whaley's full comments are enclosed at the end of the minutes.

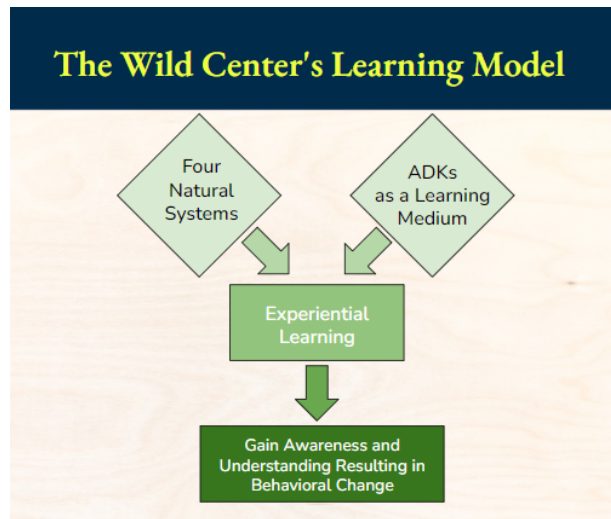
Digital version can be accessed by clicking here -

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f-crMuG7a9MW0ttjU112TYJoPmcMwumF8VSgPjAnj_Y/edit?usp=sharing

Stephanie Ratcliffe's full comments are enclosed at the end of the minutes.

Digital version can be accessed by clicking here -

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o99FDM7xfFmZ9Z0WhKRHfHJYQQMAWhh-Xm2FFArS39M/edit?usp=sharing>



Kerri Ziemann - Deep Dive into Experiential Learning and Constructivist

As The Wild Center navigates how to use this new learning model and implement this new framework through our programming will change to show this shift but we will continue to use our expertise in experiential learning and the Adirondacks as a tool.

Definitions:

Experiential Learning - People learn by doing, reflections and discussions

Place-based Education - Rooted in local context, personally relevant

Constructivist - Learning is an active process, Knowledge is constructed from and shaped by the experience of the learner - meet people where they are

Through the above teaching theories the following tools are used today and can be adapted to further educated through the newly proposed framework.

Planet Adirondack (Science on a Sphere) - The Wild Center uniquely uses this software to highlight the Adirondacks using scientific data and a 360 degree visual of the world. This tool helps show the connection the world can have on the Adirondacks and vice versa.

Animals Ambassadors - Using the Adirondacks as a classroom. The animals that we have to the stories that are shared are all rooted in the place-based understanding and using the Adirondacks as a medium.

Visual Thinking Strategies - A facilitated method that uses personal interpretation to guide the learning experience. Making these personal

connections allows the visitors to be more receptive when delivering the educational information.

Tinkering Studio - By providing supplies, giving brief directions visitors are allowed to explore their own ideas on what they want to do, build, think, create, and learn.

Jen Kretser - The Wild Center's Climate Initiatives

Climate is the topic of the century. The Wild Center is poised to continue to share this work and expand on the opportunities. In highlighting the Youth Climate Program we can use this new learning model to expand this education and programming even further.

Adirondack as a medium - Connect to regional climate impacts and local solutions, this makes it both relevant and meaningful.

Experiential Learning - Youth learn by doing through facilitated & charred experiences. Personally meaningful and bring prior knowledge. This helps students understand that they can be a catalyst for action/ That they can create opportunities to slow the impacts of climate change and contribute to sustaining our environment.

Youth as leaders and using our expertise to help guide them - Youth are looking to The Wild Center to be a trust and credible source in this work to help support and elevate their work in motivating action that will slow climate change. We want to continue to be that expert and share this working model across the world. This structure and methodology works and can be seen in the over 100 Climate Summits that have been held around the world.