

**Minutes CHOLLA Meeting**  
**June 13, 2006**  
**Nevada State Museum and Historical Society**

In attendance: Barbara Slivac (NSMHS), Vanya Scott (Atomic Testing Museum), Dan Allison (Nevada Natural Resource Education Council), Stacy Irvin (Mojave Max), Kathy August (Bureau of Land Management), Lola Henio (Sloan Canyon NCA), Margie Klein (Nevada Division of Forestry), Chris Leavitt (Clark County Wetlands Preserve), Kitty Heckendorf (Clark County Museum), Leanne Fernald (National Energy Foundation), Marcella Posthuma (Kings ES), Allison Brody (Public Lands Institute), Missy Giannantonio (Mirage Dolphin Habitat), Ellen Anderson (National Park Service), Debbie Canestrelli and Heather Hawn (Atlantis Aquarium), Wilesha Daniels (Conservation District of Southern Nevada), Marleen Kovacs (Las Vegas Art Museum)

**Announcements and News:**

Atomic Testing Museum: Aug 5–27 Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition

Nevada State Museum: Barbara Adams in not here because working on exhibits for new part of museum; Stardust closing so there may be an exhibit and event in October at the museum. 2 scheduled events are Cruising Fremont Street July 26; and Home Movie Day on August 12 at the museum, Winchester Center and Clark County Museum.

Mojave Max: new with program, working on new PDE course for January 27 and February 3, setting up monitoring system for Max with DRI; Gehring ES won Max contest, working on wild horse and burro issues, Tread Lightly becoming part of drivers education, teacher workshops for Red Rock, working with Sloan Canyon on signing, working on curriculum for Red Spring through Interpretive Association with interpretive materials;

Sloan Canyon: has a new recreation planner, Robbie McAvoy, and is working on trail plans, workshop in the fall, lost supervisor of the NCA so position is unfilled at the moment, working with county and state museum, did Earth Day at museum, interpretive plan is nearly complete;

NDF: does PLT, does non-native plants, environmental education, wants NDF to be part of Beyond the Classroom;

Clark County Wetlands Preserve: has some interpretive signing at wetlands now, working on curriculum to revise 3/4 and add K-2;

Clark County Museum: now has staff offices at museum, next exhibit is Bringing up Baby, is still having schools coming during summer, question about whether more elementary schools will be going to year-round schedule - no firm knowledge but superintendent has talked about it;

National Energy Foundation: working with school district on energy management, training custodial staff at specific schools, have saved \$7M this year in energy costs, looking at building management and staff practice, created handbook for district about conservation, a lot of discussion within group about ideas for improving energy use through more information and perhaps competition;

Martha P. King ES: rebuilding tortoise burrow at school;

Education About the Environment Initiative: database is nearly online and will be demonstrated, meeting of Partners for Education About the Environment on Friday at Red Rock;

NNREC: is developing Nevada Environmental Education Training Plan with partners and will share documents for content, Lamoille workshop August 7-11, have part-time staff;

Conservation District of Southern Nevada: educational outreach Don Curry at Silverado HS, Global Class, presentation on air quality offered to elementary schools by HS students, with DRI on creating science boxes on air quality and environment,

## I. Setting dates and topics for meetings

Meeting Dates: second Tuesdays every other throughout year, six meetings per year with one being a planning meeting

Discussion of topics: how to do a field trip, field trips (Museum Education Roundtable article on field trips), energy, UNLV/CCSD collaboration; Leanne suggested going outside the box for topics and now picking locations before topics, include research and PD for ourselves, as a study group; the whole package of field trip as part of an educational program; should articles be shared ahead of time, or discussion questions; presentation followed by discussion; Kathy wants to retain benefit of having group feedback on specific field trip experiences or curriculum; should some meetings be targeted at teachers rather than trying to get them to come every time, or should there be other venues; how do CHOLLA topics relate to Partners for Education About the Environment topics; is there a purpose to location rotation and do we do something significant about that place and its program; hands-on activity at a site can be the hook, but as part of an analysis of programming; how can we justify field trips for academic performance (what are the Power Standards? – only English and Math, how does this relate to district CEFs, they are online); present particular aspect of program and then analyze it according to power standards and science and social studies; Jeff Shih as possible presenter on evaluation and data collection; selling field trip experience to administrators and school board; is there value in meeting at routine location – group doesn't think so

Meeting topic for September 12 is the evaluation research done with Las Vegas Art Museum with Jeff Shih as presenter along with Marleen Kovacs; location is Paradise Campus of UNLV at Tropicana and Swenson (Allison will arrange location); developing standards-based evaluation tools using Las Vegas Art Museum as a model;

Should CHOLLA take on the role of communicating at a high level with the district, or is that a role for PLI, or?; should CHOLLA remain focus on field experience and staff; Not sure of the answer to this.

### *Final dates and topics for meetings 2006-2007*

<u>CHOLLA Meeting dates</u>	<u>Meeting Site</u>	<u>Educational technique/content</u>
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All Meetings: 1:00 to 3:30

September 12, 2006	UNLV Paradise Campus/PLI,	Jeff Shih and Marleen Kovacs on developing evaluation tools for a program
Initial presentation to CHOLLA of presentation developed for CCSD board by Missy and Amy		

November 14, 2006	Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center,	Templates and curriculum evaluation and testing for Red Spring
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January 9, 2007	Atomic Testing Museum	Exhibits or new program/curriculum
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March 13, 2007	Clark County Wetlands Learning Lab, 6800 Russell Road	Feedback on new Wetlands trail guides
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May 8, 2007	Nedra Joyce Computer Lab	training/updates
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Annual planning meeting June 12, 2007, 9:00 – 3:00 Nevada State Museum & Historical Society

Other – Southern Nevada Science Teachers Association and Southern Nevada Science Council is having joint conference January 26-27; opportunity for CHOLLA members to participate as booths

but better as presenters; 500 attendees last year; K-12; one general CHOLLA presentation and content presentations by provider;

Our Places Tell Stories conference won't be in January, may be summer or fall;

**Question Dan wants to ask group: what would you like to see PEAE do, role they might play**

## **II. Teacher Trainings**

CCSD PD: two more PD courses Seeing Science Through... Sketching Oct 7 and Photography no dates yet. Offered through SN-RPDP/SUU credit; another course Science Through Textures by Mignon but not through RPDP;

New teachers get orientation that can include materials about CHOLLA members; Aug 15, Aug 22, this element called get to know your community is sponsored by CCSD Partnership Office; Mary Weisenmiller will make sure materials get to science teachers; Mary wants science strategists to meet and maybe have presentations by CHOLLA; mentioned science/math conference as another opportunity; can post information for K-12 science teachers; power standards for science may be out in the fall; announced Natural Science Inquiry Workshop, July 19-22 at Rex Bell ES, already full but space for CHOLLA people (flier handed out)

Explore the Great Outdoors Part I Oct 7 & Nov 4; Part II is Nov 11; PDE class; required to bring field trips to Red Rock

Mirage is going to have a "teacher day", free day, materials available; will be between Aug 12 and 23;

Water Education Institute for secondary teachers in the fall, date not certain

Aug 15 Get to Know Your Community Day for new teachers at Bob Miller 8AM-2PM, several CHOLLA members will participate, plus a CHOLLA table; Barbara will send out letter of invitation to group so details will be available; exhibitors should note CHOLLA membership with brochure or other;

## **III. Other Cooperative Ventures**

Update CHOLLA brochure – request to print by County; 2500 copies? Changes to list: move Christie from museum to Clark County wetlands, add Heather Hawn to Atlantis, change Clark County School District to CCSD, new phone for Joyce King, Gardens to just Springs Preserve, Beth Scarborough for Art Museum, Marleen Kovacs using personal email, Lied not sure of name, NDOW take name and extension off, add CCSD Professional Development with Mary Weisenmiller as contact; BLM add Jim Cribbs, remove Southeast Area Science Consortium, remove SNWA, remove lower Spring Preserve, add Mojave Max, add Conservation District of Southern Nevada, Wilesha Daniels, add Forever Earth/PLI, Daphne Sewing, make list into destination and support part; ask Joyce to set up an Interact account [cholla@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:cholla@interact.ccsd.net) which can be forwarded to different people; add NNREC to support list, add PLI Allison Brody to support list;

Meeting with district regional superintendent: presentation to the board (10 min or so), maybe with PowerPoint, about CHOLLA, maybe with student speaking (testimonial), also students, Missy and

Amy come up with presentation for CHOLLA on Sept 12 that would be presented to the board later, for feedback;

#### **IV. New Issues/Members**

Mojave Max added to CHOLLA contact list, already on Beyond the Classroom, don't add Southern Nevada Interpretive Association

NDF/Margie Klein will be added to Interact email and contact list, but not to Beyond the Classroom or brochure at this time

Conservation District of Southern Nevada added to Beyond the Classroom for student outreach, brochure, Interact email and contact list; Wilesha will look at existing Beyond the Classroom to see what info to post;

Many thanks to Dan Allison for the minutes.

(He might think that a CHOLLA meeting is like herding cats. –Barbara )