

SMC Cooperative Members Meeting NOTES September 26, 2012

Present:

Cathy Howard, Ferndale
Laureen Anderson, Lake Stevens
Susie Gaudette, Mount Vernon
Philippa Farrell, Snohomish
Kelly Spears, SMC
Joanne Johnson, NWESD189

Summer Summary: Kelly opened the meeting with a summary of summer. Kit usage was up. It was good to see. Some districts attributed this to the NW ALPS grant.

Kelly reminded districts to update their 2012/13 Schedules by October 10.

Critters: Critter costs for the 2012/13 school year will remain the same. Kelly drafted a flyer to be used to encourage partnerships between the SMC and buildings using critters. We are very interested in finding someone in each building to champion the use of critters with our kits. Lake Stevens SD is excited to pilot this one hour training with their building people. [Print Flyer](#)

SMC Move to Marysville: Stanwood SD has been donating space in a vacant portable for SMC use. This year they need that space. The SMC will begin a multi-phase process of moving the entire Center to Marysville-Pilchuck High School in the Marysville School District. **The first phase will be the relocation of kits in short-term storage, to be completed prior to the winter refurbishment cycle which begins in December.** Phase two will begin after spring rotation when supplies for refurbishment will be moved. **Phase three will complete the move in June 2013 when kits will be returned to the SMC at their new home in Marysville for summer refurbishment.** Kelly reports that the SMC will lose two staff members by relocating to Marysville.

Data Collection on Paperwork: The SMC is interested in understanding how member teachers use the paperwork included in their kits. A survey will be designed and sent to each district for distribution to their teachers. The data will be shared at the next SMC Cooperative meeting in order to make some decisions about needed professional development and paper flow in our kits.

NW ALPS: The efforts of 22 teachers in four districts resulted in the creation of learning progressions and formative assessments for ten commonly used science kits. That work is available at: <http://www.nwesi.org/science/nwalps> . Should additional funding materialize, NWESD districts will be asked to send teachers to do more of this same kind of work.

NGSS: Work continues on Next Generation Science Standards. WA State should not expect new standards any time before Spring 2013. Science adoptions should be delayed for up to two years to allow publishers time to catch up with the next standards.

Professional development: A FOSS Users Group is forming. The initial meeting of district science leaders will take place in the Edmonds School District office on November 5, 2012. [Flyer](#)

A grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and OSPI provided funds to create environmental lessons for commonly used science materials. FOSS Structures of Life has a new lesson on invasive species, directly related to the issues in our state caused by the introduction of non-native crayfish from FOSS science kits. An initial use training will be scheduled for early November to incorporate this new lesson. The materials for this lesson and for two additional lessons added to FOSS New Plants and STC Land and Water can be accessed at this [link](#).

Next meeting: February 6, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the SMC at Port Susan MS, Stanwood.