

COSTEP MA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2021

10:00 – 11:30am

Zoom meeting

Attendance

Evan Knight, Alejandra Dean, Becky Geller, Kathy Griffin, Molly Ogradnik, Jessica Bitely, Elizabeth Morse, Priscilla Anderson, Lori Foley, Ben Hiltunen

Communications updates: blog posts, website, and social media

The COSTEP website received 160 sessions in July. 3 weather alert emails were sent in the past month. The Twitter account received 2 new followers in July and had 5,000 Tweet impressions.

Outreach updates

Evan Knight provided an update on a recent meeting convened by FAIC (The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation) to bring together representatives from various national Alliance for Response (AFR) networks to better facilitate collaboration and communication between networks. Evan reported that FAIC has recently announced [AFR Microgrants](#) of up to \$2,000 to AFR member networks to offer training or other services to their constituents. The group discussed potential projects for a regrant, such as trainings focused on the risk of wildfires and trainings on climate resiliency, and will continue the discussion by email and at the next meeting.

Task Force updates

Alejandra Dean provided a status update on the GIS mapping project: Desiree Kocis at MEMA created a draft submission form for institutions to contribute their facility data. The group reviewed the form and discussed edits, which Alejandra will compile and send to Desiree. The group determined that next steps will be to focus on outreach by coming up with a list of all possible contacts and assigning Executive Committee members as volunteers to follow-up with contacts to secure buy-in to the project. The group will develop a template email to be sent out introducing the form and will also develop talking points that clarify why cultural heritage institutions should participate in the project.

Jessica Bitely provided a status update on the COSTEP/Boston GRC webinar: both COSTEP and GRC are committed to hosting part 1 of the webinar series in October (possibly November if need be) and are still looking for additional panelists to speak on local climate adaptation strategies and projects. The group discussion resulted in restructuring the webinar program to begin with GRC introducing the risks associated with climate change and their relevance/importance to institutions currently, to then move to an overview of differing climate forecasting/analysis models, an overview of the COSTEP mapping project, and finally to conclude with 1-2 local examples of climate preparedness and response. Elizabeth Morse will reach out to contacts that are involved in the Keeping History Above Water conference in Salem, MA to see if they would be willing to participate as speakers.

Other Business

Evan Knight reported on 2 recent water leaks and mold outbreaks that occurred in public library and university settings. The group discussed additional water events that had occurred in the last month and the response to those events.

Next meeting

Thursday, September 9, 2021 via Zoom