

Post Project Evaluation

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Lake Michigan Coastal Grants Program Project Information

- Program approved in 2002
- Pass-through \$700,000 to 306/306(a) competitive grant program
- 42 Active Projects
- 30 applications received for \$1.4M request for 2009 funding





Today's Topics

Applied Environmental Education
Program Evaluation:

The second time around

Post Project Evaluation through
Exit Interviews:

What grant programs can learn from their
grantees

Applied EE Program Evaluation

- University of Wisconsin: Stevens Point
College of Natural Resources - EETAP
- Online Course NRES 410/610
- 10 weeks long
- Environmental Education Project Focus
- Credit and Non-Credit available (certificate)
- Developed in collaboration with:
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center
 - North American Association of Environmental Education
 - NOAA and EPA



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Environmental Education Online Courses



Applied EE Program Evaluation

“This course is designed to assist environmental educators and natural resource professionals in evaluating their education programs. Participants have the opportunity to apply skills in designing evaluation tools such as surveys, observation forms, and interview and focus group guides.” -UW Stevens Point



Applied EE Program Evaluation

- Identify appropriate evaluation tools
 - Observation Form
 - Questionnaire
 - Interview
 - Focus Group
- Apply tools to a specific program
 - Short Term Project
 - Long Term Program
- Create a comprehensive plan to evaluate project



Indiana Restoration Coastal Action Team (ICRAT)

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund (SDCF)
(Local Non-Profit Organization)

§306 Education / Outreach

- Funded in 2003
- Award: \$69,950
- Match: \$47,498



**Save
the Dunes
Conservation Fund**



ICRAT

- Coordinate restoration resources
- Enhance restoration capacity
- Leverage additional resources to restore and manage publicly owned natural areas
- Provide and coordinate training opportunities such as herbicide application, prescribed fire, invasive plant identification, native seed propagation




ICRAT “bumps in the road”

- Excellent concept in theory
- Needed an increase in participation
- Struggled with audience identification
- Scheduling issues
- Level of training
- Lack of certification
- Regional coordination (outside of NW IN-Chicagoland area)



ICRAT T.W.O.

- Submit an application for 2006 funding
- Project was supported
- Needed to modify the project in order to address issues from first ICRAT project
- Agreed to be my guinea pig for AEEPE course
- Agreed to implement changes
- Add new partner: Northwest Indiana Invasive Plant Network (NIIPN)



Purpose of Evaluation

- Currently exists minimal evaluation of this program
- Evaluate the program in order to decide whether to fund this in the future
- Decide whether or not improvements should be made for a more effective program
- Support exists and we find great value in the concept
- Suggest that the program sponsors revise their program based on this evaluation prior to the next “phase” of the project.

Evaluation Tools

- Identify stakeholders
 - Workshop participants
 - Staff
 - Funding Agency
- Phase of Evaluation: front end, formative, or summative
- SMART Objectives
- LOGIC Model
- Evaluation Tools: formative
 - Structured Observation of NIIPN/ICRAT
 - Participant Questionnaire (anonymous)





Outcome

- Received 21 responses out of 25 sent
- Results were presented to SDCF
- 14 new ideas from participants on improving the implementation of the program
- 10 changes implemented
- Follow up evaluation when program complete at end (summative)

Project Evaluation


- Expensive
- Time consuming
- Needs to be planned in advance
- Follow the process





Post Project Evaluation through Exit Interviews:

What grant programs can learn from their
grantees



Post Project Evaluation

- Project evaluation seems to keep popping up
- Opportunity for grantee to be “heard”
- Curiosity
- Project outcomes
- Program experience
- Future opportunities
- Maintain relationship with grantee

Format

- Made aware of Exit Interview opportunity at Start Up Meetings and in Grant Manual
- Informal interview sometimes at site
- Grantee and contractors, administrative support, board members
- Don't share questions, some may not apply
- Tweak grant program





Questions

- How do you feel your project progressed?
- Describe your successes/disappointments
- Describe experience with Coastal Grants Program, including application process
- Would you apply again?
- How demanding were the reporting requirements and reimbursement procedures?



Questions

- Did you utilize the Grants Manual during your project implementation?
- If so, how useful was it?
- Do you have recommendations in improving the Coastal Grants application process, reporting/reimbursement procedures and/or LMCP project administration/information exchange practices?



Questions

- Did you have any outgrowth projects that are a direct result of the success of this Coastal funded project?
- Will you be applying for Coastal funding to implement an outgrowth project?
- Any other future opportunities you would like to discuss?
- Other comments...

Feedback

- Everybody loves the Lake Michigan Coastal Program!!!





In Closing.....

- Is there another use for this information?
- Feedback on formalizing the process?
- Extremely worthwhile.....

QUESTIONS?

