

APPENDIX F-6a

MONTHLY REPORT

Projeto Peixes, Pessoas e Agua

Name: Jason Lasuik

Position: Contractor

REPORTING PERIOD: October 2005

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED:

Activity: Environmental Education

Date: October 4 to October 18, 2005

Project Involvement: Environmental Education Presentation and Workshop - Teacher Workshop

Participants: Jason Lasuik, Sarah Bryce, Barbara Johnsen, Erika de Castro, Susan Kurbis , various participating educators.

Teachers Workshop:

The presentation material was done during the teacher's workshop. The presentation was held at the Banco do Brasil where the construction of the watershed model is located. The room was prepared for proper viewing of the power point presentations. The participants were provided the opportunity to observe the beginning stages of the construction of the watershed model of the Barreira Grande. For this particular presentation Erika provided translation of the spoken material while the translated power point presentation reinforced the examples of the Canadian success in school involvement with community connections to increase the environmental quality of several waterways. Susan Kurbis also followed with a presentation on youth involvement in the environment. The two presentations complimented one another and reinforced the ideas that children should be encouraged to be involved in local environmental restoration.

b) Participants: Jason Lasuik, Barbara Johnsen, University Students.

University Biology Students University of Mountes Clarros

Using the same power point presentation from the teacher's workshop a discussion and Canadian examples were provided to 15 biology students. Many of the biology students presently work at the CMM. The presentation was held in the evening at the Banco Do Brasil and lasted 2.5 hours. At this time more work had been completed on the watershed model, therefore, the presentation began with an explanation of how the model works and the process involved in the construction. We encountered problems with the projector, which prevented the completion of the presentations. This quickly shifted the presentation into more of a discussion on the how to represent the local environmental concerns found around Tres Marias in the watershed model, such as, the local burning and wild fires of vegetation in the surrounding area.

Several of the students were interested in further understanding of the support provided by the municipality of Victoria BC, Canada. A particular student took the time to thank the project and WFT for bringing them together and having the opportunity to discuss the environmental concerns within a watershed context. The idea of using Busha to represent the miniature trees on the model surfaced and used in the further development of the model.

Results:

- The teachers had various questions. It was evident that there was a understanding that it can take time to reach tangible goals in environmental restoration; the idea that many small targets are met while often the larger tangible goals that obtain public recognition is often measured in years was realised.
- Focusing on community and school involvement in local environmental concerns, much interest was revealed through a response in questions from the teachers.

Follow-up:

The teachers second workshop is to be held on the 7th and 8th of November. To follow up with the teachers an example of how a watershed model can be used by the local youth to present their concerns with the waterway will be completed. This will provide the opportunity for teachers to observe the final product and a presentation of the local watershed model by the youth.

The biology students were asked to participate by bringing their knowledge to the youth to assist in their presentation. They were invited to participate in the development of the watershed model and bring some information on what they feel is a local concern to discuss with the youth. It was observed that the biology students continued to meet briefly after the presentation at the Banco do Brasil. The students will be sent an invitation to the presentation of the watershed model in order to continue communications and encourage their participation.

Activity: Watershed Model Construction- Youth Participation

Date: October 1 to 31, 2005

Project Involvement: Jason Lasuik, Barbara Johnsen, Karen Timlick, Marcello Braga, Sarah Bryce. Many youth: the Agente Jovens, Youth from Beira Rio, Youth from Tres Marias. Escola Municipal Geralda Marcia.

During the first week of the construction two groups of Agente Jovens were highly involved in the construction process. Each large group (approx. 30 students) alternated days of participation i.e. group A would come Mon, Weds, Fri and group B Tues Thurs for the first week, then the following week the groups switch the alternating days in order to provide an equal amount of time to be involved.

It was determined that an initial introduction of how the watershed model works should be provided prior to having the youth begin the building process. Therefore, time was spent with Marcello Braga to ensure he was cognizant of how the watershed model works and was able to do a proper interpretation of the video presentation of Cecelia Creek Watershed Model to upcoming youth groups. From each of the two larger groups four youth, selected by the instructors of Agente Jovens, participated within the first two days. These youth were designated to be the leaders so we could first teach and empower them with information. Providing them with the ability to assist in the instruction of the larger group in the following days. Hence, on the first two days the four youth (leaders) from each group were first shown the video and then assisted with the initial process of tracing and cutting of the contours on Styrofoam for the watershed model. In the following days the larger group would be shown the video and the four leaders would remain one-step ahead to enable them to take on the role as leaders amongst their peers.

Towards the end of the first week the youth from Beira Rio and a couple of the youth from Tres Marias became involved in the construction process, and the Agente Jovens group size was reduced. In order to prevent any financial strain on the youth transportation (bus tickets) were provided for the youth to travel from Beira Rio to Tre Marias. Eventually the youth from Tres Marias and Beira Rio were the main contributors to the creation of the model since the Agente Jovens and various other youth would sporadically participate. Therefore the team consisting of the youth from Beira Rio and Tres Marias were asked to take the lead and show the Agente Jovens and various other youth how to complete the various

stages. They were pleased to have this responsibility and often immediately took the leading role when the Agente Jovens would appear.

Some adults would participate but the majority of the work was completed by the youth. In the more delicate stages of gluing and placing the hills on the model a few of the youth were selected to participate while the others continued to create houses and other important local landmarks. Some youth became keen on participating and were present every day including some holidays and weekends. We were able to identify their main interest and allow them to have a stronger role during the various stages of watershed model development. For instance, Marcello Nascimento of Beira Rio had a keen interest in being involved everyday for the construction of the model, while other youth have become more specialized in the creation of local vegetation and the representation of the local landmark features.

Barbara Johnsen has done an excellent job in motivating the youth and having many discussions to assist in having the youth focus on what should be represented on the model. Her role and involvement is key to the success of the creation of the watershed model. She is very good in promoting the project and discussing the process with local citizens since she knows many people. There were a few instances of disagreements and tensions between a couple of the youth (due to personal history) and Barbara was able to effectively mediate the few occurrences. Barbara Johnsen created a banner to be placed outside of the Banco Do Brasil to inform the community of what we are doing. She also constructed posters advertising the time with a request for volunteers. She distributed the posters to local shops and much interest was generated. The local television station interviewed a couple of the youth, Barbara and myself. It was apparent that this made the news since in the following days many of the local youth made several comments on how they saw us on television. Often there were times in which Portuguese and English translation was not available. Although this occurred we were still able to manage and continue to have youth involvement.

On October 27th a surprise 2-hour visit with about 30 students from the Escola Municipal Geralda Marcia occurred. Karen Timlick and myself were able to explain and show the watershed model in order to have fun with the youth due to the language barriers. Many of them understand some basic English and found an interest in trying to communicate. The teacher appeared to have a good understanding of how the model works (I believe she was part of the teachers workshop and had participated in the presentation at the beginning of the month) and was able to offer the students further explanation of the watershed model. The students were shown the vegetation display and became quickly involved in to formation of houses to be placed on the model. The youth seemed to enjoy their time and the director of school later offered many compliments.

University students that were at the Sept. 22nd presentation became involved in the construction process and extra hours were allocated to allow them to participate in the evenings. At first they came in to see what was being done and then decided to contribute by gathering vegetation from the Verdes Ecosystem to assist in promoting the local ecosystems. We were able to set up an educational display of various plants gathered from the local ecosystem for the public. Eventually we discovered a way to use the local vegetation on the model by varnishing the plants. Preserving them, we were able to make miniature plants to represent the location of the Veredes ecosystem.

Problems were encountered and time was allocated to addressing the concerns. One of original concern was discovering that the Varnish dissolved the type of Styrofoam that was being used. Many tests of several different materials were conducted to determine the best solution. We decided a solution is to plaster the entire model for further protection against the possibility of damaging the Styrofoam when we varnish in the near future.

It should be noted that many adjustments were made to the original planning and scheduling due to the unknown circumstances involving the loss of support from WFT employees, which was originally understood to be available for the entire process. Hence the involvement of additional volunteer support from Canada (Karen Timlick) was beneficial and provided logistical support when required. Karen participated in the process from October 23rd into November.

Results:

- Over 150 youth have been involved in the construction process. Many of which have become committed and remain involved every single day;
- several adults have offered support and have participated. Some volunteered at least two days a week;
- the local television station did a news story and interviewed the youth Barbara Johnsen and myself;
- community awareness of the construction of the model was established;
- the model has been constructed and painted;
- miniature 3d models of local landmarks have been made to be placed on the model;
- miniature models using actual vegetation from local ecosystems has been made to be placed on the model; and
- ownership of the model of the youth from Beira Rio and Tres Marias was established.

Follow-up:

Continued construction including the placement of the 3D models and sides will be done. The idea of making a manual that includes information on how to use the model as an educational tool was explored. Due to the various adjustments in scheduling it is recommended that the due date for the watershed model manual be the end of December rather than November. The idea of having illustrations rather than just pictures in the manual is recommended. Barbara Johnsen would likely be able to provide the illustrations.

Activity: Watershed Tour – Enhancement of youth understanding of the Watershed

Date: October 11th

Participation: Jason Lasuik, Barbara Johnsen, Beira Rio Youth, Tres Marias Youth

On October 11th arrangements were made to take the volunteers on a tour of the watershed. We drove to many different points along the various rivers to observe the terrain and pollution. We then took the youth for lunch (this also seemed appropriate since the following day was a national holiday known as the day of the children) and afterwards went back to the watershed model to have a discussion of the observations and concerns pertaining to water pollution.

Results:

- The tour was an integral part of their understanding of how a watershed functioned and the youth felt it was necessary to represent the concerns on the model.
- The youth were able to visualise the concerns in a “real life” situation
- The youth wrote their displays on a poster, which was displayed in the room of the model construction.

Follow Up:

Dialogue regarding the concerns and observations can continue. Another watershed tour should be done in the near future prior to the youth presentation. Pictures of the pollution and the youth on the tour should be displayed for all to see.

Date: October 30/31 2005

Participants: Jason Lasuik, Barbara Johnsen, Cathy Carolfeld

Youth were selected to present the watershed model. A date of Nov/7th was selected and the idea for invitation put together. A list of people who should be invited was completed.

Follow-up:

The youth will be engaged for a presentation. The Municipality contacted for further support for FestVelhas and the local presentation.

2. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

DATE	ACTIVITY (#)	NEEDS
November 5th	Watershed Model Construction	Wood to make the sides and lids. Final touch ups of the model. Sealing of the sides using silicone
November 7	Community Presentation	Invitation and arrangements. Development of Photos for Display. Training of Youth
Nov 11 & 12	FestVelhas	Transportation and arrangement of youth participation
Nov/Dec	Watershed Model Manual	Due to changes in scheduling more time is necessary to develop the manual. It is suggested that the manual be completed for Dec 31 st . Illustrations can possibly be drawn by Barbara Johnsen
