

**Southwest Vermont Science Partnership
Steering Committee Notes
September 30, 2005**

The following people were present and represented the following supervisory unions:

Lynne Blair	RCSU
Tim Gilbert	Rutland City
Mort Brown	RCSU
Jane Sarno	RNESU
Jean Ward	BRSU
Cathy Farman	RSWSU
Rebecca Green	BRSU

The meeting started with introductions of the above people.

A history of the development of the partnership was given. It was emphasized that there would be a state exam (possibly tri-state) by the spring of 2007 (a test of the test). Supervisory unions would need to develop a local assessment plan to be in place by 2006. This committee would help to not duplicate efforts and through the collaborative efforts give us high quality science assessments, professional development, etc.

The role of the members of the steering committee was discussed next. Members would serve as liaisons back to their SU. They would attend four half day meetings during this school year. Agenda items would originate out of common needs. This committee would oversee a Task Review Committee for originating and documenting local assessment.

The Summer Science Assessment Institutes were discussed next. Members reviewed a 6th and 8th grade task developed during the summer of 2005 but not yet piloted. Questions about these tasks were asked and discussed. More information will be

brought to this committee after the piloting of the task to answer some of the questions.

The committee felt that for next summer, holding two assessment institutes in early July would be good, one in the Rutland area and the second in the Bennington area. It was stressed that due to the intensity of the course, July was a better time to hold the course so that teachers could focus on the course and not be thinking about being back in their classrooms in August.

A committee member felt that it might be good to think about a unit design course that would be structured around the assessments that were developed. The two books that were suggested around the idea of unit development were:

**Science Curriculum Topic Study by Page Keeley
ISBN1412908922**

Making Sense of Secondary Science by Rosalind Driver

Forming a task review group was the next agenda item. This group will review locally developed and other assessment tasks. It is not necessary to be on the steering committee to be on this group. The group's commitment is a ½ day training in the fall and a full day assessment review in the late spring. The ½ day training this fall will be at the Rutland Central Supervisory Union office on November 14th from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. Gail Hall, the state assessment coordinator for grades 7-12, will be conducting the training. A supervisory union may have 2 people on this committee. Members to date are:

Lori Fretta RNESU

Hillary Peck SVSU

Mort Brown RCSU

Becky Green BRSU

Jean Ward BRSU

Tim Gilbert Rutland City

It was suggested that members of this committee should come from people who had gone through the task development course. It was decided that that would not give us a general membership (SW ESA) but people who had been in the course would be contacted about being on the task review committee.

The steering committee would be creating an on-line source for local assessment tasks. It was suggested that it not be hooked to any one SU but stand on its own for the SW Science Partnership as a regional website. We will start by asking how Castleton State College through Peter Mello might help. As this was being done, a GE grid with identified assessment tasks would need to be developed. The question was asked if all tasks had to be performance based and the answer was that there could be non-performance based tasks also. In addition, we would be looking for tasks developed outside of the SW partnership.

It was decided that the next meeting would be Friday, December 9, at the Rutland Central Supervisory Union office from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please email Lynne Blair with agenda items. (blairl@rcsu.org)