

**EARTH RIGHTS INSTITUTE  
GENERAL ANNUAL/RETREAT MEETING  
AGENDA  
SUNDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> 2007**

**Alanna Hartzok's EcoHomestead  
1927 Hafer Road, Fayetteville, PA 17222  
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**Arrivals by 11 AM  
Lunch at 12 PM**



**ERI Meeting starts at 1 PM**

**Notetaker, Erin Cheever**

**Attendees: Alanna Hartzok (co-Director), Annie Goeke (co-Director), Rob Wheeler (Advisory Council), Erin Cheever (intern), Diane Perlman (Board member), Francis Udisi (Program Coordinator USA/Nigeria), Fr. Jean Claude Atusameso (Program Coordinator USA/Congo), Noriee Huddle (Board member), Melissa Burns (new Board member), Quisia Gonzalez (ERI GLTN Coordinator), and Jim Polk (Program Coordinator VA)**

**Introductions were made with updates about everyone and their work.**



**The ERI Team 2007**

***Alanna Hartzok: Welcomed everyone to Aradana, an ecological homestead. Biblical quote: vine, plowshares. The whole planet is a garden and our whole purpose is to take care of that garden and each other.***

***Reflection on Earth Rights mission statement and individual roles in ERI work.***

***Francis Udisi: Originally from Odi, Nigeria. Geologist by training, now works with sanitation in Philadelphia. Involved w/ERI since 2003; moving forward, despite setbacks with Bayelsa State Government in Nigeria. Works very closely with Nigerian govt. Importance of funding, Has been communicating with Shell Inc. and Foundation and the government asking for support, including manpower. Will be leaving for Nigeria in a week.***

***Fr. Jean-Claude Atusameso: Catholic Priest from DRC. Started Jatukik Providence Foundation in 1999. Involved w/ERI since 2003. Started by sending Congolese to Senega for ecovillage training. Working on implementing ecovillages in Congo. JPF has many projects including shipments of medical equipment and habitat rehabilitation. Also building ties with government, met with personal ambassador of president who may present the project to president.***

***Jim Polk: Clinical psychologist in Virginia Beach. Has done environmental work, including political campaigns, Green Party. Has recently become involved with ERI. Will focus on LVT in his local area.***

**Noriee Huddle: Author, homebuilder, consultant with systems thinking background. Advanced practitioner of voice dialogue process. Just bought 178 acres in Ecuador to build a healing community. Splits time between US and Ecuador. Writing more books. Helped to set up ERI, hasn't been too active. Interested in Beads for Hope, selling mold/mosquito killers and other projects.**

**Diane Perlman: Former professional psychotherapist with Jungian background. Since 1980, involved in nuclear disarmament with Psychologists for Social Responsibility; psychology of terrorism. Started a thinktank in DC (intuitiontank) working on conflict studies, humanizing the enemy, has a book in the works. Recently new to the ERI Board.**

**ErinCheever: Intern with ERI. Arriving in LA for the summer to help in the west coast office. Will be going to Senegal to do a training through Living Routes – ecovillage development course.**

**Alanna: Thanks to Rob for planning the meeting, thanks to Annie for agenda.**

**Annie: Appreciation for all those who have played a part in ERI, large or small. Feels the collaboration of ERI is unique, bringing together people concerned about the Earth to find holistic solutions. ERI's time is now, we have a potential to be a positive force for people around the world. We're all a team together; anyone who joins is a family member.**

**Melissa Burns: Economist, experience in public health and other sectors. Worked in a dozen countries in Africa, as well as Asia, South American and East Caribbean. Works on resettlement projects. Many large corporations are partnering with NGOs now. She's gotten a fresh perspective on the foundation work generated by corporations in the US and was surprised. Lots of experience with hemispheric organizations and NGO.**

**Rob Wheeler: Thanks to everyone for helping and chipping in. His purpose is to create ecotopia. UN representative for the past 10 years, represents GEN at the UN. On the advisory board of Gaia University, geared to student-directed learning in sustainable development. 5 years ago started partnership org with UN "Eco-Earth Alliance." Training programs for integrated approach to communities. Also interested in disarmament, promoting a US campaign for sustainability: we need to move towards full transition to renewable energy (10-15 years). Works with Initiative for Global Peace and Democracy, listing all the best initiatives in place today; work on global governance initiatives.**

***Quisa Gonzalez: Originally from Honduras, degree in general medicine and surgery. Came to US in economic exile. Raised family for 20 years while working in AIDS education and labor organization. In '93 to Henry George school, noticed connections between medicine and economics, now wants to heal people in a new way. Represents indigenous people from Honduras, helped them bring a case for ownership of traditional land before the International Tribunal for Indigenous People. Very happy to be part of ERI.***

#### **ERI Directors 2006/2007 reports**

**Alanna Hartzok (15 mins)**

***Just presented a paper on the Law of Rent... at Eastern Economic Conference and at Philosophers for Peace, will be published in The Earth Belongs to Everyone, an anthology of Alanna's work. The work with UN Habitat Agency has been progressing using the idea of land value taxation, Global Land Tool Network. Earth Rights has Land Value Taxation project under the GLTN and membership with ECOSOC. Importance of understanding Earth Rights economic policy for all involved.***

**Annie Goeke (15 mins)**

***There's a need for Earth Rights to get to a self-sustaining level so contributors can be salaried. In April submitted a grant request to US Institute for Peace (declined), in January prepared a new document for Odi Ecovillage, Corporate Council for Niger Delta Affairs. Met with a documentary filmmaker to discuss a film on Niger Delta, but problems getting funding. Annie has also been building donor infrastructure for projects, incl. libraries, medical team. Father Jean-Claude's projects are also progressing. African Peace initiative also in the works; contacts with Cameroon and Ivory Coast. Coalition for a Sustainable Africa, 6 groups working with locally-led orgs. in Africa. Trying to get institutional funding support for CSA. Incorporating ERI in CA. Working with a grantwriter. Linked with Tech Soup, making up Skype Network. Upgraded web site; lots more visitors. Also developing fundraising materials and forming new relationships with donors and international governance.***

#### **ERI Administration Report (20 mins)**

***Francis: Seeking funding from Nigerian Government; Francis has met the Vice-President; he knows about ERI and knows Francis can make things happen. In funding negotiations Francis stood up against kickbacks so money didn't come through. He did get \$30,000***

*from Nigerian Government for equipment that he was able to use for the ecovillage when he got the phones for free.*

### **Finances**

*2004 was the first year ERI received more than \$25,000. Put money into shipments, ecovillage design. Francis has spearheaded fundraising that garnered \$4 million.*

*2006-a few disappointments in getting funding. Had a \$51,000 deficit.*

*For 2007, already over \$25,000 mark.*

**Accounts**

**IRS**

**Non-profit status report**

**Yearly operational costs**

**\$150,000 as hypothetical budget.**

### **ERI Ecological Community Development Reports (40 mins)**

**Odi Ecovillage Living and Learning Center update – Francis/Annie**

*Francis: Work is in an advanced stage. All the materials for the first building have been prepared, but funds are needed for building; government needs to stabilize. Construction needs to take place during the dry season.*

*Ecovillage will be a living and learning center with a large ecotourism component that will financially sustain the ecovillage. Aquaculture is also included.*

*Carolyn Risteau—works in Niger Delta (ethnic conflict resolution)*

*Garreth Porter –WWF expert on Fisheries*

*Rachel Kriger—organic farmer*

*Hafsat Abiola—daughter of persecuted Nigerian politician*

*Robert: we need more details and more time to contribute*

### **DRC Ecovillage Living and Learning Center update – Fr. Jean Claude**

*Plans to generate hydroelectricity from local streams; also developing ecotourism: hosted a USAID agricultural workshop as well as training women to dye clothing.*

*Sent 2 Congo people to Senegal for training by president of GEN.*

*Completed participatory development with local population. Now working on the second step of initiating economic production and starting fair trade programs. Also there have been many shipments of clothes, medical equipment, computers and books.*

***There is a drastic need for funding because Fr. Jean-Claude is paying all of the expenses of operating costs out-of-pocket. Fr. J-C has also put together a document to use to seek funding from US sources.***

***--Reach out to Anglican community and Council of Churches (opportunity due to church schism).***

***--possibility to give presentations to UN (GEN has a good reputation there)***

**ERI Earth Rights Policy Report (40 mins)**

**Global Land Tool Network**

***There's a possibility for getting more funding from GLTN. Also a development of online course.***

**Alanna's book – Earth Belongs to Everyone—*Earth Rights Economic Policy***

***--Alanna needs help organizing the book launch; tell her about conference and bookstore opportunities.***

***\*library market—American Library Journal? Reaching out to university departments for speaking opportunities***

**Other Earth Rights Policy updates**

***Gordon Abiama in Bayelsa State—Starting Niger Delta Fund (like Alaska Permanent Fund: only state in the country where wealth gap has shrunk, due to Alaska Permanent Fund) ERI is working for transparency with David Ugalor. Establishing Bayelsa State Oil Resource Rent Fund; could become the basis for worldwide movement (Congo).***

***\*\*On the website, tell people about it.***

**ERI Humanitarian Aid/Partnership Program Report (20 mins)**

**Nigerian Aid Program update – Francis Udisi**

***Francis is going to Nigeria in two weeks for negotiations with government and Shell. Potential for scholarships for troubled children to visit US and deter them from pipeline attacks (Leadership Training Program?)***

***--Francis has formed a database for Indigenous Employment, collecting the info and resumes of workers; he has 10s of thousands of entries and it's information that even the government doesn't have***

***--Annie met with Shell Foundation to talk about revamping projects for Niger Delta***

***--Corporate Council for Niger Delta Affairs document written; umbrella project to appeal to larger foundations***

***--August meeting with APA to be introduced to consultant for Christian Children's Fund***

***--Norie: Anita Burke former head of Shell Sustainability Division; John Danner in DC—lots of programs in DC***

**Congo Aid Program update – Fr. Jean Claude**  
*Organizing another shipment for Congo; working towards creating schools and hospitals. Creating ties with US university engineering projects.*

**ERI Peace Program Report (20 mins)**

**Where Peace Lives Peace Club**

*Annie: Gave an outline about the newly launched book – Where Peace Lives. ERI receives proceeds from every book sold. Now in the process of getting funding for the peace club for after school programs – pilot model in the LA area and working directly with City Hearts.*

**ERI Peace Festivals and Conference**

*Annie: updated what this program was about. She is working on initiating it for specific areas in Africa including DRC, Ivory Coast and Cameroon.*

**ERI Collaborations/Partners and Affiliations (30 mins)**

**CSAfrica – dvd, business plan**

*Annie: gave a general background about the formation of the Coalition for Sustainable Africa – LA based coalition with a purpose to gain support and recognition in the area due to the enormous wealth. Working on creating some type of center. ERI is one of the founding members. Showed the promotional dvd.*

**United Africa Congress**

*Annie: described who the UAC was and the formal partnership that has developed between the two groups. UAC will be expanding their operations to the West Coast and ERI will be instrumental in their development of furthering their influence and participation in unifying Africans worldwide to support positive impacting programs and initiatives such as the programs promoted by ERI.*

**ERI Infrastructure (30 mins)**

**Board Members – better communications**

*Discussion about finding ways to get better participation from Board Members.*

**Advisory Council**

*Discussion about potential advisory council members and what exactly is expected of a member of the Advisory Council of ERI*

**Interns**

***Discussed about the summer interns.***

**Professional services – accountant, legal and others**  
***Decided that we needed a new accountant for filing 2007 IRS papers and accounting for 2007. Accounts are updated and IRS filings have been done. Annie has applied for 501 C3 status in the CA and waiting for the approval.***

**ERI Fundraising Report (30 mins)**

**Where Peace Lives book % of proceeds**

**Website donation**

**Fundraising event – United Africa Congress event 9/26**

**Other ideas**

**ERI New Initiatives (10 mins)**

**Cameroon**

***Annie: Dr. Toure has requested formal partnership with ERI to start an office in the Ivory Coast under ERI promoting sustainable development through many initiatives. Currently, he is in charge of 150 programs – all grassroots organizing projects.***

**Ivory Coast**

***Annie: Beginning to work with Cardinal Tumi, most powerful Catholic in Africa from Cameroon to help initiate the Peace Festival/Conference and implementation of an ecovillage living and learning Center***

**ERI Website and Promotional Materials Report (15 mins)**

**ERI website update**

***Entire website was redone this past year. Includes paypal donations webpage.***

**ERI brochure**

***Draft brochure was shown to everyone.***

**ERI business cards**

***Annie will work on making sure everyone gets business cards.***

**Donation form**

***Donation forms have been drafted for fundraising events.***

**ERI Goals for 2007/2008 (45 mins)**

**What can you do?**

***Most members spoke about better participation.***

**Work needed for ERI to succeed!**

***Funding focus after the summer and the UN HABITAT GLTN online course program.***

**What are our next steps?**

***Fundraising, moving projects along, more focus on getting individual donors.***

**Meeting ends at 6:30 PM for dinner!**

***Had an exceptional lunch and dinner – catered by neighbors!***

***Went for a moonlight walk in woods up in the nearby mountains!***



Co-Directors and Board Members  
Alanna, Diane, Norie and Annie



Co-Directors and Program Coordinators  
Alanna, Francis, Annie and Fr. Jean Claude



Erin, Tim, Melissa and Quisia



ERI Lunch and Meeting



Hosts: Alanna Hartzok and Rob Wheeler