Dear Doug and Joy Landis, and other members of Project GREEEN,

I am writing to you to propose a use for Project GREEEN funds allocated to education and outreach in partnership with Julie Doll of the Kellogg Biological Station (KBS). The K-12 partnership at KBS—a joint venture in outreach to science teachers and administrators in 15 rural school districts assisted by faculty and graduate students of KBS and the MSU College of Education—hosts training workshops for elementary and secondary educators from partner districts. Each workshop is organized around a science concept, featuring a plenary by an invited scientist and concurrent sessions designed and led by graduate student fellows in the KBS GK-12 Bioenergy Sustainability project. Fellow-led sessions provide teachers with training on the topic and its application, real-world data, and lesson plan material to incorporate into their classrooms.

The K-12 partnership is currently planning a ‘Native Plants and Ecosystem Services’ workshop for March 2013. We invite Project GREEEN to contribute to our effort. Our plenary speaker will be Dr. Dave Warners of Calvin College. Dr. Warners specializes in restoration ecology, botany, and conservation biology and has been extensively involved in restoration of native Michigan forests, prairies, and wetlands. We plan to couple Dr. Warners’ restoration experience with demonstrations comparing native to non-native plants. For example, one fellow has proposed a demonstration to compare the root structures of native prairie plants and introduced turf grass in clear-walled pots as part of a lesson on ecosystem services of native plants.

Project GREEEN funds will be used to offset teacher participation fees and purchase native plants. In return, we will introduce our workshop participants to the publically accessible online resources created by Project GREEEN. Second, we are willing to provide a story about the workshop for the Project GREEEN bulletin. Finally, we are open to assisting with the development of Project GREEEN outreach tools via direct evaluation in the classrooms of our 15 school districts. Please feel free to contact me about classroom trials if it aligns with your outreach goals.

Thank you for your partnership with the KBS GK-12 project.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bodbyl

GK-12 Bioenergy Sustainability Project Manager

Michigan State University - Kellogg Biological Station

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