To: Creek Connections Teachers
From: Wendy Kedzierski      Laura Branby
Project Assistants

Re: Letters of Agreement and Logistics

Greetings from Creek Connections. We hope you enjoyed a relaxing summer and are ready to jump into Creek Connections again this year. Here are few things we’d like to bring to your attention.

Our annual Creek Camp was a huge success again this year. We were full for Session I, but had spots left in Session II. We really need your help recruiting high schoolers (from anywhere!) for camp. Please start right away identifying students who might be interested in attending next summer (current 9th through 11th graders). If you haven’t done so already – check out the Creek Camp blog at: http://creekcamp.blogspot.com. This has proven to be a great tool during Creek Camp and will be wonderful to use when recruiting next years’ campers. There are links on the right side of the blog page and ALL of our pictures are posted on Shutterfly, which you can link to from there.

We are back with equipment and refill stipends of $150 returning teachers. We received a few new grants this spring. We are adding a pH Test Kit to the testing equipment this year. Ask Wendy or Laura how to get yours. Our human resources and loaner equipment support of your efforts continue as strong as ever: we will have 8 Allegheny College Project Assistants, at least one Robert Morris University Creeker, a Pittsburgh Field Educator, and a Project Director who are eager to assist you. We will also continue to offer Teacher Development Workshops and administer the Watershed Activity Module program. The details of what we can and cannot provide this school year are outlined in the Letter of Agreement but please note the following changes from previous years:

1.) **Equipment Stipend** — $150 for most returning teachers (unless sharing with other teacher in your school). Contact us if you need chemical test refills, replacement parts, meters and equipment.

2.) **Limited bussing or substitute funds available** — we would be happy to provide letters of support otherwise assist you with locating funds for bussing or substitutes. This year we have specific funding for Allegheny County Schools as well as general funding for PA schools.

3.) We expect all participating classes to engage in independent research and to attend one of the annual Student Research Symposia (April 6th at Allegheny College and April 20th at YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee. Check out the Teacher Resource Center for independent research ideas.

4.) Please have your students complete the Before/After Project Evaluation both at the beginning of the year and at the end. The “before” data is useless to us without the “after”. The online version can be found here. We can send you paper copies or you can print your own here. Both are found on the website on the right under Current in the Creek. THANK YOU!

5.) Creek Connections staff and Project Assistants are available to assist you with your watershed studies. If you send us your sampling schedule, we can try to get out to help you as often as
possible. If you would like a Project Assistant to give a presentation or lead an activity, all you have to do is call the Project Coordinator to arrange a visit. In the Pittsburgh area, contact Laura Branby for assistance. If you want our help, please contact us—we want to be as much of a presence in your classroom as you desire, but we don’t know how best to help you unless you call and express your needs/interests.

Please read the Letter of Agreement closely, sign and print your name, date and return the signed portion (mail or email of scan is fine). Please do not hesitate to call Wendy (814-332-5351) or Laura (724-452-8257) if you have questions or concerns regarding the Letter of Agreement.

**IMPORTANT ITEMS**
Here is some of the logistical paperwork that Summer Institute participants received:
- **Letter of Agreement** - You must sign and return to participate.
- **Teacher Information Form** – Please fill these out online from our Teacher Resource Center or go to: https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/allegheny.edu/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dEVPb2VuYjhObVdWU2pxWmpwaGZ3UE6MA (link is on Teacher Resources webpage)
- **Creek Connections Participants list** and **Creek Staff Contacts** (see website-teacher resource page)
- **Sampling Schedule** – You do not need to follow this schedule, but it can be used as a guide. Please note that it also includes important deadline dates and tentative Symposium date. (see website-teacher resource Center)
- **Module information** – Resources & Modules page on website
- **Data Sheet** – teacher resource center on website

**MATERIALS TO RETURN TO CREEK CONNECTIONS IMMEDIATELY**
- Signed and dated Letter of Agreement; mail or emailed scan works fine.
- Your order for chemical refills to restock your test kits for the upcoming school year.
- Your sampling schedule if you know it for the year (especially those that have to schedule busses).