



KEEC Winter Board Meeting; January 25, 2012

Meeting Location: Berry Hill Mansion in Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 10:00am EST

Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Merin Roseman, Horace Brown, Evelyn Morgan, Karen Reagor, Greg Higdon, Amelia Stenger, Cheryl Messenger

Absent Members: Shannon Graves

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown.

Kentucky Community & Technical Colleges System

KCTCS would like to join the KUPEE network. Sustainability Manager of KCTCS Billie Hardin provided documentation and descriptions of environmental education and sustainability efforts at KCTCS. E. Schmitz explained that when KEEC's legislation was written, KCTCS was housed under the University of Kentucky. Since that time, KCTCS has become its own entity and would like to be included in the KUPEE network as a stand-alone entity. G. Higdon asked E. Schmitz to research what statute and/or regulation work would be needed to include KCTCS in the KUPEE network and make them eligible to apply for RFPs funded through the Pride Funds. H. Brown requested that E. Schmitz pursue this as quickly as possible.

⇒ K. Reagor motioned that KEEC pursue including KCTCS in the agency's statutes as part of the KUPEE network and to be eligible for funding through the Pride Fund. This should be pursued either through regulation or statute, whichever is most efficient. H. Brown seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Budget

E. Schmitz introduced the budget that was provided in each member's binder. The budget is provided in a format so that members can see what the agency's major expenses are. E. Schmitz pointed out that the agency's core funding can really only cover *most* of the agency's staff costs, and no programming or agency costs such as office materials, IT costs, etc. The need for future sustainable funding for the agency was reiterated. H. Brown stated that he would do his best to secure more funding through the Land Heritage Conservation Fund. E. Schmitz pointed out that if the agency could receive at least \$200,000, the agency would then be able to keep two staff people and cover office materials (with little to no programming). G. Higdon stated that he would be willing to speak with Secretary Len Peters to request more funding for the agency, and that he would like to speak with members of the Land Heritage Conservation Fund with H. Brown.

E. Schmitz pointed out that the agency had been advised by Education Cabinet budget staff to spend down its carry-forward funds, which is reflected in the Biennial Budget (FY 2013-14). This would remove the funding cushion that currently sustains the agency. If no new, sustainable funding is found, KEEC staff and the council need to work out a plan for a “soft” landing when the agency reverts back to a single executive director and/or little to no programming.

G. Higdon stated that while the reasoning behind the budget staff’s advice was correct and sound, the agency should refrain from purposefully spending down its carry-forward while the Council attempts to secure new funding.

Minutes

Minutes were provided to all members for review.

Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan

The plan was approved for implementation in conjunction with next generation learning standards for science. E. Schmitz pointed out that while the plan was tied to a single content area (science), it is a step in the right direction that the plan was approved for implementation. KEEC is now working on an implementation plan for the KELP.

KGHS

A copy of the winter edition of the newsletter was provided for each member. The newsletter will be published three times a year to better serve teachers’ schedules. M. Roseman provided a list of all energy grants provided to schools, including a brief description of the grant project and funding amount.

Nonformal EE Certification

E. Schmitz invited board members to attend the 2012 Graduation Ceremony at the Louisville Zoo. Agency staff and the council members discussed the ramifications of changing the timeline of the course for 2013. The next Nonformal Environmental Education Certification Course will begin in November of 2013 and end in February of 2014. This will allow for a smoother course schedule with a shorter break in the middle of the course.

Vacant Council Seat

E. Schmitz notified the board that Tom Fitzgerald resigned from his appointment to the council. H. Brown stated that he would follow up on recommending a replacement board member.

KEEC Interagency Task Force

E. Schmitz provided the council members a list of who she planned on inviting to serve on the KEEC Interagency Task Force. G. Higdon stated that the task force needs an educator, and that E. Schmitz should contact KDE to have them appoint a representative. H. Brown stated that a representative from KCTCS should also be appointed to the task force. Council members also noted that someone from a four-year institution and/or KUPEE should also serve. E. Schmitz agreed to both of these points. E. Schmitz stated that she would appoint a teacher representative from both a rural and an urban school district and asked board members to send her names of suggested representatives. A discussion of how to get teachers to attend the task force meetings without KEEC providing funding for travel and

substitute teachers ensued. Due to time constraints E. Schmitz tabled the discussion and stated that she would work out the details of appointing teachers to the task force and working out the details of their attendance.

Foundation for a Healthy KY

E. Schmitz explained the school garden grant to be implemented at the Paris Independent School District. She explained that KEEC will receive a video camera to document the grant and that approximately \$5000 will be given to the school district for expanding their garden and attending the 2012 KGHS Summit.

Project WET

E. Schmitz proposed KEEC handing off coordination of Project WET due to the agency's staffing, time, and budgetary issues. E. Schmitz provided members with a write up of possible future state coordinators that included both the KY Division of Water and the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education. A proposal by Evelyn Morgan (member not present, but proposal was provided in writing by KEEC staff) was also discussed.

⇒ H. Brown made a motion to proceed with transitioning Project WET coordinator responsibilities to the KY Division of Water, and ask that KDOW sign an MOU with KEEC in which KDOW states they will work closely with KEEC & KAEE. A. Stenger seconded the motion; the motion carried.

KEEC Staff Timeline

A work timeline for KEEC staff was displayed and discussed for council members so that members could see how staff planned to spend their time in the coming months.

Meeting Close

⇒ H. Brown moved to close the meeting; G. Higdon seconded the motion, and the motion passed.