



KEEC Fall Board Meeting; October 24, 2012

Meeting Location: Salato Wildlife Education Center; Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM Eastern

Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Merin Roseman, Horace Brown, Karen Reagor, Amelia Stenger, Karen Quinn, Greg Higdon, Shannon Graves

Absent Members: Evelyn Morgan, Cheryl Messenger, Marcus Norton

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown.

Minutes

July minutes were presented to the board for review and approval.

⇒ A. Stenger moved that the minutes be approved; K. Reagor seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Budget

E. Schmitz presented the budget projections through fiscal year 2015. The only change in the agency budget since the last meeting is the Pride funds. An additional \$23,768.34 of the agency carryforward balance must be included in the RFP that will be released to the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education (KUPEE). These Pride funds were discovered while completing a budget survey. The funds were initially released and awarded to one of the KUPEE universities, but were later returned and must be re-released. Also, KEEC has received an additional \$25,253.00 in Pride funds for the 2013 fiscal year. These funds will also be released to the KUPEE network through a competitive RFP process, bringing the total to be released to \$112,829.19.

To ensure that the agency will be able to continue to operate as it does now through fiscal year 2015 despite the decrease in carryforward of \$23,768.34 (the newly discovered Pride funds that must be released to KUPEE), KEEC will not continue to award grants to schools and school districts for environmental/sustainability projects as it did through the Energy in Education Collaborative over the past three years.

G. Higdon set up a meeting to be held on October 25 with Secretary Len Peters, and KEEC staff to discuss signing an agreement with the Energy and Environment Cabinet that would provide additional core

funding to the agency. E. Schmitz and M. Roseman will prepare a case statement to present at the meeting.

H. Brown requested that G. Higdon and E. Schmitz attend a Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board Meeting in January to present the agency's case to gain support for KEEC's efforts to increase the agency's legislated core funding. E. Schmitz and G. Higdon stated that that they would also meet with representatives from the KY Department of Parks, KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, KY Division of Forestry, KY Wild Rivers Act, and the KY Nature Preserves Commission. These five entities share their source of funding with KEEC and would stand to lose a small amount of funding if core funding were increased for KEEC.

Conserve KY Initiative

E. Schmitz has been asked to sit on the Conserve KY Committee (www.conservekentucky.org). The goal of the initiative is to encourage KY citizens to spend time outdoors, learn about and conserve nature, and to find additional and significant funding to support environmental education. The committee hopes to find additional funding through various means including tax reform.

⇒ A. Stenger moved that E. Schmitz participate in the Conserve KY Committee; K. Quinn seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Legislative Changes

E. Schmitz updated the council on current legislative efforts. The agency is working towards updating KRS 157.910 to help make agency programs more financially sustainable (by promulgating regulations and to create a fee structure) and changing KRS 157.915(3) to include the Kentucky Community and Technical College System's (KCTCS) central office in the KUPEE network. While KRS 157.915(3) may be revised, it is highly unlikely that changes to KRS 157.910 (the first step in allowing KEEC to charge fees) will be moved forward by the Governor's Office of Legislative Services.

General Program Updates

M. Roseman updated the council on presentations made at the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Conference and the North American Association for Environmental Education Conference. E. Schmitz also made several presentations at both of these conferences. M. Roseman discussed new program policies for KGHS and the last KGHS committee meeting discussion about potential changes to the Summit. M. Roseman is continuing to work on a database and tracking system for school submissions. E. Schmitz updated the Council on the status of the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP), the KY Department of Education's involvement with the plan, and funding issues related to implementing the KELP.

Agency staff will begin revisions to the Nonformal Certification Course and encourage certified educators to pursue their continuing education credits. S. Graves suggested having the certified educators create white papers and promotional materials for KEEC's programs.

The Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education met in September 2012 and will continue quarterly meetings to discuss ways that state agencies can collaborate to further EE in the state.

The Paris School District Garden Master Plan is completed, and a copy was provided in members' folders. The plan was adopted by the Paris Board of Education and the Garden Task Force will continue to implement the plan and manage the garden. Final closeout of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky grant is scheduled for December 15, 2012.

E. Schmitz stated that she would request that board members be invited to the grand opening of the Capitol Education Center, date TBA.

Interim Position

E. Schmitz is reviewing applications for the interim position and will schedule interviews next week.

KUPEE

Carol Hanley is no longer the Environmental Education (EE) Center director at the University of Kentucky. E. Schmitz has been working with a professor at UK who is excited about EE, and will continue stay in touch with her and the university to see if the Center for EE might be eventually placed in the College of Education.

K. Reagor stated that she will assist E. Schmitz write the KUPEE RFP.

Board Members

E. Morgan notified the board that she is resigning from the Council. E. Schmitz and H. Brown stated that they will discuss a replacement and also find out if it would be possible to create additional positions on the board and staggered term appointments.

Meeting Close

⇒ H. Brown moved to close the meeting; K. Quinn seconded the motion, and the motion passed.