



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) Spring Board Meeting; April 24, 2013

Meeting Location: Capitol Education Center; Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Members in Attendance: Horace Brown, Greg Higdon (until 11 AM), Cheryl Messenger, Marc Norton, Karen Reagor, Lona Brewer, Shannon Graves, Karen Quinn

Absent Members: Sr. Amelia Stenger

Staff in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Michelle Shane, Zach Webb, Zachary Myers

Absent Staff: none

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown at 10:00 AM EDT. M. Shane was welcomed as the new Internal Policy Analyst II and Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools (KGHS) Coordinator. Z. Myers was welcomed back as an interim Office Support Assistant I.

Capitol Education Center Tour

E. Schmitz offered a brief summary of the CEC features and exhibits. KEEC was the lead agency in developing the educational components of the CEC. The kinetic exhibits were built by the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. Kentucky Educational Television (KET) has developed informational videos for central kiosks that will change with the seasons. The Center includes a kitchen. Work is being done to summarize the resources of the Center and to market it to teachers.

Kentucky Association of Manufacturers

G. Higdon gave a presentation to the Council regarding the Governor's priorities in the Career and Technical Education reorganization. Coupled with knowledge-based education, project-based "hands-on" education leads to critical thinking and innovation. G. Higdon distributed a Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM) white paper regarding career pathways education and economic improvement. The paper emphasizes the importance of STEM and project-based education. By Executive Order and later codified by the legislature, Career and Technical Education has been moved out of Workforce Development and into the Kentucky Department of education (KDE). The KAM will host an energy conference on May 14-15 in Lexington, KY. KEEC will attend and exhibit. Topics will include sustainability, portfolios, and the utility community.

Officer Elections

⇒ K. Reagor nominated H. Brown for Council Chair; C. Messenger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

⇒ H. Brown nominated K. Quinn for Council Vice Chair; M. Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes

January 2013 minutes were presented to the board for review and approval.

⇒ S. Graves moved that the minutes be approved as presented; K. Reagor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Heritage Land Conservation Fund (HLCF) Board Proposal

H. Brown updated the Board on a possible opportunity to work with with the HLCF to add environmental education to nature preserves. E. Schmitz indicated her desire to increase agency collaboration and partnership with the HLCFB and to foster a long-term relationship. E. Schmitz indicated curricula could be targeted to each specific preserve using existing resources, but cautioned that the agency has very limited staff or resources for developing curricula or conducting additional programming. E. Schmitz further indicated that the cost of developing the curricula would need to be determined so that a proposal could be submitted to the HLCF. K. Reagor stated that creating a proposal would be beneficial. C. Messenger agreed, but would not support work being done without funding in return. K. Quinn, L. Brewer, and K. Reagor agreed to assist with the formulation of a formal proposal, along with E. Schmitz and H. Brown. Z. Weese (HLCF) and B. Pauley (Energy & Environment Cabinet) will assist.

Council Budget

E. Schmitz presented the agency budget, indicating the agency has spent only 60% of the projected Fiscal Year 2013 budget. Savings accrued from staff changes and limited spending on certification and the Kentucky Green & Healthy School (KGHS) program. K. Quinn requested that a summary of all staff travel and conferences attended be included in future Council meeting budget reports.

E. Schmitz applied for the \$40,000 Coal Education Grant funding this year; the application was denied. The agency received a \$5,000 grant from the Southeast Environmental Education Alliance (one of three awarded out of 45 Kentucky applications) for implementation of the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP).

E. Schmitz requested that the Board approve an unbudgeted expenditure to migrate the agency websites from CMS to SharePoint technology.

⇒ S. Graves moved that such expenditure be approved; K. Reagor seconded. The motion passed.

Questing

E. Schmitz informed the Board that the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education offered to assume control of the Questing program. Due to the high priority of other projects and the limited resources of the Council, E. Schmitz requested the Council approve relinquishing the Questing program to KAEE.

⇒ K. Reagor so moved; S. Graves seconded. The motion passed.

Governor's Proclamation & Earth Day at the Capitol Event

E. Schmitz updated the Council on the Governor's Proclamation designating April 14-21 as Environmental Education Week. E. Schmitz explained that KEEC co-led development of Kentucky's Earth

Day Celebration at the Capitol on April 22, in partnership with the Energy & Environment Cabinet (EEC) and the Office of First Lady Beshear. The event was held at the Capitol Education Center and KEEC was one of several exhibitors. The First Lady delivered opening remarks before presenting awards. Two KGHS schools were recognized by E. Schmitz and the First Lady as high-performers: Pikeville Junior & High School (Pikeville Independent) and West Hardin Middle School (Hardin County). Kentucky's three Green Ribbon Schools, Cane Run Elementary (Jefferson County), Locust Trace AgriScience Center (Fayette County), and Northern Elementary (Scott County) were recognized and announced as national honorees. Several other schools and students were recognized as well.

Carousel Activity

KEEC Council members and staff split into groups of three. Each group stopped at one of four stations to write their thoughts in response to the question provided at that station. All groups visited all four stations. After all thoughts were recorded, Elizabeth presented the outcome. Then, Council members and staff used dots to vote on the statement from each station that provided the best or strongest response. The statement that received the most votes at each station has been bolded below.

Station 1: What is the most important thing that KEEC does?

- promote/support EE in KY/especially K-12 and connecting formal education to non-formal education (4 votes)
 - KGHS
- provide leadership for EE in the Commonwealth (6 votes)
- KELP implementation
- keeping EE in the public discussion

Station 2: How can KEEC improve?

- more buy-in from non-traditional EE groups
- promote/help teachers with KELP (2 votes)
- more name/brand recognition (3 votes)
- reflect/evaluate/improve our programs and materials*
 - KGHS/certification/promotional materials/LLL/policies
- strengthen support/collaboration with KUPEE
- improve adult education, life-long learning
- CEC – resource hub for EE connections across Commonwealth
- objective evaluation of programs (4 votes)
 - what is working?
 - what can be trimmed out? (low hanging fruit?)

Station 3: What does KEEC do best?

- Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools (6 votes)
- EE certification course (4 votes)
- balancing resources and time to consistently deliver quality product (1 vote)
- building partnerships/involving major EE players (1 vote)
- LLL master plan/survey
- building support of state government leadership for Council and EE
- CEC (Capitol Education Center)

What should KEEC's focus be for the coming year?

- economic survival (5 votes)

- lobbying
- fundraising
- building partnerships (4 votes)
 - industry?
 - Other agencies and organizations/Wildlife Habitat Council
 - Outreach to educators
- prioritizing projects (1 vote)
- staff development
- website
- KGHS materials
- decision on Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board (HLCFB) (1 vote)
- KUPEE grants strategy and implantation
- KELP/NGSS
 - outdoor school
- PD (1 vote)

The following KEEC committees were proposed:

Long-Term Planning Committee

L. Brewer
 C. Messenger
 M. Norton
 K. Quinn
 K. Reagor

Outreach Committee

H. Brown
 S. Graves
 G. Higdon
 A. Stenger

General Program Updates

Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP)/ Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Update: The NGSS are expected to be adopted by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) in June of this year. That will trigger implementation of the KELP. A subcommittee of the KELP Implementation Advisory Committee is meeting in June to correlate the National Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Standards for Excellence in Environmental Education with the NGSS.

Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools (KGHS) Update: The upcoming KY NEED/KGHS Summit & Luncheon has been rescheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2013 due to testing conflicting with the original date. Sponsors are currently being sought for the event.

Certification Advisory Committee Update: The committee changed the program name from “Nonformal Environmental Education Certification” to “Professional Environmental Educator Certification.” The Request for Proposal (RFP) submitted by Bluegrass PRIDE requires scoring; K. Reagor will assist.

Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education (ISEE) Update: The meeting was held on March 6 in Frankfort, KY. It began on the downtown waterfront with a presentation by Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist & Convention Commission Executive Director Joy Jeffries. The Commission is funding an Environmental Education boat that will dock at and tour the downtown waterfront. The meeting then migrated to Cove Spring Park where the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) gave a guided tour of their stream restoration project at the site. The next meeting is scheduled for June 6.

Kentucky University Partnership on Environmental Education (KUPEE) Update: E. Schmitz put out an RFP for the university's requiring them to competitively bid. The university's decided to partner and submitted a single RFP that was received by the agency on Monday, April 22. K. Reagor and L. Brewer will help review the RFP.

Meeting Adjourned

H. Brown moved that the meeting adjourn; C. Messenger seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2 PM EDT.