



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Spring Council Meeting
April 29, 2015

Meeting Location: Berry Hill Mansion, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time zone)

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Horace Brown, Karin Ceralde, Karen Reagor, Cheryl Messenger, Lona Brewer, Billie Hardin

Absent Members: Gordon Garner, Greg Higdon, Marcus Norton

Staff in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Wesley Bullock

Others in Attendance: Ryan Green, Executive Director of Budget & Administration for the Education & Workforce Development Cabinet; Billy Bennett, Eastern Kentucky University

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown at 1:00 PM. H. Brown welcomed B. Hardin as the newest member of the Council. Introductions were made around the table.

25th Anniversary

E. Schmitz noted that this year is KEEC's 25th anniversary since being founded in statute.

Council Elections

⇒ At 1:13 PM, H. Brown moved to nominate C. Messenger as Vice Chair. K. Reagor seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

⇒ At 1:14 PM, K. Reagor moved to nominate H. Brown as Chair. L. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Minutes Review

⇒ At 1:16 PM, K. Reagor moved to approve the January minutes. C. Messenger seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

⇒ At 1:16 PM, L. Brewer moved to approve the February minutes. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Budget

R. Green and E. Schmitz reported on the agency budget. E. Schmitz noted an upcoming opening in the agency's staff roster.

⇒ At 1: 30 PM, K. Reagor moved that the Council authorize E. Schmitz to lower the pay grade of the second agency position which is currently an Internal Policy Analyst II; K. Ceralde seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Specialty License Plate

E. Schmitz explained the history of the application for the specialty plate since the Council's February special meeting. H. Brown presented the two designs that had been submitted to the Transportation Cabinet for approval, and asked the Council for input on their preferred design.

⇒ At 1: 50 PM, K. Reagor moved that the KEEC use the blue sky license plate design [Attachment A] instead of the yellow sky design [Attachment B] if the Transportation Cabinet approves both designs; L. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Grants

E. Schmitz reported that the agency had applied for the Environmental Protection Agency's Local Environmental Education grant and National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education Guidelines Training Mini-Grant. KEEC applied in partnership with the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education for an EE Capacity "Excellence in Environmental Education Guidelines Training" mini-grant from the North American Association for Environmental Education that could offset KAAEE conference travel costs.

E. Schmitz reported that the agency did not receive the Rauschenberg Foundation grant that KEEC applied for in partnership with the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education.

Master Plan

E. Schmitz distributed copies of the Master Plan and noted the small changes that had been made since the Council last saw it. The Council discussed printing the plan. It also discussed creating a 4-page printed summary of the plan for legislators and other decision-makers.

Review Process for Executive Director

E. Schmitz noted past requests from Council Members to create a review process for the Executive Director.

⇒ At 3: 15 PM, K. Reagor moved that the KEEC Executive Director provide a report annually at the Council Retreat summarizing the accomplishments of the Council in the past year and planning the work of the Council for the upcoming year; K. Ceralde seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Program Updates

E. Schmitz and W. Bullock updated the Council on recent program activities.

KEEC is working on updating the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program procedures and forms to better align with the new Science Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

The North American Association for Environmental Education Accreditation Review Panel has assembled a review team for the KEEC Professional Environmental Educator Certification Accreditation application, but no timeline for an announcement has been released by the association.

The PEEC 2014-15 course final workshop occurred in April, and the final day was graciously hosted by Mammoth Cave National Park, where Cheryl Messenger led the group on a cave tour that was greatly appreciated by the course participants. The 2014-15 course graduation and PEEC reunion are scheduled for May 2015.

KEEC partnered with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to host Earth Day activities at the History Center, where Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear recognized Kentucky's newest Green and Healthy Schools and Green Ribbon Schools.

⇒ K. Ceralde moved to adjourn; L. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.