



**Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Winter Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2016**

Meeting Location: Capitol Education Center, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: January 27, 1:00 p.m. Eastern

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

Absent Members: Vice Chair Cheryl Messenger, Greg Higdon, Gordon Garner

Staff in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Wesley Bullock

Others in Attendance: Jim Roe, Nonpoint Source and Basin Team Section Supervisor, Kentucky Division of Water; Emily Hogue, Kentucky Division of Water

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown at 1:10 PM.

Confirmation of Public Notice

KEEC staff confirmed that the meeting was publicized on the agency website and through a press release as required by Kentucky Open Meetings Law.

Welcome and introductions

Minutes Review

⇒ K. Reagor moved to approve the minutes from the October 2015 Council meeting. L. Brewer seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Election of Officers

⇒ K. Ceralde moved to elect H. Brown as Chair of the Council. M. Norton seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

⇒ H. Brown moved to elect C. Messenger as Vice Chair of the Council. K. Reagor seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Project WET update

E. Schmitz noted the handout of the MOU between KEEC and DOW regarding Project WET, expires at end of June 2016. E. Hogue reviewed the history of Project WET in KY.

Motion regarding Project WET history

⇒ B. Hardin moved to include a brief history of the partnership between KEEC and DOW for Project WET in the minutes for this Council meeting. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Recent History of Project WET in Kentucky

KEEC's April 2005 board meeting minutes reflect that John LeFevre, the agency's administrative assistant had recently become the state coordinator for Project WET.

In 2011, KEEC reduced staff from three full-time to two full-time positions. Due to diminished staff capacity at KEEC, and an increased level of support for environmental education at the Kentucky Division of Water in the Watershed Management Branch, the board agreed that KEEC should explore the possibility of the Division of Water becoming the state Project WET coordinator. KEEC worked with the Kentucky Division of Water to transfer Project WET to KDOW, which was accomplished in 2011. The KEEC board agreed that it was essential for KEEC to continue to be involved with Project WET through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure Project WET's longevity and sustainability within the state. The first MOU was signed in 2014.

The Division of Water and KEEC signed an MOU that includes the following provisions:

KDOW agrees during the term of the MOU to remain an active host institution for Project WET in Kentucky. This includes training new facilitators, maintaining the facilitator database, distributing materials, reporting annually to the Project WET office, and participating in KEEC's Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education and Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools advisory committee.

KEEC agrees during the term of the MOU to help recruit new facilitators, conduct a Project WET workshop through KEEC's Certified Environmental Educator Certification program, and promote Project WET trainings through the agency's website.

Review of KEEC statutes

Each Council Member was given a packet of Kentucky statutes relevant to KEEC (KRS 157.900-915). E. Schmitz noted that the council was formed in 1990 with the first 5 statutes.

Motion to meet with Ryan Green, KUPEE

⇒ K. Reagor moved to contact Ryan Green and invite KUPEE members and KEEC Council Members to review the Pride Fund and the KEEC budget as a whole. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

M. Norton suggested a conference call for those who can't be there. B. Hardin offered KCTCS video chat in Versailles. Council members clarified that this should take place before the next Council meeting.

Green Schools Coalition

E. Schmitz gave a brief history of the development of the coalition, which met for the first time last week. E. Schmitz, K. Reagor, B. Hardin, Chris Tyler, Maxine Rudder, Ashley Hoffman, John Clemons are on Steering Committee.

L. Brewer exited at 3:45.

Motion to offer leadership to Green Schools Coalition

⇒ M. Norton moved that, in the spirit of KRS 157.900, the council directs the Executive Director to make it a priority to offer leadership in the Green Schools Coalition to make it a success statewide. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Executive Branch Ethics

E. Schmitz asked Council Members to mention potential conflicts of interest or conflicting loyalties when they come up in Council meeting conversations. K. Reagor suggested making this a consistent part of the retreat or new member education.

Budget update

E. Schmitz noted that we are at 41% of projected spending at the midpoint of the fiscal year. She also pointed out what grants and gifts KEEC has received.

KEEC programs and project updates

E. Schmitz is working on workshops with KDE for non-formal educators on connecting EE to the Kentucky Academic Standards. E. Schmitz is also working on grant applications to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Steele-Reese Foundation. E. Schmitz noted that she has been offered by Bora Simmons to work on guidelines in Texas with reimbursed travel.

Executive Summary

E. Schmitz noted two changes since last draft. Updated EE studies replace older research. Council agreed it is ready to print.

Motion to print Master Plan and Executive Summary

⇒ K. Reagor moved to print the 2015-2020 Environmental Education Master Plan, and the Executive Summary of the Master Plan. B. Hardin seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn

⇒ At 4:10 PM, K. Reagor moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.