



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Spring Council Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2016

Meeting Location: Frankfort Convention Center, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM Eastern Time

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Horace Brown, Gordon Garner, Billie Hardin, Greg Higdon, Karen Reagor

Absent Members: Lona Brewer, Karin Ceralde, Marcus Norton

Staff in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Wesley Bullock

Others in Attendance: Billy Bennett, Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education

Swearing In

Greg Higdon and Gordon Garner were sworn in by Deborah Goff, notary public, Franklin County

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown at 1:17 PM. Introductions were made. A quorum of Council Members was present.

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.

Election of Vice Chair

⇒ At 1:18 PM, H. Brown moved to elect Billie Hardin as Vice Chair of the Council. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Minutes Review

⇒ At 1:19 PM, G. Higdon moved to approve the January minutes. G. Garner seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Ethics Reminder

E. Schmitz reminded Council Members to mention their organizational affiliations if they could potentially impact Council discussions.

KEEC Statutes

Council Members reviewed a handout describing the changes over time to statutes affecting KEEC. Most amendments are the result of updating the statute due to reorganizations impacting the cabinet name.

Council Vacancy

H. Brown has recommended an individual to fulfill the vacancy on the Council left by the passing of Cheryl Messenger. The Council is now awaiting confirmation of the appointment from the Governor's Office.

Cabinet Personnel Changes

E. Schmitz described personnel changes within the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Motion to Enter Closed Session

⇒ At 1:29 PM, K. Reagor moved to enter closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(f). B. Hardin seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

W. Bullock and B. Bennett left the meeting.

Return from Closed Session

The closed session ended at 2:04 PM. W. Bullock and B. Bennett returned to the meeting. B. Hardin noted that no business decisions were made during the closed session.

Budget

E. Schmitz reviewed the Council budget through the 3rd Quarter. Revenue is at 97% of projection. Expenses are at 60% of projection, but do not include some already-incurred expenses for travel and the majority of Pride Fund expenditures. B. Hardin asked if KEEC can accept donations. E. Schmitz said that we can at any time, and it is part of our statutory authority, but we would need to comply with ethics rules.

Project WET MOU

E. Schmitz said that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Kentucky Division of Water regarding Project WET is still undergoing revision.

KUPEE and Pride Fund Update

B. Bennett gave an update on activities supported by grants from the Council from the Pride Fund. The original goal was to reinstate environmental education as a theme in teacher education. Since all themes are being eliminated, the new goal of the project is to work with new Executive Director of the EPSB, who will begin on May 1, to include environmental education as a requirement in pre-service teacher education.

EE Master Plan

E. Schmitz proposed that KEEC meet with KUPEE to come up with a legislative plan for the next budget biennium.

Motion to Create Legislative Subcommittee

⇒ At 2:28 PM, B. Hardin moved to create a subcommittee comprised of members of KEEC, KAEE, and KUPEE to develop a legislative plan for the 2018 session. K. Reagor seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Requests for Council Members

E. Schmitz requested a member of the Council to sit on the Certification Advisory Committee. B. Hardin volunteered to join the CAC. E. Schmitz noted the KEEC will have a booth to promote the "Let's Go Outside" license plate at the Louisville Hike, Bike, and Paddle on Memorial Day. She requested help from any Council Members who can attend.

Programs, Committees, and Events

E. Schmitz distributed a printed proof of the Executive Summary of the EE Master Plan. B. Hardin suggested giving copies of the full Master Plan to the Green Schools caucus. G. Higdon suggested contacting the Economic Development Cabinet to compare printing costs. G. Garner offered to seek private support to offset printing costs.

E. Schmitz reviewed activities of ISEE, including updates on the EE Master Plan and focus on marketing, and reduction to committee numbers to make reaching quorum easier. She asked B. Bennett to find a KUPPEE member to serve on the committee. E. Schmitz will send an email to the group with this request.

E. Schmitz noted that applications are available for the 2016-17 Professional Environmental Educator Certification course. KEEC has re-issued the Request for Proposal for course instructors since we did not receive enough proposals after the first issuance.

E. Schmitz recapped Earth Day, which was a great success. She announced the Kentucky Green Ribbon Schools recipients, who were also all named as US Green Ribbon Schools.

E. Schmitz described planned workshops, including a series for nonformal environmental educators which she is developing with partners from the Kentucky Department of Education. She is also partnering to host a Project WET workshop at the Newport Aquarium in conjunction with the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Symposium.

The Council congratulated B. Hardin and the late Cheryl Messenger for receiving Earth Day awards from the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission.

Motion to Adjourn

⇒ At 3:00 PM, H. Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.