



INTERAGENCY SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Notes from 6/19/12 Meeting
Held at Berry Hill Mansion, Frankfort, KY

In attendance: Arnita Gadson (*KY Environmental Quality Commission*); Billie Hardin (*KY Community and Technical Colleges*); Diana Olszowy (*KY Division of Forestry*); Elizabeth Schmitz (*KY Environmental Education Council*); Jill Stoltz (*KY Division of Waste Management*); John Eisiminger (*KY EXCEL/Division of Compliance Assistance*); Joyce Bender (*KY Nature Preserves Commission*); Karen Reagor (*KY Environmental Education Council - Member*); Kim Richardson (*KY Division of Conservation*); Laurie Davison (*KY Fish and Wildlife*); Lisa Deavers (*KY Parks*); Mary Duncan (*KY Educational Television*); Melinda Wilder (*EKU – Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education*); Merin Roseman (*Kentucky Environmental Education Council*); Paige Patterson-Grant (*KY Department of Education, Facilities*); Roberta Burnes (*KY Division for Air Quality*); Sean Elkins (*KY Department of Education – Science*); Seth Wheat (*KY Adventure Tourism*); Tresine Logsdon (*Fayette County Public Schools*); Tressa Brown (*KY Heritage Commission*).

Elizabeth Schmitz opened the meeting with introductions. Convening the Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education is a legislative mandate for Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC). The subcommittee is established to advise the KEEC on matters related to environmental education in the Commonwealth. It will meet quarterly in Frankfort.

The group participated in an ice-breaker that provided networking opportunities and highlighted common goals that many in the group are involved in, such as: water quality/conservation; sustainability initiatives; energy efficiency and conservation initiatives; school/student health and nutrition work; developing school gardens, outdoor classrooms, or other green space access for students; developing media content for outreach purposes; and teaching teachers how to teach about the environment.

The group participated in an environmental education activity called “Values on the Line,” from Project Learning Tree. Participants took turns expressing different viewpoints and practicing active listening skills. The group was reminded that providing a forum for expressing diverse viewpoints is an essential part of good environmental education that encourages the development of better critical thinking skills. The group was encouraged to practice active listening while participating in this subcommittee.

Updates were provided to the group by Lisa Deavers (Parks), Laurie Davison (F&W), Arnita Gadson (EQC), Paige Patterson Grant (KDE), Joyce Bender (NPC), and Mary Duncan (KET).

- Lisa is promoting the Parks REACH program, an affordable overnight program for students and teachers. More information is available at <http://parks.ky.gov/education/default.aspx>.
- Laurie Davison has significant program and staff limitations due to budget cuts and reduced income from hunting and fishing revenues.
- Arnita Gadson is working to promote awareness and understanding of environmental justice issues in Kentucky.
- Paige Patterson Grant is running the Kentucky Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program, which emphasizes the three pillars of net zero impact, children's environmental health, and environmental literacy. More information is available at: <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Facilities/Kentucky+Green+Ribbon+Schools+Program.htm> (or Google KDE Green Ribbon)
- Mary Duncan has partnered with the Nature Preserves Commission to begin designing a series of modules about biodiversity in Kentucky. Release is anticipated in 6 months to a year.