



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2015

Meeting Location: Locust Trace AgriScience Center, 3591 Leestown Rd, Lexington, KY

Meeting Time: September 24, 2015, 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Tresine Logsdon, Christine Duke, Jonathan Cambron (proxy for Chad Von Gruenigen), Roberta Burnes, Stephanie Bunge, Kenya Stump, Billie Hardin, Mary Duncan, Steve Meredith, Matt Chaliff, John Eisiminger, Amy Lentz (proxy for April Haight)

Staff in Attendance: Wesley Bullock

Others in Attendance: James Kash, Kentucky FFA; Tyler Cvitkovic, KY NEED Project

Meeting Introduction

Ms. Schmitz introduced the meeting and discussed the necessity of reducing committee membership in order to more easily meet quorum so that minutes of the committee can be approved. She discussed the agenda for the meeting. She reviewed the June meeting. She said that after the committee membership is reduced, she will share the contact list with everyone in order to facilitate communication within the committee. She also offered to publish activities of state agencies in the KEEC newsletter. She noted that the meetings are listed on the KEEC website. Introductions around the table.

Quorum not present.

Governor's Gardens

Mr. Meredith introduced the Governor's Garden initiative, the history of the initiative, locations of the gardens, the Commonwealth Garden initiative, with 17 gardens across the state. Runs out of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, but employed by the Finance and Administration Cabinet because they have some control over all state-owned lands.

KET Announcements

M. Duncan distributed a list of P-12 resources that KET has on PBS Learning Media.

Governor's Garden at Morehead State University

Ms. Lentz discussed the horticulture program at Morehead State University, the local food movement, and the Governor's Garden initiative. She presented a slide show on the Governor's Garden at MSU, the Farm to Campus Kentucky Proud program. She worked with Aramark to get the food into dining halls on campus. This year, she started a farmer's market on campus. There is a local farmer's market, but this happens on another day so as not to compete with local growers. This was linked to the wellness program at the University (people got wellness points to attend the farmer's market). She gives advice and tours to local K-12 schools. Few legal issues with providing food to Aramark (more restrictions when

selling to school systems). Mr. Meredith noted that Ms. Lentz has certifications for food handling because of her profession. MSU also has a 250-acre apple orchard in Fleming County. She said that the windfall produce goes into the compost pile. MSU is looking into building a compost facility on campus for other food on campus. Extra produce goes back to the food bank. Aramark does purchase the food, with the proceeds going to feeding animals, buying supplies, and other program expenses. She was interested in what Ms. Schmitz said about allowing students to use campus dollars to purchase food at local farmer's markets. Mr. Meredith pointed out that Kentucky benefits from regional universities that focus on agricultural teaching and are not beholden to research, allowing students from each region to have local access to great education that is practical for their family farms.

Agricultural Education and FFA in Kentucky

Mr. Chaliff (exec. Secretary for Kentucky FFA) presented the 3 different approaches that make up agricultural education: classroom, supervised agricultural experience, and FFA (the leadership-based component). He reviewed ag education in Kentucky statistics, including middle school, which has been a growth area. Moore High School had an EE program and is now shifting to an agricultural program with an environmental focus. He discussed career pathways through ag education and state occupational skill standards, the state staff for ag education, and FFA. Boyle County and Owsley County have the largest farm to school programs in Kentucky. He mentioned partnership opportunities for curriculum, professional development, research projects and judging for the members of ISEE. Ag education is its own certification.

Mr. Kash, student at University of Kentucky and state Vice President for FFA, discussed his history with FFA. He discussed how ag education prepared him for college and gave him scholarship opportunities. He cited public speaking and networking, record-keeping and small business skills, responsibility as skills gained through FFA. His experience with ag teachers is that they are geared toward personal growth for students. Speech contests happen frequently in FFA, not just for leadership.

Tour of Locust Trace AgriScience Center

Mr. Chaliff provided a brief history of the development of the school. Tour provided by a Locust Trace student, Emery Poore.

Announcements

Ms. Stump noted that a large percentage of solar in Kentucky is installed on agricultural facilities, and she worked with WKU PBS to produce a video about this, which is part of the Main Street video series, available on YouTube.

- **WKU PBS Main Street Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ANLe8pfSSY>
- Richlandville <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ALQDCI0djQ>
- Garden Spot Produce <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMNOPRwLKnk>
- Consolation Farms <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMfGMC9808E>

Mr. Meredith explained the benefits of using high tunnels for tomato production.

Ms. Hardin discussed a partnership between Brescia College, Maple Mount and Owensboro Community and Technical College to teach sustainable agriculture. She discussed ag programs at KCTCS colleges in Kentucky.

Mr. Cambron discussed that the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) has many ties to agriculture, and how DOW shares BMPs and grants with ag facilities.

Ms. Duke discussed the hiring of the new Commissioner of KDE and work with a new assessment vendor and connections to NGSS. She also requested articles for the KDE newsletter by the 10th of the month before the publication of the newsletter.

Mr. Eisiminger mentioned that KY EXCEL may create a different track just for farms, and he discussed the upcoming KY EXCEL members meeting at Ft. Knox.

Mr. Cvitkovic discussed KY NEED upcoming workshops.

Ms. Schmitz discussed the simplifying of KGHS forms that now align with NGSS and the “Let’s Go Outside” license plate.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.