



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2015

Meeting Location: Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, Lexington, KY

Meeting Time: March 26, 2015, 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Chad Von Gruenigen, Roberta Burnes, Joyce Bender, Steve Meredith, Matt Chaliff, Johnna McHugh

Staff in Attendance: Michelle Shane

Others in Attendance: Beverly James, Floracliff Nature Sanctuary Preserve Manager

Meeting Introduction

Ms. James introduced the Floracliff Nature Sanctuary. Floracliff was established in 1989 and became a Kentucky State Nature Preserve on March 15, 1996. The preserve is 287 acres and offers a variety of hikes, programs, and workshops – including field-studies workshops - year-round. The facility is only open to the public for guided hikes or other events – if you would like to arrange a tour outside of scheduled events, please contact Ms. James at 859-351-7770.

Ms. Schmitz updated the group about the release of Land, Legacy, and Learning IV, the 2015-2020 Environmental Education Master Plan for Kentucky. The Master Plan is under final review for publication on the agency website, and is expected to be released in April 2015. The agency will limit printed production of the master plan in order to reduce publication costs.

Mr. Von Gruenigen highlighted the Kentucky Division of Water's River Basin Program and environmental education efforts. Of special note was the new online resource that allows individuals to search for the pollutant load in any Kentucky stream or river. This new database functions as a searchable map on the KDOW website (water.ky.gov). The database helps Kentuckians determine if their local stream or river is safe for recreational contact, fishing, and etc.

Announcements

Ms. Bender distributed resources from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission to attendees, including "Most Wanted" invasive species posters.

Tour

Ms. James led a hiking tour of the nature sanctuary. She discussed the native plants and invasive removal program. She also highlighted the unique geological features of the watershed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.