



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Certification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2013

Meeting Location: Berry Hill Mansion, 700 Louisville Rd., Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Merin Roseman, Kazi Javed, Doug McCoy, Roberta Burnes, Ashley Osborne, Pattie Stivender, Billy Bennett, Joe Baust, Terry Wilson, Deb Spillman, Ashley Hoffman, Melinda Wilder, April Haight, Michelle Shane, Henrietta Sheffel, Ginny Lewis.

Other Staff in Attendance: Zachary Myers

E. Schmitz convenes meeting with a welcome to the committee and starts introductions by stating name, affiliation, and favorite outdoor activity.

Afterwards, E. Schmitz begins a brief discussion about the goals of the committee, and asks M. Shane and G. Lewis directly for their input on the manual. M. Shane says NAAEE and curriculum standards are overwhelming and need to be realigned. Also, she says readability of the manual was an issue; her copies were copies of copies, she lacked page numbers, etc.; D. McCoy concurs. G. Lewis mentions the time commitment being long, which affects retention.

E. Schmitz talks about Project training (i.e. Project WET, Project WILD, etc.) for those without access to books. She proposes to find an option for course curricula that is efficient and avoids copyright infringement. E. Schmitz also says the course would need to schedule additional training for the Projects, if it wants to ensure that all participants have access to these resources. A discussion ensues, with the end result a consensus that over the course of the four workshops, it should be feasible to adequately include enough Project content to meet Project requirements for training and thus be able to distribute books to participants. Further agreement is reached that KEEC could provide the books during workshops, but retain control of the Project books until workshop 3, which is when students will need them to develop units of study – thus ensuring that participants don't get the books if they drop out of the course early on (before Project training requirements have been completed).

E. Schmitz proposes significant change to timeline, aligning it with the state fiscal year. She displays a chart of possible dates for trainings: historical readings beforehand, November 14-16, December 5-7, debate prep and papers during winter break, February 27-28-March 1, March 27-29, units of study due (later decided for April 28), and graduation date (early or mid-May). D. McCoy likes compression. M. Wilder gives input, proposes graduation date in May, proposes cap for enrollment. M. Roseman agrees.

E. Schmitz, after discussion from committee members, proposes cap at 20-25 students, which is supported by general consensus.

E. Schmitz proposes integrating syllabus (from multiple syllabi to one comprehensive syllabus that highlights what happens during which workshop).

D. McCoy recalls mentor program; D. Spillman thinks it should be reestablished. A. Osborne likes establishing a list of available mentors, not necessarily assigning them to particular students. B. Bennett supports an idea of pairing those in close geographic proximity.

E. Schmitz moves discussion to the topic of best framework for reviewing course. Her original thought was to use NAAEE guidelines, but acknowledges perhaps there is a better way, thus opening the floor up for further discussion. The group concurred that the NAAEE Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators are the most practical for this committee, since the course is based on these guidelines.

M. Shane asks about mission statement, and the perceived lack of one. Everybody reviews their materials. E. Schmitz says the course goal is to certify Environmental Educators as having a certain level of knowledge and skills. It is agreed by the group that one of the subcommittees should devise a mission statement for the course and present it at the next meeting.

M. Roseman believes program brochure needs reworking; E. Schmitz agrees. D. McCoy asks about website; M. Roseman says that it is not as well-developed as it might be.

M. Wilder promotes idea of divvying out evenly of responsibilities to committee members in regards to reviewing course framework and applying the review to NAAEE Guidelines.

K. Javed asks how “married” the committee is to the course as it currently stands; he asks if committee can borrow activities from other places, retool, and infuse new methods when instructing. The general consensus is that the committee is open to new ideas and materials. However, there is also consensus that the “Project” books provide the largest number of resources for future environmental educators to draw from, post-graduation. M. Roseman expresses concern over legal parameters; E. Schmitz seconds M. Roseman’s concern, but says there are ways to change and cite in order to avoid violating copyrights. M. Shane proposes idea of using sample “Project” books.

K. Javed would like to see more carbon cycle in the curriculum. B. Bennett and M. Wilder propose incorporating more methods of inquiry in curriculum. The committee breaks and reconvenes 15 minutes later.

E. Schmitz begins conversation on subcommittee’s purposes: evaluate certification process, update manual, and update course readings. M. Wilder proposes splitting subcommittees by themes, and proposes adding revisions to manual before national accreditation. E. Schmitz reads accreditation standards to committee and then passes copy around to members. M. Shane re-proposes breakout subcommittees by theme. E. Schmitz expresses need for more nonformal instructors and perspective to be included in future courses.

The committee divided into groups: E. Schmitz, K. Javed, D. McCoy, R. Burnes (Themes 1, 4); A. Osborne, P. Stivender, B. Bennett (Themes 2-3); J. Baust, T. Wilson, D. Spillman, A. Hoffman (Theme 5); M. Wilder, A. Haight, and H. Sheffel (Theme 6); M. Shane, G. Lewis, M. Roseman, and Z. Myers (mission statement, syllabus, and readings).

E. Schmitz begins discussion on communication; she proposes Google Docs, but WikiSpace receives overwhelming support from committee. E. Schmitz proposes meeting once a month; committee agrees, and E. Schmitz says she will create a Doodle Poll to decide next meeting.