



Kentucky Environmental Education Council
Summer Council Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2024

Meeting Location: Mayo-Underwood Building, Room 439, 500 Mero St., Frankfort, KY, and virtual

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Ryan Green, Ben Allen, Tresine Logsdon, Katie Dailinger, Ashley Wilmes

Absent Members: Vice Chair Sarah Cummins, Dr. Hugh Henry

Staff in Attendance: Wesley Bullock, Risa Yost, Ashley Mike, Willa Dawn Bayne

Others in Attendance: Deputy Secretary Beth Brinly

A. Introduction

1. The meeting was called to order by R. Green at 1:04 PM. W. Bullock confirmed that public notice of the council meeting was given, as required by open meetings law.
2. Quorum. Of the eight council members, five were present. Council operating policies require greater than 50%, so the number of quorum was met once K Dailinger joined the call.
 - a. Deputy Secretary B Brinly presented W Bullock with a certificate of recognition and thanked him for his 10 years of service and commitment to the Commonwealth.
3. Action. Motion to approve May 2024 Council Meeting Minutes: ⇐⇒ At 1:04 PM, B Allen moved to approve the minutes of the May 2024 Council Meeting. T. Logsdon seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.
4. Travel forms. W. Bullock provided the process for council members to be reimbursed for travel.

B. Agency Leadership


1. Update: Interim EE Specialist hiring. W Bullock introduced new EE Specialist, R Yost, and mentioned some responsibilities of the role including taking minutes. R Yost offered a brief professional background and introduction.
2. Information: Upcoming council meetings. W. Bullock noted that the next council meeting is scheduled for November 13, 1:00 p.m., Kentucky Folk Art Center, Morehead and announced that the 2025 meetings will be scheduled then.
3. Information: Strategic Planning. W. Bullock explained that stakeholders have been contacted with the intentions of soliciting insight into how the agency could fulfill pressing needs.
4. Discussion: Process for Master Plan and Strategic Plan. W. Bullock explained we are awaiting feedback from stakeholders and anticipating more discussion. The bulk of this planning has been pushed back due to other work taking precedence.

C. Agency Initiatives

1. Update: Communications. W Bullock and R Yost provided details of their meeting with communications staff and their plan for getting approvals. K Dailinger agreed the plan to move forward with communications approval was positive, offering understanding having served in communications with the Governor's office previously.
2. Update: US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. W Bullock introduced US Department of Green Ribbon Schools awards and nominations reporting that this is the time of year when we will announce the deadline.
3. Update: Professional Environmental Educator Certification. W Bullock reflected on graduation ceremony citing strong attendance. W Bullock spoke of our ability to offer and complete renewals, catching up and returning to the annual process. W Bullock announced that we already have the 2024/25 graduation ceremony scheduled out and reserved for June 6th, 2025, at the capitol rotunda pending construction. The agency has made progress on the 2024/25 class with a larger number of enrollees than expected with 30 participants accepted so far, relying on a waiting list in August. R Yost presented photographs of the June 7th graduation ceremony.
4. Update: Environmental Education Leadership Corps. R Yost also shared photos compiled by WD Bayne of the EELCorps End of Service Celebration. W Bullock extended thanks to the hard work of A Mike and WD Bayne with the EELCorps program. A Mike reported success in member recruitment for the 2024/25 grant year. W Bullock announced KEEC will be a member host site for the first time. This will help to connect with other state agencies and be able to be used as a recruiting tool for upcoming years, in addition to serving as a team lead for the other EELCorps members. W Bullock continued that an additional investment for this year is America Learns. A Mike outlined what this software transition will offer including more systems to grow and streamlined processes, including providing the entire onboarding process all in one place.

D. Budget

1. Update: Quarterly budget report and projections. W Bullock reported on the fiscal year 2024 actuals and the fiscal year 2025 projections. W Bullock conveyed the agencies plan to spend additional money on the EELCorps program in the upcoming fiscal year to position it for more federal funding in future years, however, due to the variable nature of interest on the Pride fund, the agency will retain most Pride funds as carry forward for future years when revenue is lower. This plan will be revisited for discussion in future council meetings.
2. Update: AmeriCorps grant budget. W. Bullock reported that the agency received fewer federal funds for the AmerCorps program than requested. The difference will be made up in agency funds. A Mike confirmed that AmeriCorps has recently changed the regulation to cap match percentage at 30%.
3. Update: Long-term management of Pride funds.
 - a. Council members were invited to participate in KAEE conference, AmeriCorps Accelerator, and PEEC workshops.

- E. Council meeting adjournment: Motion to Adjourn:  At 2:06 PM, R Green moved to adjourn. T. Logsdon. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.