



Kentucky Environmental Education Council
Summer Council Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2025

Meeting Location: Redwood Cooperative School, 166 Crestwood Dr, Lexington, KY 40503

Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m. Eastern

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

Absent Members: Brad Mitzelfelt, Dr. Hugh Henry

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

A. Introduction

1. The meeting was called to order by R. Green at 4:10 PM.
2. Quorum. With more than five council members in attendance, quorum is met.
3. W. Bullock will send council members their travel forms.

B. Council Leadership

1. Action: Motion to approve 2025 Spring Council Meeting Minutes: ⇨ B. Allen moved, S. Cummins seconded, unanimously approved.
2. Action: Scheduling of Council Meetings – It was proposed to meet Monday, November 17th, at 3pm at 1126 Russell Cave Rd for the Fall meeting and Wednesday, February 4th, at 4pm at 1126 Russell Cave Rd for the Winter meeting. Motion to schedule Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 Council Meetings ⇨ S. Cummins moved, B. Allen seconded, unanimously approved.

C. Agency Initiatives

1. Update: Communications. R. Yost provided the following update: current communications are active with shares of the Legacy Projects from the EELCorps Facebook page. Upcoming communications include the EE nugget series discussed at the previous Council meeting. This social media campaign will be accompanied by a series of 'Stories from the Field' featuring successful EE happening in the state, many featuring PEEC alum highlighting the benefits of the certification. These stories will be released on Facebook, through GovDelivery, and on the new KEEC web page of the same name.
2. Update: Conferences. W. Bullock and R. Yost will attend the 2025 NAAEE conference virtually. A. Mike updated on the upcoming KAEE Conference in November and KEEC's participation. W.D. Bayne will be recognized with the 2025 Rising Star Award for Excellence and W. Bullock will be recognized with the M.K. Dickerson Outstanding Educator Award. A. Mike went on to announce the recipient of the 2025 KAEE Lifetime Achievement Award, PEEC instructor and co-founder, Dr. Joseph Baust.

3. Update: Freshwater Snorkeling – W. Bullock offered an update on the status of KEEC’s Section 319(h) Grant Program Funding accompanied by photos from R. Yost.
4. Update: Professional Environmental Educator Certification. R. Yost announced there are 25 applicants for the upcoming course year, 7 of which are EELCorps members. W. Bullock added that we will be doing a second PEEC reunion at the KAEE Conference.
5. Update: Environmental Education Leadership Corps – W. Bullock revisited the issue of federal funding cuts thanking Governor Beshear for joining the multi-state lawsuit explaining that our members were able to finish out their year of service as a result. A. Mike reported that the current service year is off to a great start although receiving less funding than expected. W.D. Bayne shared examples of member Legacy Projects through a video presentation, offering explanation on what these projects are and why they matter. W. Bullock announced that the 2025-26-member service year end of service celebration is scheduled for August 7th, 2026. The program is entering the year with a record 91% enrollment rate. W. Bullock added that A. Mike created a reference document for members titled *How to Handle Difficult Conversations* that ServeKy recognized the value of and is now presenting the resource nationally to help AmeriCorps members across the country.

D. Budget

1. Update: Quarterly budget report – W. Bullock offered a quarterly budget report highlighting a significant change due to the federal cuts. Because program staff is no longer fully funded by grant funding, KEEC will budget for a portion of their salaries. This will allow the program staff to offer some of their time to KEEC matters offering a benefit for the agency.
2. Information: Fiscal Year 2025 Wrap-up – W. Bullock then went into the budget offering an overview on the past fiscal year.
3. Information: Fiscal Year 2026 Projections - W. Bullock projected what to expect for the next year, this second year in the two-year budget. R. Green prompted for questions or comments. and offered closing thoughts that the agency is doing great work in the face of such uncertainty.

- E. Council Meeting Adjournment. R. Green asked if there was any more business and thanked everyone for attending. Motion to adjourn: ⇐⇒- B. Allen moved to adjourn, S. Cummins seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.