



Kentucky Environmental Education Council  
Winter Council Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2026 4:00 PM EST

**Meeting Location:** Fayette County Public Schools Warehouse

1126 Russell Cave Rd.

Lexington, KY 40505

**Meeting Time:** 4:00 p.m. Eastern

**Council Members in Attendance:** Chair Ryan Green, Vice Chair Sarah Cummins, Katie Dailinger, Tresine Logsdon, Ashley Wilmes, Sharmy Davis

**Absent Members:** Brad Mitzelfelt, Ben Allen, Matt Dudley, 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 4:02 PM.
2. Quorum. With at least five council members in attendance, quorum is met.
3. Action: Motion to approve 2025 Fall Council Meeting Minutes: ⇌ S. Cummins moved, T. Logsdon seconded, unanimously approved.
4. W. Bullock will send council members their travel forms.

B. Council Leadership

1. Introduction of new council member: Present Council members and staff individually offered brief introductions all around. S. Davis introduced herself to the council. W. Bullock noted that ELC legal staff advised that swearing in new council members is not required.
2. 2026 council meeting schedule: A tentative date for the Spring meeting was made for Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 1:00 p.m. in Frankfort.
3. 2026 council appointments: W. Bullock requested that all members who wish to remain on the council make him aware. T. Logsdon asked for clarification on any term limitations to which W. Bullock responded there are no term limits for the KEEC Council.

C. Agency Initiatives

1. Update: Communications – R. Yost provided an overview of agency communications. R. Yost notified S. Davis she has been added to the newsletter subscriber list and her photo and bio have been added to the agency website.
2. Update: Professional Environmental Educator Certification – R. Yost provided background information for the new council member and highlighted the recent renewal process that confirmed 105 submissions for the 2026 year with a few yet to come. A formal invitation to the

2026 Graduation and Master Recognition Ceremony scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 will be sent to all council members when the details are confirmed.

3. Update: Environmental Education Leadership Corps – A. Mike presented updates including this service term’s 100% recruitment rate, a milestone for the program. W.D. Bayne highlighted Martin Luther King Day and AmeriCorps week as significant times to promote the members’ work and made a request for another council member to volunteer to join R. Green at the final Quarterly Member Meeting scheduled for Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
4. Update: Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education – W. Bullock revisited a question T. Logsdon posed at the fall council meeting regarding how decisions are made on what programs to prioritize, noting statutory requirements and breadth of impact as two key factors.
5. Update: Freshwater Snorkeling – W. Bullock explained that the project will be funded through the Division of Water 319(h) grant, using very little agency resources, yet making a lasting impact. Through the three-year grant cycle, KEEC staff will purchase the necessary equipment and lay an educational foundation that not only makes a research-backed impact on those that are set to participate but also provides the resources for partnering agencies to carry the work on beyond KEEC’s involvement.
6. Update: Green schools summit: W. Bullock added another decision-making criteria to be the consideration of overlap with closely related affiliate, the Kentucky Association of Environmental Education. W. Bullock will explore the feasibility of KEEC conducting the summit after KAEE lost funding for it. S. Cummins offered her assistance and offered to email further details.
7. Update: Energy education: W. Bullock further emphasized prioritizing projects with a great impact to investment ratio in his update on the now upcoming energy education project. This will be a grant funded project to train and place an environmental educator in a defined area of eastern Kentucky for one fiscal year.
8. Other: W. Bullock brought up another potential project not listed on the agenda, asking T. Logsdon to take the floor as the lead on the project. T. Logsdon expressed increased interest in Fayette County from students to earn seals that could be used on college applications and resumes. Through partnership with the Green Schools National Network, Kentucky Office of the Secretary of State, and CivicLex, a coalition of Lexington highschool students have launched a civic seal. T. Logsdon has been working with her EELCorps member, Mia Murphy, on what will be their Legacy Project. This could be a seal for environmental literacy, possibly as a next step after the civic seal is achieved. If the pilot goes well, T. Logsdon previously proposed to W. Bullock that KEEC could potentially launch the recognition statewide, in which case Kentucky would be only the second state in the nation to offer such a seal. W. Bullock added this could be a positive effort for KEEC because there is good research to support this type of involvement as impactful in students’ lives.

#### D. Budget

1. Update: Biennial budget – W. Bullock announced the drafted bill from the House majority was released and shows a funding level for KEEC at a small percentage lower than requested. In a method not seen before, cuts were made by category including 50% from the “other” category and 20% in the travel category.
2. Update: Quarterly budget report – W. Bullock reported KEEC is following along the budget as expected with no unexpected expenses and announced that the federal funding that was signed

the previous day included AmeriCorps funding and we hope to return to larger member and budget numbers for the next service term.

- E. Council Meeting Adjournment. Following a prompt from R. Green for any follow up questions, W.D. Bayne proposed that EELCorps member Mia Murphey present at the next council meeting to provide more in-depth detail regarding the seal for environmental literacy project. There was a unanimous approval for the suggestion. T. Logsdon and W.D. Bayne agreed that W.D. Bayne would approach Mia about the idea at the meeting they had scheduled for the next day. Motion to adjourn:  $\Rightarrow$ - K. Dailinger moved to adjourn, A. Wilmes seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.