



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) Winter Council Meeting
January 22, 2014

Meeting Location: Capitol Education Center, 506 Capital Ave, Frankfort, KY 40601

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Eastern Time

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Horace Brown, Vice-Chair Karen Quinn, Lona Brewer, Greg Higdon, Cheryl Messenger, Karen Reagor, Sr. Amelia Stenger

Absent Members: Shannon S. Graves, Marc Norton

Staff in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Michelle Shane

Others in Attendance: William Bennett, KUPPEE Chair and ECU Center for EE Director

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown at 1:12 PM Eastern Time. Introductions were made around the table by all present.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous Council meeting were presented for review and approval.

⇒ At 1:14 PM, A. Stenger moved that the Minutes be approved as presented; K. Quinn seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Follow-up Items from the Minutes

E. Schmitz addressed several items that were requested for follow-up from the Oct 2013 Council Meeting Minutes.

Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) New Homeowner Flyer. E. Schmitz indicated that KAEE is excited to partner on this project. An example draft and several resources were presented in the Council Member packets. There is a lot of existing information available online through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Offices and other government and non-profit sites. K. Quinn indicated she would look through this information and consult further with the KHC to determine the next steps.

L. Brewer asks if there is any information included on the program that the Department for Energy Development and Independence funds through the Kentucky Housing Corporation, called “Kentucky Home Performance with ENERGY STAR.” E. Schmitz notes that it can be included. L. Brewer agrees to help with the project.

MOU draft with Project Learning Tree and their GreenSchools! Program. The draft is currently under review by the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet’s legal department.

KEEC Staff Serving on the Boards of other Organizations. E. Schmitz forwarded an Ethics Commission opinion onto K. Quinn for review. They have to set a time to discuss this issue.

NAAEE Guidelines Training in Eastern KY / Pine Mountain Settlement School Curriculum Revisions. KEEC has not yet pursued setting up this training or working with Pine Mountain Settlement School on facilitating a revision to their educational curriculum.

Proposal to Toyota for Staff Training. A proposal was issued to TMMK staff in December. We have not had a response from Toyota. E. Schmitz has placed a follow-up phone call, but has not yet had a response.

E. Schmitz brings up the issue about how much to charge for similar services under the KEEC authority to charge fees and raise funds for the Council's operations (KRS 157.915). G. Higdon suggests seeking foundation money from Toyota to avoid having to assess fees.

Fantasy Forest. E. Schmitz is working on a grant application to the EPA Environmental Education grant program. The goal is to use eight pilot districts to demonstrate the rollout of the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan. Fantasy Forest might be an ideal candidate to partner with in this grant.

Cabinet Priority Rankings for Additional Budget Request (ABR). E. Schmitz is not aware of any changes in KEEC's place in the cabinet rankings. However, KEEC staff is already blocking out time on the calendar to be prepared for the next round of biennial budget planning.

Intern staff at KEEC. An intern may be employed for \$2,000-3,000 over the course of one semester for the equivalent of 200 hours of work. The lower amount would fund an undergrad student; the higher amount would fund a graduate student.

KEEC Budget. E. Schmitz confirms that KEEC Staff continues to focus efforts on the budget situation and applying for grants. We still need to follow-up with KDE and the cabinet to see if they have a grant person on staff that can assist us with our application efforts.

Council Focus Workgroups. The Council still needs to provide attention to this item in the future.

H. Brown introduces C. Messenger, who arrived after the meeting started. H. Brown then brings the Council to the next item on the agenda.

⇒ At 1:26 PM, A. Stenger moved that the current Chair, Horace Brown, and Vice Chair, Karen Quinn, of the KEEC remain in their positions; C. Messenger seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

H. Brown introduces B. Bennett to present on the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education (KUPEE) organization.

Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education (KUPEE) Presentation

B. Bennett, Chairman of KUPEE and Director at the Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) Center for Environmental Education (CEE), presented to the Council. KUPEE is a partnership between the Centers

for Environmental Education (EE) at each of the eight state universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). The partnership was formed to implement the higher education recommendations of the Kentucky Environmental Education Master Plan (*Land, Legacy and Learning*). The KUPEE centers promote coordination, collaboration and consistency in environmental education across the Commonwealth. KUPEE members collaborated with KEEC in developing the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP). KUPEE members sit on both the KELP Implementation Advisory Team, and the Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education (ISEE).

B. Bennett outlined the multiple functions of the KUPEE organization.

- Providing environmental education to students at state universities and colleges, with special emphasis on the professional development of teachers
- Coordinating regional services, including working with other institutions of higher education
- Developing environmental programs and curriculum
- Conducting environmental education research & program evaluation
- Presenting environmental perspectives and data for the citizenry

The last big grant received by multiple KUPEE partners included a collaboration between Western Kentucky University (WKU), Morehead State University (Morehead), Murray State University (Murray), and EKU. This grant was a “Learn and Serve” grant, under the AmeriCorps umbrella of programming. EKU received \$160,000 to develop teacher training and service learning for teachers.

H. Brown inquired if there is a process in place to increase the number of universities that partner with KUPEE, such as Campbellsville University. B. Bennett indicated that he has been in contact with Campbellsville, but that their program is currently in remission due to some faculty changes. B. Bennett notes that Georgetown University offers an Environmental Education Endorsement, and KUPEE has invited them to join their meetings. B. Bennett notes that the funding outlined in the EE master plan is currently designated for public universities only; it is not outlined for private universities.

H. Brown asks if B. Bennett was familiar with or had done any work with Dr. Richard Kessler at Campbellsville. B. Bennett indicated he had spoken with Dr. Kessler. In fact, KUPEE has been reaching out to multiple new partners in the last two years, including KCTCS, Georgetown College, and Campbellsville University.

KUPEE is neither an official entity nor a nonprofit organization; KUPEE is an informal partnership of like-minded individual organizations. KUPEE maintains a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE) to facilitate applying for grants.

KUPEE currently has six of nine active centers at the state universities and KCTCS. KCTCS is currently developing their Center for EE. At this time, the University of Kentucky (UK) and the University of Louisville (UofL) do not have Center Directors or functioning Centers for EE.

At UK, the Tracy Farmer Center used to house the Center for EE. However, following budget cuts and a new director, the Center for EE no longer has a home there. Several parties have indicated interest in housing and running the Center for EE at UK, including the new Dean of the College of Education; the Partnership Institute for Math and Science Education Reform (PIMSER); and the College of Natural

Resources. The UK Extension office has expressed their willingness to support the efforts necessary to get the Center for EE at UK back up and running again.

G. Higdon inquired if KUPÉE has reached out to Dean O’Hair at UK. He notes that K-12 curriculum development is currently underway, including STEM education initiatives.

At UofL, former Center directors David Wicks, followed by Teddie Phillipson-Mower, have left the position, so there is no longer a Center Director there. Russ Barnett, director of the Kentucky Institute for the Environment and Sustainable Development (KIESD) is in contact with KUPÉE, however KIESD is not interested in housing the Center for EE. A new faculty member, Ingrid Weiland, will be teaching some of the courses for their new environmental education endorsement. She completed the application for the endorsement, which is pending approval with the Education Professional Standards Board. Both E. Schmitz and B. Bennett have been networking with contacts to try to see who may be interested in housing the Center for EE at UofL.

At least three of the active centers have undergone transitions in the last year:

Murray State University (Murray). Dr. Joe Baust retired. Dr. Baust is now at Longwood University in Virginia where he is initiating a Center for EE and hopes to begin a collaborative partnership with other Virginia universities, in the likeness of KUPÉE. This may open up some cross-state opportunities for funding. Dr. David Allen is the new director of Murray’s Center for EE. Dr. Allen’s background includes teaching high school science and working with assessments at the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Northern Kentucky University (NKU). Dr. Steve Kerlin took a new position with the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. The NKU Center for EE moved first to the College of Arts and Sciences, and then settled at the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM), which works closely with the College of Education. Rosie Santos, a recent undergrad student and intern of Dr. Kerlin’s, is the interim director at the center.

Kentucky State University (KSU). The Center for EE at KSU was moved to the College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems (CAFSSS). The new director is Jennifer Hubbard-Sanchez, KSU’s state specialist for Sustainable and International Programs.

G. Higdon suggests reviewing the EE master plan goals with the new center leadership. E. Schmitz notes that she and B. Bennett already completed this review with the leadership at NKU.

Below is a list of the currently operating Centers for EE in Kentucky and their directors.

- ECU – Billy Bennett – William.Bennett@eku.edu (7th Year)
- KCTCS – Billie Hardin – Billie.Hardin@kctcs.edu (Point of Contact, KCTCS has not yet named a director of this developing Center)
- KSU – Jennifer Hubbard-Sanchez – Jennifer.Sanchez@kysu.edu (new director)
- Morehead – April Haight – A.Haight@moreheadstate.edu (more than 8 years)
- Murray – David Allen – DAllen4@murraystate.edu (new director, as of 2013)
- NKU – Rosie Santos – SantosR1@nku.edu (new interim director as of 2013; previously worked under S. Kerlin 2-3 years)

- WKU – Terry Wilson - Terry.Wilson@wku.edu (director since 1989)

G. Higdon suggests that KEEC host a joint meeting soon with all of the directors from the Centers for EE. He requests a resume for each of the directors.

B. Bennett notes that KUPEE seeks to help teachers see how to use the environment as a tool to teach what they are already teaching, in any subject. Experience, especially outdoor experience, is the key to engaging children; not just learning about things out of books.

G. Higdon notes the connection between KCTCS and four year universities concerning transfer students. More importantly, there are now programs being developed at KCTCS that allow students to have their credits count toward graduation at the four year institutions.

B. Bennett notes that those working in the EE field need to reach out to administrators, getting some of them to make the case to their peers about the effectiveness of environmental education. Teachers need the support of their administrators and across districts.

E. Schmitz notes that this is one of the goals she is trying to achieve with the EPA EE grant: focusing on a holistic approach, with administrator and principal support, to demonstrate the effectiveness of EE integration into the curriculum.

K. Reagor notes that the research demonstrating the effectiveness of EE has been around for more than 20 years. The EE community has simply struggled to get the message out effectively.

B. Bennett concludes his presentation and asks for questions.

E. Schmitz congratulates the Council on their vision and leadership role in revising KRS 157.915 to include KCTCS to be eligible for Pride Funding, which allowed KUPEE to consider opening their partnership to include KCTCS.

B. Bennett asks the Council to consider, as the new master plan (*Land, Legacy, Learning IV*) is formed, to consider including in-service teachers. The current master plan goals focus on pre-service teachers. Pre-service teachers are required to complete a yearlong internship before they receive their teaching certificate. This process is grueling enough to work through without trying to add new EE ideas. B. Bennett feels it would be good to add the new target audience of in-service teachers who have been teaching 3-5 years to *Land, Legacy, Learning IV*. These teachers require continuing education, have classroom experience, are established in a school, and are looking for new ideas.

K. Reagor notes that pre-service teachers are also required to complete a unit of study and show a leadership component. KY NEED has tried to pair these requirements with the use of the NEED program.

C. Messenger asks if KUPEE is currently composing any unified language to include in the 2014 master plan. B. Bennett notes that KUPEE has not yet drafted specific language, but plans to participate in the regional public meetings and on the drafting committee. B. Bennett requests that E. Schmitz sends out

this request to the KUPÉE LISTSERV: that KUPÉE could draft some desired language for use in the new master plan.

G. Higdon asks KUPÉE to broaden their focus beyond Master Plan goals 8, 9 and 10. He asks that the partnership look beyond short term (pre-service teachers) and medium term (in-service teachers) goals to long-term goals (back to when these teachers are in K-12), embracing a more holistic viewpoint. KUPÉE can help lead this effort, blending in EE.

B. Bennett shares that ECU is currently working to develop a Certificate in Environmental Education for non-education majors. This can help expand the influence of EE in more fields.

C. Messenger asks about the relationship between KEEC's Professional Environmental Educator Course (PEEC) and the environmental certificate being developed at ECU and the environmental endorsement programs. E. Schmitz notes that several Center Directors have agreed that participants in KEEC's PEEC course can be awarded up to three credits of independent study upon completion of the course.

B. Bennett outlines the requirements for his program at ECU, which includes mandatory sections: a history and philosophy section, a science content section, a methodology section, and another content course.

B. Bennett notes that ECU and other Center Directors encourage teachers to complete the KEEC PEEC program. E. Schmitz says that during the course, participants are told about the option for the environmental education endorsements at the universities.

The Council thanks B. Bennett for coming.

H. Brown directs the Council back to the agenda.

Future Council Meetings

- The Spring meeting will be held on April 30, 2014, from 12:00 – 3:00 PM Central Time at Mammoth Cave National Park.
- The Summer meeting will be a retreat and held on July 28-29, 2014, at Ursuline Sisterhood, Maple Mount, KY. The Council agrees that this could be a potential time to meet with KUPÉE Directors.
- The Fall Meeting will be held on October 22, 2014, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM Eastern Time at the Kentucky Association of Manufacturer's offices in Frankfort, KY.

Since the Council's terms are up during 2014, E. Schmitz asks the Council to notify her and H. Brown of their intent to still work the Council, or if they prefer to step down.

R. Reagor notes that the current Council's terms expire on Oct 5, 2014.

Office Operations Update

E. Schmitz provides an update on KEEC office operations. The staff offices have moved within the Capital Plaza Tower from the 21st floor to the 19th floor. E. Schmitz and H. Brown are currently drafting

letters of thanks to both the cabinet secretary and the commissioner for their help. E. Schmitz will follow-up with new address and phone information in an email following this meeting.

E. Schmitz acquired two new credenza desks for the spare office, with the intent to house the interim employee and an intern together in the same office. She requested permission to purchase two new chairs to be distributed in the office so everyone has comfortable seating for the long work day.

As described earlier, a hired intern would cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for 200 hours of work during one semester. E. Schmitz indicates that these funds could be written into the EPA grant. The Council agrees that seeking an intern should commence in the Fall Semester.

The interim position has been changed from an Information Officer to a Grade 10 Administrative Specialist. This position remains a non-merit position, with no benefits, an hourly wage, and shall be limited to 9 months. Because of these classifications, E. Schmitz is not required to post a register, and can potentially hire the position more quickly than a merit position. She hopes to have a person hired and in the office between Feb and March 1, 2014.

Master Plan (Land, Legacy and Learning) Update – 3:06 PM

The Council package included a handout outlining an estimate from UK Research Center for completing the *Survey of Kentuckians' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors*, and a proposed timeline and costs for the facilitation and development of the 2014 Master Plan, *Land, Legacy, and Learning IV*.

K. Quinn asks if UKSRC is going to be devising a new survey or simply using the same questions that were previously used. E. Schmitz notes that the UKSRC sent her the questions from 2009 and asked KEEC if we wish to make any changes to let them know. K. Reagor asks if any changes have been made to the survey in the past. E. Schmitz replies that in the past there may have been some minor changes, like an additional question about climate change. K. Reagor requests a list of the survey questions from each of the previous planning periods (1999, 2004, 2009), and says she will volunteer to work on updates to the questions.

M. Shane asks how many respondents were surveyed in previous years. E. Schmitz replied that one old MOA she found notes that there were 432 respondents. M. Shane inquires as to the cost would be to increase the number of respondents.

K. Quinn requests an RFP for the survey to find lower bids on the process. E. Schmitz confirms that an RFP will be released to gather more bids on the survey work. R. Reagor and L. Brewer want to ensure that the RFP includes a provision that data analysis must include longitudinal analysis of the results from previous years.

G. Higdon wants to know what the purpose of the survey is. Are the questions used to influence the Master Planning process? If not, what are the results used for?

K. Reagor notes that there appears to be a longitudinal comparison of current data with results from previous years. She is not sure that a new party could make this long-term comparison. She inquires if the quote from UKSRC includes the analysis of the data from previous surveys, so that this longitudinal

comparison can continue to be made. E. Schmitz indicates that she will check with UKSRC to confirm that this is included in the price.

K. Quinn seconds the questions posed earlier by G. Higdon and wants to know what we do with the data after we receive it and the report. G. Higdon and K. Reagor recall that during the last Master Planning process in 2009, the results from the Survey were used to inform and influence the Master Plan process. C. Messenger recalls that the results of the survey were brought to the focus groups to help write the Master Plan.

Sr. A. Stenger notes that understanding the attitudes and beliefs of Kentuckians and how they have changed during the last five years will be a critical component of developing a new Master Plan. K. Reagor agrees, and says that perhaps everyone needs to examine this issue more closely. Sr. A. Stenger emphasizes that the survey results are traditionally used to influence long range planning, and that in KEEC's case she cannot see how to do the Master Plan without the survey to refer to.

E. Schmitz indicates that she will request copies of the old data from UK. M. Shane recommends that we also obtain copies of the original agreements, which would help us write an RFP, ensuring that all requirements are met. E. Schmitz notes that we will ensure the RFP includes an analysis of longitudinal data.

G. Higdon asks if there is somewhere in the statute that says we need to complete the survey. Sr. A. Stenger reiterates that we need the survey to influence the Master Plan, and that we need to have a contract ready to put in place by the next Council meeting in April so that work can be completed on the survey and begin on the Master Planning process.

Master Plan Discussion

E. Schmitz says that organizations like KAEE and KUPPEE use the Master Plan to help define their goals. Sr. A. Stenger asks if there is a date by which the Master Plan must be completed. E. Schmitz indicates that we need to complete a Master Plan every five years and the last plan was completed in 2009.

B. Bennett notes that in the front of the Master Plan the accomplishments are listed. C. Messenger says the accomplishments came from completed goals, and then new goals were created. M. Shane notes that a focused group retreat could cover these kinds of discussions, and that the actual writing of the Master Plan draft would need to occur after the meeting. K. Reagor notes that there were months and months of focus groups to gather information for the Master Plan. C. Messenger notes that Jane Eller took all the survey information and focus group information and then wrote the Master Plan. G. Higdon notes that the Council then reviewed and commented on the draft as presented by J. Eller.

E. Schmitz says that she feels that bringing in a facilitator to help the focus group stay on track with the Master Plan process. To this end, she requested quote from ECU Facilitation services to complete a two-day retreat and a central regional meeting. They would also set-up a template to use in the east and west Kentucky regional meetings.

Costs for the master plan would include \$6,500 in F.Y. 2014, including \$5,000 for an MOA with ECU Facilitation Center and \$1,500 in travel costs for staff and committee member travel; and an additional

\$1,500 in F.Y. 2015 for printing costs. E. Schmitz notes an additional goal of working with partners KUPEE and KAEE to create a plan for each organization to implement the Master Plan. For example, KAEE's strategic planning process is slated to occur this fall and they wish to use the Master to influence their goals and objectives. Consequently, KAEE hopes to partner with KEEC during the Master Planning process.

3:52 PM – Karen Quinn Departs

M. Shane and K. Reagor note that KRS 157.915 Functions of the Council does not clearly indicate a survey must be completed. E. Schmitz cites Section (7) of the statute as the survey requirement. The Council agrees that the survey is necessary to complete the Master Plan.

G. Higdon feels that a facilitator is essential, and he might even be able to help arrange services for the other regional meetings that ECU cannot cover.

L. Brewer indicates that the contract should be put in place as soon as possible to ensure ECU is available when we need them. The Council notes that E. Schmitz will need to revise the timeline for the Master Planning and survey processes.

⇒ At 3:57 PM, G. Higdon moved that KEEC should develop an MOA Contract with ECU Facilitation Services, at the \$5,000 quoted rate, for their help in the Master Planning Process; K. Reagor seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

G. Higdon directs E. Schmitz to speak with the former KEEC Director Jane Eller to determine exactly what steps and methods were used in the Master Planning and survey processes in the past. K. Reagor asks that E. Schmitz submit her findings to the Council in writing.

3:55 PM – H. Brown steps out from the meeting room for a phone call.

Professional Environmental Education Certification (PEEC) Program Accreditation with NAAEE

E. Schmitz briefly outlines that the application timeline for accreditation of the PEEC program by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) has been moved up to take advantage of \$1,250 in leftover grant funds from the NAAEE Accreditation grant. Now, instead of submitting the accreditation application as planned in 2015, KEEC will need to submit the application by August 1, 2014. Meeting this deadline will save \$1,000 of the \$2,000 grant application fee.

K. Reagor asks how frequently KEEC will need to pay a fee to recertify the program. E. Schmitz is uncertain of the reaccreditation structure for NAAEE and will confirm at the next meeting.

⇒ At 3:57 PM, G. Higdon assumes Chairmanship. K. Reagor moved to approve the extra \$1,000 in spending to complete the NAAEE Accreditation Application by August 1, 2014; Sr. A. Stenger seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

E. Schmitz has been working on grant applications. She and H. Brown have had some productive meetings with the Heritage Land Conservation Fund (HLCF) Board, who are indicating more willingness

to help KEEC in the current budget situation. The HLCF has indicated that they will require their conservation land managers to attend the PEEC course.

Sr. A. Stenger asks about the EPA grant. E. Schmitz details that this regional EE grant offered by EPA already has strong partner commitments: with KY NEED, the Kentucky chapter of the USGBC, the Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA), and potentially KAEE. The grant application would be for two years and \$200,000.

4:05 PM – H. Brown returns to the meeting.

G. Higdon notes that KAM now has a grant writer on staff and that E. Schmitz should plan to meet with this resource.

G. Higdon provides a legislative update. KAM is deeply involved with Energy Efficiency, and creating programs with tax credits made available for smaller operations. KAM has been working with EEC Secretary Peters on Combined Heated Power. Also, the Council should read Sec. Peter's White Paper on greenhouse gases. E. Schmitz indicates she will send out a link to the white paper following the meeting. G. Higdon continues that KAM is currently working closely with EEC on the greenhouse and energy related issues.

E. Schmitz notes that H.B. 5 (about security breaches with online data) is legislation followed by KEEC because of its connections to the Common Core.

K. Reagor notes several upcoming events. The KY NEED High Performance Sustainable Practices Workshop will occur March 13-14, 2014. The portfolio review for the KY NEED program will occur on April 16. The KY NEED and KGHS Youth Summit and Awards Luncheon will occur on April 24.

B. Bennett reaffirms that he will try to arrange with KUPEE Directors to meet with the Council, and potentially at the July retreat. He also states that this Council is hugely important and widely respected nationally.

Meeting Adjourned

⇒ At 4:19 PM, Sr. A. Stenger moved that Council Meeting should be Adjourned; G. Higdon seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.