



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Fall Council Meeting
October 22, 2014

Meeting Location: Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time zone)

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Horace Brown, Vice-Chair Karen Quinn, Karin Ceralde, Gordon Garner, Greg Higdon, Marc Norton, Karen Reagor

Absent Members: Lona Brewer, Cheryl Messenger

Staff in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, Michelle Shane, Wesley Bullock

Others in Attendance: Melinda Wilder, Eastern Kentucky University; Billy Bennett, Eastern Kentucky University

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown, who thanked council members for their service. Introductions were made by all present.

2015 Council Meeting Schedule

E. Schmitz announced that 2014 Council meetings will be held from 1-4 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday in January, April, and October, with a retreat on July 28-29.

Minutes

Minutes from the July 2014 Council meeting were presented for review and approval.

⇒ At 1:25 PM, K. Reagor moved that the Minutes from the July 2014 Council meeting be approved as presented; M. Norton seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Budget

M. Shane distributed the budget report with projections. She highlighted income and expenditures that had changed from previous projections.

Grants

E. Schmitz explained the history and purpose of the grant for the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course from Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky. The grant will allow KEEC to offer scholarships to participants who reach underserved populations and cover some KEEC administrative costs.

Legislative Initiatives

E. Schmitz distributed the final draft of the detailed legislative proposal, along with the draft statutory language, to establish a trust fund for environmental education. She also distributed the draft legislative proposal for a specialty license plate.

⇒ At 2:20 PM, G. Higdon moved that KEEC move forward toward a specialty license plate including all necessary legislative changes before the January deadline; K. Quinn seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Professional Environmental Educator Certification Course

E. Schmitz discussed the certification course contract, which will be finalized when it is signed by the KAAE executive director, Ashley Hoffman.

Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan

B. Bennett and M. Wilder gave a presentation on the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP), emphasizing the opportunity to focus on the KELP as the Kentucky Department of Education is rolling out Kentucky's new science standards. They described their planning for this opportunity and requested the support of the KEEC for the future, but said that nothing specific is required at this time.

Break

M. Shane, W. Bullock, M. Wilder, and B. Bennett left the meeting

Closed Session

K. Quinn requested a closed session of the council, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f), to discuss a personnel matter.

⇒ G. Higdon moved the council to enter a closed session to discuss personnel matters; K. Quinn seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

⇒ M. Norton, after discussion of the administrative specialist position, moved that the council authorize the executive director to act at her discretion; K. Quinn seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

At the will of the chair, the session was reopened.

M. Shane, W. Bullock, M. Wilder, and B. Bennett returned to the meeting

2015-2020 Environmental Education Master Plan

E. Schmitz reviewed the history of the master plans and the process of creating the draft 2015-2020 plan. The consensus of the council was to plan for publication after the council has had a chance to meet in person to review the document in detail in January 2015.

K. Quinn, M. Wilder, and B. Bennett left the meeting

Contracts

E. Schmitz updated the council on the progress of pending agreements with the Kentucky Division of Water and Project Learning Tree.

Grants

E. Schmitz reported that KEEC will apply for a Steel-Reese grant and will look into grants from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the new health care provider for state employees, especially for Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools (KGHS). H. Brown asked council members to call E. Schmitz with any grant ideas. E. Schmitz noted that NAAEE mini-grant on accreditation is still pending.

Upcoming Events

G. Higdon reported that the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers is working on a new legislative initiative related to assessing skills gaps in the graduating workforce. The first event, conducted in partnership with the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, is anticipated for February in Frankfort. Council members and staff are invited to participate.

⇒ K. Reagor moved to adjourn; G. Higdon seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.