



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Winter Council Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2016

Meeting Location: Capitol Education Center, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: October 26, 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Horace Brown, Lona Brewer, Karin Ceralde, Gordon Garner, Marc Norton, Karen Reagor

Absent Members: Vice Chair Billie Hardin, Greg Higdon

Staff in Attendance: Wesley Bullock

Others in Attendance:

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown at 1:10 PM. Six of eight Council Members were present.

Approval of Agenda

Council Members verbally agreed to the agenda as written.

Council Vacancy

H. Brown reported that he has spoken with Secretary Heiner to let him know about the vacancy on the council. W. Bullock reported that several other Education and Workforce Development Cabinet agencies are also awaiting appointments of new members to boards and commissions.

Minutes Review

⇒ At 1:16 PM G. Garner moved to approve the minutes from the July 2016 Council meeting. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Confirmation of Public Notice

KEEC staff confirmed that the meeting was publicized on the agency website and through a press release as required by Kentucky Open Meetings Law.

Motion to Enter Closed Session

⇒ At 1:18 PM, K. Reagor moved to enter closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(f). L. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Motion to Exit Closed Session

⇒ At 1:40 PM, L. Brewer moved to exit closed session. K. Reagor seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Grant Update

W. Bullock reported that KEEC has received a \$91,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for water education through professional development sessions for teachers and grants to schools through the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools (KGHS) program. He reviewed the budget and timeline of the grant, noting that a delay in awarding the grant has put KEEC two months behind the timeline. A press release is being prepared with the help of the Kentucky Department of Education and Division of Water.

Hiring of KGHS Coordinator

W. Bullock reported that the EPA grant would fund 80% of the salary for an interim KGHS Coordinator for the agency. He noted that the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet budget and personnel offices have moved quickly to seek the necessary approvals for spending the grant money and hiring the new staff member. The target date for hiring is December 1. Standard posting time for an interim position is 10 days. Council Members requested a 10 day posting time if that is feasible given the time constraints.

Budget Update

Council Members reviewed the agency's revenue and expenses from the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2017, including projections for the fiscal year revised to include revenue and expenses for the EPA grant.

Motion to Approve Revisions to Budget

⇒ At 2:05 PM, G. Garner moved to approve the updated revenue and expense projections. K. Reagor seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

KUPEE/Pride Fund Update

W. Bullock noted that KEEC received more revenue than expected from interest on the Pride Fund. He summarized the activities that were funded by the last round of Pride Fund grants to the university Environmental Education Centers, and he noted that not all of the funding was spent, meaning KEEC will need to go through another application process to distribute the remaining funds. W. Bullock will look into the timeline for expending funds.

Thank you letter to Secretary Heiner and Andy Hightower

Council Members reviewed a thank you letter to Education and Workforce Development Cabinet leadership for providing office space to KEEC and assisting with securing the EPA grant. W. Bullock will mail the finalized letter to H. Brown for signature.

Master Plan Executive Summary

Council Members reviewed the final printed version of the Executive Summary of the 2015-2020 Master Plan for Environmental Education. H. Brown recommended meeting with cabinet staff for recommendations on how to distribute it that would be most useful.

Specialty License Plate

W. Bullock reported that 10 of 49 applicants had requested a refund of their license plate application fee after being contacted by mail and email. The remaining applicants will receive a letter recognizing their contribution once the letter is approved by cabinet legal staff.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Environmental education is specifically mentioned as eligible for funding through the Every Student Succeeds Act. W. Bullock reported on national and state efforts to make school districts aware of these provisions.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Chair Horace Brown

H. Brown was set to receive the Lifetime Achievement award from the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education at their awards gala in Lexington on November 12. W. Bullock noted that the gala was canceled, but H. Brown and other recipients will receive their awards at KAEE's fundraising luncheon in March.

PEEC Reunion

W. Bullock announced that 13 PEEC graduates, and a total of 33 guests, attended the Professional Environmental Educator Certification Reunion in Horse Cave on August 13. Elizabeth McNulty, Blake Newton (absent), Kennetha Sanders, and Liz Thomas were recognized as Master Environmental Educators. He noted that the Certification Advisory Committee recommended attaching future reunions to Kentucky Association for Environmental Education events.

PEEC Renewal

W. Bullock reported that the renewal course for Certified Professional Environmental Educators will be delivered by webcast on December 6 at 10 a.m. The course will include updates on state and national environmental education news and events.

PEEC Reinstatement

W. Bullock said that eight people have applied for the Reinstatement Course, with one completing it already. The deadline for completion is the same as the renewal deadline: January 30, 2017. Reinstatement applicants must also complete renewal requirements in order to regain their certification. The Certification Advisory Committee recommended having a committee including staff and committee members to develop a rubric and evaluate the projects. W. Bullock put out request for development of scoring guide to the full committee, but did not receive any responses. He will look into the public meeting requirements for the project.

Certification Advisory Committee

W. Bullock reported that Elizabeth Schmitz appointed him to the Certification Advisory Committee as a representative of KEEC in order to ensure that, along with B. Hardin, KEEC had two members on the committee as required by NAAEE accreditation.

PEEC Course

W. Bullock reviewed a list of 2016-17 course participants and instructors, noting the diversity of organizations and backgrounds represented. He announced that eight \$500 scholarships and one \$250 scholarship had been awarded to course participants. One major change to the course was replacing an environmental issues debate with an Environmental Issues Forum, for which he received training at the NAAEE Conference.

Conferences

W. Bullock represented KEEC at the NAAEE Conference in Madison, WI, from October 18-22. He attended a Capacity Building Summit on October 18 for which he received a \$1000 travel scholarship. He also sat on several panels in workshops regarding certification and accreditation, and attended the meeting of the NAAEE Accreditation Advisory Board. He served as a conference volunteer assisting with sessions and the gala in order to receive free conference registration. W. Bullock also spoke with Ashley Hoffman, Executive Director of KAEE, about better reporting the state of environmental education in Kentucky. NAAEE will be discussing developing a national standard model of reporting based on an effort in Wisconsin, but Kentucky may want to begin reporting this year to start building awareness among environmental education organizations in the state.

H. Brown and L. Brewer reported on the Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment, which included a good balanced presentation.

W. Bullock also represented KEEC at the KAEE Conference at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park in September.

Along with representatives of the certification programs in Georgia and North Carolina, W. Bullock has been approved to present a session on certification at the Southeast Environmental Education Association conference in Georgia March 3-4, 2017. He requested Council approval for KEEC staff to attend the conference. The Council will decide in January whether to send a staff person.

W. Bullock announced the Children's Environmental Health Conference on December 1 in Burlington, KY. KEEC helped to plan the conference but will not be able to attend due to Workshop 2 of the PEEC course.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Council Meeting is January 25, 2017, currently scheduled for the new state office building at 300 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort. The remaining meetings are scheduled for:

- April 26, 2017
- July 25-26, 2017
- October 25, 2017

W. Bullock asked Council Members where they would like to hold the remaining 2017 meetings. April will be at the Frankfort Convention Center and W. Bullock will reserve the CEC for October. He will put together alternative suggestions to Shaker Village for the July retreat.

Other Announcements

W. Bullock mentioned the Let's Move! Outside Summit in Louisville on November 15. He will look into attending.

K. Reagor announced that Commissioner Pruitt will speak at the KGHS and KY NEED Summit.

Motion to Adjourn (a quorum must be present to approve motions)

⇒ At 3:10 PM, K. Ceralde moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.