



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Winter Council Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2017

Meeting Location: 300 Building, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

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

Council Members Attending by Phone: Vice Chair Billie Hardin

Absent Members: Karin Ceralde, Greg Higdon

Staff in Attendance: Billy Bennett, Wesley Bullock

Others in Attendance: Jennifer Hubbard-Sanchez, KAEE Chair

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown at 1:00 PM. Four of eight Council Members were present in the room. B. Hardin joined by phone. Because phone attendees do not count toward quorum, there was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, but quorum was reached when M. Norton joined the meeting at 1:10 PM.

Introductions were made around the table.

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.

Council Vacancy

H. Brown reported that he has not received word on the nomination for the council vacancy.

Grant Update

B. Bennett notified the Council that the EPA grant payment system (ASAP.gov) has been set up. Some news reports indicated that contracts would be frozen, but KEEC has not heard from EPA on the issue. L. Brewer asked KEEC staff to call and ask the EPA contact for clarification of the issue.

M. Norton joined the meeting. Quorum was reached.

Minutes Review

⇒ At 1:13 PM K. Reagor moved to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2016, Council meeting. G. Garner seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Election of Officers

⇒ At 1:14 PM, G. Garner moved to defer election of officers until the April meeting. K. Reagor seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Hiring of KGHS Coordinator

B. Bennett noted that he and L. Brewer conducted interviews of three candidates for the KGHS Coordinator position last week. He pointed out that the top candidate has been chosen, but KEEC has contacted the Ethics Commission in order to resolve questions about contracts with the candidate before the offer is extended. K. Reagor suggested notifying all candidates who are not chosen when the offer is accepted.

Budget Update

Council Members reviewed the agency's revenue and expenses from the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2017, including projections for the fiscal year revised to include revenue and expenses for the EPA grant. W. Bullock noted that projections would be updated once the personnel costs for two staff members show up in the expenditure report. The new projections will be reported in the April meeting.

KUPEE/Pride Fund Update

B. Bennett noted that about \$1800 remains in pride fund interest that was unspent in the last round of contracts. Kevin Osborne did not find state law requiring that those funds be disbursed within a certain amount of time. K. Reagor asked if we should expect to continue to receive approximately \$30,000 in interest on the Pride Fund. W. Bullock relayed Stephanie Belt's explanation that, though KEEC can expect more than the approximately \$1000 distributions from past years, she highly doubts we will receive close to \$30,000 again. K. Reagor asked if there is a restriction on how the funds could be spent. B. Bennett explained that the \$1800 has to be distributed to the centers for environmental education at the universities, but there is no restriction on the new funds. If any funds are distributed, consensus was to wait until KEEC's fiscal picture is clearer.

Legislative Update

B. Bennett noted that the legislature is in short session, and we have received advice to wait until the session is over before making initial contact with legislators. K. Reagor suggested emphasizing the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP) and the Master Plan for Environmental Education in Kentucky in our messaging. B. Bennett noted that he has also set up meetings with Bellarmine University about starting a Master in EE program, and with the Prichard Committee about general partnerships.

Thank You Letter to Secretary Heiner

KEEC staff will draft a letter once space is secured for new EE Specialist.

SEEA Conference

B. Bennett noted that, 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 (SEEA) conference in Georgia March 3-4, 2017. He noted that the cost for sending two staff members would be \$1460 or less. B. Hardin asked about other conferences

that KEEC will attend. B. Bennett listed the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education conference, Kentucky Science Teachers' Association conference, and the North American Association for Environmental Education conference.

Motion to Approve Staff Travel to SEEA Conference

⇒ At 2:00 PM L. Brewer moved to approve travel for both KEEC staff members to the SEEA 2016 Conference. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Other Conferences/Earth Day

B. Hardin suggested adding the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers Conference and the Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment as other possible conferences. B. Bennett noted that KEEC joined an Earth Day planning meeting with the Energy and Environment Cabinet, and the committee decided to hold the event at the 300 Building and focus on state employees as an audience. As a result, KEEC is considering awarding Kentucky Green Ribbon Schools at the KEEC and KY NEED Youth Summit and Awards Luncheon, especially since Commissioner Pruitt will be the keynote. G. Garner mentioned that the EQC Earth Day awards may not be given this year, and he is seeking an alternative.

Master Plan

Council Members reviewed a report on EE in Wisconsin. B. Bennett noted that KEEC, KAEE, and KUPÉE would like to produce a similar report for Kentucky, with the addition of more information about what is going on in Kentucky K-12 classrooms. B. Hardin noted that it ties in to KEEC's responsibility to coordinate EE statewide. She mentioned the Green Buildings Coalition as a resource for EE organizations and educators. L. Brewer said that Kentucky has received several multi-million dollar awards for environmental workforce development, including from the Appalachian Regional Commission. B. Bennett noted that KEEC is exploring the idea of getting interns to work on the project, whether through KEEC, KAEE, or KUPÉE. He explained that KEEC will meet with J. Hubbard-Sanchez and A. Hoffman from KAEE to discuss coordination between the organizations.

Program, Committee, and Events Updates

W. Bullock updated the Council on the progress of the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course, Workshops 1 and 2. All 27 participants are still enrolled. Update on renewal numbers will be complete in April. He reported that KGHS participation may be down this year due to lack of staff support, but will hopefully rebound with the new staff member and grants available in the upcoming year.

Council Retreat Planning

H. Brown asked the Council to consider holding the retreat in Frankfort in order to save funds. B. Hardin agreed and offered to seek a larger room at the KCTCS office. After reporting on options, the Council asked staff to consider a one-day meeting closer to Frankfort, but to hold a reservation at Shaker Village in the meantime.

B. Hardin left the call.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Council Meeting is April 26, 2017, at the Frankfort Convention Center. The remaining meetings are scheduled for:

- July 25-26, 2017
- October 25, 2017 (This will move to the 300 buildings)

Motion to Adjourn

⇒ At 2:54 PM, G.Garner moved to adjourn the meeting. L. Brewer seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.