



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)  
Council Meeting Minutes  
November 1, 2017

**Meeting Location:** 300 Building, 300 Sower Boulevard, Room 432, Frankfort KY

**Meeting Time:** 1:00 p.m. Eastern

**Council Members in Attendance:** Chair Billie Hardin, Karin Ceralde, Gordon Garner, Karen Reagor

**Absent Members:** Vice Chair Marcus Norton, Lona Brewer, Horace Brown

**Staff in Attendance:** Billy Bennett, Wesley Bullock

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. H.M. Snodgrass, Kentucky House Leadership; Ashley Hoffman, Kentucky Association for Environmental Education; April Haight, Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education

A. Introduction

1. The meeting was called to order by B. Hardin at 1:05 PM. W. Bullock confirmed that public notice of the Council Meeting was given on the agency website and in a cabinet press release.
2. W. Bullock called roll. Of the seven Council Members, four were present, constituting a quorum. Guests Dr. H.M. Snodgrass and Ashley Hoffman introduced themselves.
3. Motion to Approve July 2017 Council Meeting Minutes:  $\Rightarrow$  At 1:08 PM, G. Garner moved to approve the minutes of the July 2017 Council Meeting. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.
4. Motion to Approve July 2017 Strategic Planning Work Session Minutes:  $\Rightarrow$  At 1:08 PM, G. Garner moved to approve the minutes of the July 2017 Strategic Planning Work Session. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.
5. No changes were made to the agenda.
6. Motion to Approve Schedule of Upcoming Meetings:  $\Rightarrow$  At 1:12 PM, G. Garner moved to accept the schedule of meetings as proposed in Agenda Item A-6. K. Reagor seconded. After discussion, G. Garner modified the motion to accept the schedule of meetings as proposed in Agenda Item A-6, but change the May meeting from May 2, 2018, to May 9, 2018. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.
7. B. Hardin asked Council Members to turn in travel vouchers.
8. B. Bennett reminded Council Members to disclose organizational affiliations relevant to any discussions.

B. Vision, Mission, Goals, and Workplan

1. Motion to Approve Mission Statement:  $\Rightarrow$  At 1:14 PM, K. Ceralde moved to change the KEEC mission statement, as proposed in Agenda Item B-1. K. Reagor seconded. After discussion, K. Ceralde revised her motion to change the KEEC mission statement to Option B

of Agenda Item B-1, "To promote learning and skills for a sustainable and economically healthy environment". K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

- a. During discussion, A. Haight joined the meeting and introduced herself as a representative of the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education.

#### C. Environmental Education

1. B. Bennett reported on the status of the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program, including the growth in program participation due mostly to funding available for water projects through the EPA grant. He mentioned that KEEC was approved to hire a new EE specialist, but the candidate has not responded to recent communications. He also discussed recent simplification of the KGHS awards structure down to two categories.
2. B. Bennett noted that there are now 104 Certified Professional Environmental Educators in Kentucky, and he discussed preparations for the next course.
3. B. Bennett noted that he met with all KUPÉE representatives at the KAEE Conference in September. He explained that the session on college and university accreditation scheduled for the canceled North American Association for Environmental Education Conference was rescheduled to be held at Eastern Kentucky University on January 4, 2018. B. Bennett also attended the Governor's Conference on Energy and Environment, the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers Energy Awareness breakfast, and the Northern Kentucky University STEM Conference.
4. B. Bennett recommended continuing to use the definition of environmental education provided in KRS 157.905 because it is comprehensive and would require legislative action to change.
  - a. After discussion, B. Hardin asked Council Members for comment on changes to the agenda structure for KEEC Council Meetings. G. Garner requested that each agenda item begin with an explanation for its inclusion in the agenda.

#### D. Coordination

1. Announcements for KAEE and KUPÉE representatives:
  - a. A. Hoffman shared about the mission and functions of KAEE, including working with KEEC on the survey of EE organizations and Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan. She noted that several meetings planned for the NAAEE Conference will be held at the 2018 SEEA Conference in Florida, and that Kentucky will host the 2019 SEEA Conference. She explained KAEE's role in carrying out the activities of Project WET, which is hosted by the Kentucky Division of Water under a Memorandum of Agreement with KEEC. B. Hardin asked the Council to consider statutory requirements are when considering whether to renew the MOA with DOW, due for renewal on July 1, 2018.
  - b. A. Haight discussed the statewide strategic planning process that arose out of partnership meetings between KUPÉE, KAEE, and KEEC. Beginning in March 2018, meetings will be held at each of the university EE centers to gather input both for the upcoming 5-year Master Plan and for the strategic plans for each organization. The purpose is to reduce overlap and duplication between the organizations. A. Haight also discussed the Environmental Literacy Assessment article abstract and data that arose out of a project funded by Pride Fund grants in 2015-16. The final paper will be submitted to the Environmental Education Communication Journal, and KUPÉE will present the information to the Education Professional Standards Board.

2. B. Bennett discussed the formation of a working group to revise the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan. Along with members noted in Agenda Item D-2, Rae McEntyre was referred by KDE Commissioner Pruitt to be a member, and Ken Clark, the principal of Kit Carson Elementary School, will be a member. K. Ceralde will also consider joining the working group.
- E. Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education
1. B. Bennett reported on the September ISEE meeting and discussed the participation of ISEE members in the survey of EE organizations. B. Hardin requested that KEEC staff implement changes to the ISEE structure and report on them in the next Council Meeting.
- F. Centers for Environmental Education
1. B. Bennett reported on the results of his conversations with university EE center representatives. Though most centers are staffed by university-paid faculty, their most pressing need is funding to carry out activities beyond offering classes.
  2. Discussion of the report to EPSB was held earlier in A. Haight's report from KUPPEE.
- G. Budget
1. W. Bullock presented KEEC's submission to the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet's proposed budget. He noted that the submission explains KEEC's increased spending to be a result of receiving federal grants. Even with those grants, increased costs related to pensions and office space mean that KEEC will need to continue looking for additional revenue or cuts to balance the budget beyond the next biennium.
  2. W. Bullock explained that the Office of the State Budget Director has asked agencies to project pension costs of 84% of salaries in the next biennium, up from 50% in this biennium, though the actual costs will depend on legislative action.
  3. W. Bullock reviewed expenses and revenue for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2018. He noted that interest on the Pride fund was significantly more than expected, and KEEC will continue to seek information that will allow us to project future earnings.
    - a. Motion to Approve the Budget Report: ⇨ At 3:22 PM, G. Garner moved to approve the budget report. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.
  4. W. Bullock reviewed the EPA grant budget, for which the significant remaining expenditures are the cost of an interim EE Specialist and sub-grants to schools.
  5. W. Bullock reviewed the AmeriCorps grant budget, which will pay for all expenses for a Program Director whom KEEC expects to hire soon.
- H. Support – Public and Private
1. W. Bullock explained that KEEC has caught up to its timeline for the EPA grant, with former EE specialist Tabitha Owens leading four teacher professional development workshops, and 27 schools applying for sub-grants.
  2. W. Bullock noted that much of the activity for the AmeriCorps grant awaits the hiring of a Program Director, but an advisory committee has been formed. B. Hardin asked any Council Members who are interested in serving on the committee to contact her. Service on the committee will have a 6-10 hour time commitment over 2-3 meetings annually.
  3. B. Bennett noted several private grants for which KEEC has applied.
- I. Value and Accountability
1. B. Bennett presented a chart of employers of current Certified Professional Environmental Educators. KEEC will change the section labeled 'universities' to 'post-secondary'.

2. B. Bennett reported on a recent meeting with Dr. Kate Akers, Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics. KCEWS offered to map the distribution of CPEEs and teachers with the EE endorsement, overlaid with other relevant information. They also noted their ability to serve as evaluators for grants and to conduct surveys. B. Bennett will explore how those services could benefit KEEC.

J. Communications and Marketing

1. B. Bennett noted that KEEC has received a good response for its survey of EE organizations despite minimal advertisement so far. He explained that KEEC is working with KAEE to revise the survey to benefit both organizations and work together on reaching more EE organizations within the state.

K. State Government/Legislature

1. B. Bennett reported on the three administrative regulations that mention environmental education.
2. B. Hardin announced that Greg Higdon has resigned from this Council along with his retirement from the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers. She will meet November 7 with Mardi Montgomery of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to schedule a timeline for filling vacancies and re-appointing current Council Members.
  - a. B. Hardin noted that she was unable to attend the last meeting of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund board.

Motion to Adjourn:  $\implies$  At 4:05 PM, G. Garner moved to adjourn. K. Reagor seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.