



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Council Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2022

Meeting Location: Virtual

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Sandra Dunahoo, Vice Chair Brad Mitzelfelt, Ben Allen, Sarah Cummins, Ryan Green, Dr. Hugh Henry, John Hodgson, Chris Musgrave

Absent Members: Richard Nelson

Staff in Attendance: Billy Bennett, Wesley Bullock, Ashley Mike

Others in Attendance:

A. Introduction

1. The meeting was called to order by S. Dunahoo at 1:03 PM. W. Bullock confirmed that public notice of the council meeting was given, as required by open meetings law.
2. Quorum. Of the nine council members, six were present, constituting a quorum.
3. Action. Motion to approve November 2021 Council Meeting Minutes: ⇨ At 1:07 PM, B. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the November Council Meeting. C. Musgrave seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.

B. Council General Updates

1. Update: Environmental Education Leadership Corps. A. Mike reported that there are now 10 EELCorps members, which is a good number considering the difficulty for many programs in recruiting. More sites are continuing to look for members as well, with many of the sites with members being centered around Louisville, where recruiting has been easier. The Summer Enrichment Program could also add members if we are able to conduct it this year. We plan to add a full-time Member Coordinator as soon as possible, with interviews scheduled for next week, in order to help grow the program and run it during Ashley's maternity leave. S. Dunahoo asked if the Member Coordinator will be recruiting for this year, and A. Mike noted that there are still several sites looking for members this year.

S. Cummins joined the meeting. A. Mike left the meeting.

2. Update: Summer Enrichment Program. B. Bennett said that the details are still up in the air, with several partners involved.
3. Update: Professional Environmental Educator Certification. W. Bullock said that the PEEC course for this year is about to conclude the first workshop. For educators already certified, this is the time of year for renewal, which has been somewhat delayed as KEEC

prepares to return to the normal requirements of continuing education for several cohorts that have not renewed before. W. Bullock also reported that KEEC will be renewing its accreditation from the North American Association for Environmental Education by June 30. S. Cummins suggested advertising with associations for independent schools.

4. Update: Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools and US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. B. Bennett reported that KEEC received 3 applications for the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program, of which 2 will be nominated, due to a limit of one nomination of a private school per year. This is a good number in a year when many states are not able to nominate a single school. The Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools program is on hold until we are able to add a Green Schools Coordinator. B. Bennett also reported on a meeting with Dep. Sec. Regan with outside stakeholders who are interested in helping to grow green schools in Kentucky. S. Cummins asked about having existing KGHS schools mentor potential new schools.
5. Update: Professional development. B. Bennett reported on the conferences and meetings that staff attended and plan to attend. S. Dunahoo recommended that B. Bennett attend the ARC Power session at the Saving Our Appalachian Region Conference.
6. Update: Grants. B. Bennett reported on the plans for using the Duke Energy grant of \$5000 to do surveys of students at the North Central YMCA environmental education camp. S. Dunahoo asked what size of grant is needed, and B. Bennett said a full survey would cost around \$60,000. C. Musgrave noted that there may be some money in the transportation bill for research on environmental impacts. It may be more geared toward things like wildlife overpasses and things of that nature.

C. Budget

1. Update: AmeriCorps grant. W. Bullock reported that Serve Kentucky finalized additional federal funding for the grant from ARPA funds, allowing KEEC to add a Member J. Hodgson asked about the nature of the Pride Funds, and R. Green clarified that KEEC has in the past asked to regularize the funding, but it would require coordination with other boards and entities that also receive funds from this source. R. Green suggested the fund as a topic for the retreat.

H. Henry joined the meeting.

2. Update: Quarterly budget report. W. Bullock reported on revenue and expenditures, noting that the carry-forward was not included in the report, but should show up as part of revenue. He said that the quarter saw a lot of financial issues get resolved.

D. Meeting Schedule

1. Action: Council retreat. W. Bullock recommended Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill as the location for the May council retreat. He said that it has been the location of the retreat in years past and has competitive pricing for meeting space, lodging, and meals, and it is centrally located for the members. He will plan for a Thursday afternoon to Friday morning meeting, and send a proposed schedule in the coming weeks.
2. Information: Upcoming council meetings.

- a. May 19-20, 2022
- b. August 10, 2022
- c. November 9, 2022

S. Cummins offered to teach and/or host workshops to help out the council.

Motion to Adjourn: \Rightarrow At 2:07 PM, H. Henry moved to adjourn. S. Cummins seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

DRAFT