



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Council Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2022

Meeting Location: Virtual

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Sandra Dunahoo, Vice Chair Brad Mitzelfelt, Sarah Cummins, Ryan Green

Absent Members: Ben Allen, , Dr. Hugh Henry, Chris Musgrave, Richard Nelson

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

Others in Attendance:

A. Introduction

1. The meeting was called to order by S. Dunahoo at 1:05 PM. W. Bullock confirmed that public notice of the council meeting was given, as required by open meetings law.
2. Quorum. Of the eight council members, four were present at the start. Council operating policies require greater than 50%, so a quorum was not constituted.

B. Council General Updates

1. Update: Environmental Education Leadership Corps. A. Mike reported introduced J. Gerwe as the new Member Coordinator starting full-time at the beginning of August. The second new Member Coordinator is expected to be starting as soon as background checks and other procedures can be completed. J. Gerwe introduced herself to the council and expressed her excitement for the upcoming program year. A. Mike shared that the program will expand significantly in the upcoming grant year starting September 1 thanks to additional federal funding and a partnership with the Cleaner World Project, which was proposed by Todd Schmiedeler to Serve Kentucky, who reached out to us suggesting a possible partnership. KEEC worked with T. Schmiedeler to turn the proposal into a grant budget, which was approved for the upcoming year. Members working with the Cleaner World Project will be focused on energy assessments. A. Mike and J. Gerwe have been working on an annual calendar for the EELCorps program to be published, along with website updates, in partnership with Communications & Marketing Coordinator Kate Patterson. S. Dunahoo asked if A. Mike felt that she had the resources necessary to administer the program. A. Mike responded that she was overwhelmed at the beginning of the year, but feels that the addition of the two Member Coordinators will help immensely. S. Dunahoo said that the soil and water conservation districts may have funding through things like millage taxes, and it

may be worth partnering with them to increase capacity and take advantage of those resources. A. Mike said that Kenton County Conservation District will be coming on as a site this year, and having conservation districts as sites is a natural partnership. S. Dunahoo asked because of her past experience with that kind of programming in the conservation district. B. Bennett mentioned that private funding is important, especially given the decrease in revenue that the agency has experienced in the last two fiscal years.

2. Update: Summer Enrichment Program. A. Mike reported that 11 members participated in the program, starting with a core curriculum training in June. It was a younger cohort than usual, which was a learning experience for the program. So far, those members have reached about 1000 learners. Three of the members were with Cleaner World Project in Louisville.
3. Update: Professional Environmental Educator Certification. W. Bullock reported that the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course has a tentative schedule for all in-person workshops in 2022-23 using the same format and schedule as the last pre-pandemic course from 2019-20. S. Dunahoo asked for the locations, and W. Bullock reported that they will be held at Maywoods, JM Feltner 4-H Camp, Flaget Center, and Cave Research Foundation. Seven participants are signed up so far, with more expected, and full-time EELCorps members also yet to sign up.
4. Update: Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools and US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. B. Bennett said that the Kentucky Green & Healthy Schools program is hampered by the lack of a dedicated staff person. He is hoping to find someone to hire, perhaps into the part-time position that we have available in our cap. W. Bullock reported that two schools, one public and one private, are working on applications for this year. In order to nominate more than those two, we would need an institution of higher education, or a disadvantaged K-12 school, according to US Department of Education. B. Bennett and S. Dunahoo discussed adding a retired teacher in the position. S. Cummins offered to be used as a resource to write a letter or teach a workshop to build interest.

Dr. H. Henry joined the meeting. Five members were present, constituting a quorum. Introductions were made around the table.

5. Update: Professional development. B. Bennett reported on the conferences and meetings that staff attended and plan to attend. All KEEC staff will be going to the KAEE Conference in Berea in late November, which was moved from Jenny Wiley State Park in September because flood victims are being housed there. Most KEEC staff will attend the NAAEE Conference in Tucson in mid-October. A. Mike will send an email to council members letting them know when she and J. Gerwe will present their session at the KAEE Conference. B. Bennett also discussed his attendance at the Population Connection educator training. S. Dunahoo offered to share his training with KACO.

C. Musgrave joined the meeting. S. Dunahoo provided an update.

C. Council Membership

1. Action. Motion to approve February 2022 Council Meeting Minutes: ⇨ At 1:47 PM, R. Green moved to approve the minutes of the February Council Meeting. D. H. Henry seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.
2. Information: Application for Boards & Commissions. B. Bennett reported that all council members' terms expire on October 5, 2022. All members who are interested in continuing to serve. W. Bullock will send the link to council members to submit the application.

D. Budget

1. Update: Annual budget report and projections. W. Bullock reported the revenue and expenditures for FY2022 and projected to FY2023. He noted that, without receiving interest on the Pride Fund for this year and the last, the carry-forward for the agency keeps dropping to a point where the agency would be facing significant cuts in the next fiscal year.

R. Nelson joined the meeting.

R. Green said that the council should go over the statutes and numbers in order to find solutions for revenue into the future, and that there should be communication with the Energy & Environment Cabinet to figure out the details. But he said that the budget outlook was better than when we was last with the cabinet. S. Dunahoo asked if the council should wait until reappointments are made to address the funding issues. S. Dunahoo said that we should discuss it at the next council meeting. B. Mitzelfelt suggested using a subcommittee to deal with the budget. R. Green volunteered to work on the subcommittee. S. Cummins also volunteered.

E. Council Membership

1. Information: Upcoming council meetings. S. Dunahoo mentioned that chair election will be held in the November meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: ⇨ At 2:16 PM, B. Mitzelfelt moved to adjourn. R. Nelson seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.