



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Council Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2019

Meeting Location: 300 Building, 300 Sower Boulevard, Room 418, Frankfort KY

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Billie Hardin, Vice Chair Marcus Norton, Lona Brewer, Karen Reagor

Absent Members: Karin Ceralde, Gordon Garner

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

A. Introduction

1. The meeting was called to order by B. Hardin at 1:20 PM. W. Bullock confirmed that public notice of the Council Meeting was given, as required by Open Meetings law.
2. W. Bullock called roll. Of the six Council Members, four were present, constituting a quorum.
3. Action: Motion to Approve November 2018 Special Council Meeting Minutes: ⇨ At 1:21 PM, K. Reagor moved to approve the minutes of the November Special Council Meeting. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.
4. W. Bullock referred Council Members to their mileage forms for requested reimbursement.
5. B. Bennett announced that the Spring Council Meeting has been moved from May 8 to May 15.

B. State Government/Legislature

1. Update: B. Bennett said that the Report to the General Assembly was delivered by Deputy Secretary Mike Nemes to the Legislative Research Commission, in accordance with cabinet procedures, on January 16. B. Hardin will email the report to the lists of supporters that were rallied during the 2018 budget session. M. Norton emphasized that we should continue to link the \$150k in funding to the year 1994.

C. Communication and Marketing

- a) Update: B. Bennett reported that KEEC staff has been attempting to meet with Transportation Cabinet design services, but the meeting has been repeatedly postponed. He hopes to get from them estimates for logo design and other promotional materials, and to see which elements of the re-branding they can handle before seeking help elsewhere. B. Bennett said that KEEC will work with Education and Workforce Development Cabinet communications staff to see if they can help with the strategy element of re-branding. The Cabinet has absorbed new agencies, but has no current plans

for cabinet-wide re-branding. KEEC will also seek to have activities reported in the cabinet newsletter.

D. Budget

1. Action: W. Bullock reported on revenue and expenditures from the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2019. K. Reagor asked what is the financial benefit of the Environmental Education Leadership Corps program to KEEC. B. Bennett said that the program breaks even, but it provides 16 new environmental educators to do programming in Kentucky. K. Reagor asked if the Environmental Education Leadership Corps members are aware that the program is run by KEEC. B. Bennett and W. Bullock confirmed that members are reminded of this in multiple ways. B. Hardin and K. Reagor recommended that KEEC purchase 2-sided business cards for Environmental Education Leadership Corps members to include both the AmeriCorps and new KEEC logos. L. Brewer requested that the AmeriCorps budget report be separated from the agency budget report in future Council Meetings.
2. Information: Council Members reviewed the plan for additional spending through the biennium. L. Brewer and B. Hardin questioned if the AmeriCorps program is truly a wash if it may require additional spending outside the grant. B. Hardin suggested that host sites should pay for member travel since it benefits the site more than KEEC. She also said that KEEC staff should be careful in describing the AmeriCorps program if it is budgeted to break even but may require additional funds. L. Brewer asked if there was an update on getting an intern for the agency. She suggested trying to find a summer intern. M. Norton suggested using the summer intern to do work on the re-branding, including the design. W. Bullock noted that the next item in the expenditures will be ordering frames with the suggestions of Council Members on how to obtain them inexpensively.

E. Support – Public and Private

3. Update: B. Bennett reported on new grants that he has applied for. KEEC has received a \$1000 grant from the Walmart Foundation through its Shelbyville store. The funds are for a class set of books used in the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course, and some additional course supplies. B. Bennett also requested input on a concept paper for a grant to pay for three AmeriCorps VISTA members to work on the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program from camps run by the Kentucky Department for Fish and Wildlife Resources. K. Reagor asked if the members would themselves facilitate KGHS programs in schools. B. Bennett said they would work more on teacher training to make the program sustainable after they are gone. Council Members agreed that he should continue to explore the idea. He then reported on other grants that were rejected or are under consideration. M. Norton asked how best to learn from rejections, for instance by requesting feedback from grantors via phone call.

F. Coordination

2. Update: K. Reagor asked the Council to review its founding statutes and consider the language regarding the Master Plan. Council Members agreed that the statute calls for a new plan every 5 years, with updates annually. B. Bennett noted that the RFP for a facilitator is underway, but that the finance cabinet has become more strict about the requirements for approval. The RFP will include meeting facilitation, writing retreat facilitation, and development of a survey for those who cannot provide input in person. Regional meetings

will be held in Community and Technical Colleges in Paducah, Elizabethtown, Somerset, and Prestonsburg. All meetings will be in August, and will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Council Members requested the spreadsheet of attendees from the 2014 meetings. B. Bennett noted that he would like to split Master Plan Goal One into two goals—one for K-12 education and one for adults. K. Reagor suggested K-16 and adults as the categories. B. Bennett reported on the status of members of the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education. K. Reagor asked for numbers of students who are participating in programs that are part of centers for environmental education. B. Hardin suggested that having the centers in colleges of education may be holding back their growth, and that working with sustainability programs may be more beneficial. K. Reagor suggested keeping the ones that are working under colleges of education, but trying to grow new programs through sustainability coordinators. B. Bennett encouraged Council Members to attend the writing retreat for the Master Plan, tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2019. B. Hardin asked staff to make a plan for holding the Council Retreat the day before the Master Plan writing retreat for consideration by the Council in May.

3. Update: W. Bullock reported on news from the Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education meeting in December. There will be no Kentucky Science Teachers Association Conference in 2019 because the regional National Science Teachers Association meeting is in Cincinnati in the fall, and the national conference is in St. Louis in spring 2020. K. Reagor suggested that more teachers may attend the North American Association for Environmental Education Conference because they are used to going to KSTA and NSTA conferences.
4. Update: W. Bullock reported that KEEC staff will coordinate volunteers for the North American Association for Environmental Education Conference in Lexington October 16-19. He hopes that Environmental Education Leadership Corps members will be able to serve as volunteers to get free registration for the conference. Kentucky Association for Environmental Education staff are still waiting on decisions from the national staff about location and timing of conference events.

G. Environmental Education

1. Information: B. Bennett reported that KEEC received three Green Ribbon Schools applications. KEEC can nominate up to two schools for national recognition, but only one may be a private school. On a call with the national coordinator, the vast majority of states reported receiving between 2 and 4 applications, with only California receiving more than 5. The reviewers for KEEC will be Billy Bennett, Gordon Garner, and Vivian Bowles. Nominations are due to the US Department of Education on February 15. B. Hardin reminded KEEC staff to continue to ask the national coordinator about allowing the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to apply as a system.
2. Update: A. Mike updated Council Members on the Environmental Education Leadership Corps program. She said that they will receive quarterly updates through the program's newsletter, which she has created. She also noted that one site—JM Feltner 4-H Camp in London—is still looking for a member.
3. Update: B. Bennett reported that the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course is down to 23 participants. Workshop 2 was held at Natural Bridge in December, and a makeup workshop was held at Jefferson Memorial Forest in January for those Environmental Education Leadership Corps members who missed Workshop 1. Graduation will be held on May 31 at the State Capitol; Jane Eller will be the graduation speaker.

4. Update: B. Bennett noted that he spoke about the potential AmeriCorps VISTA program along with discussion of new grants.
5. Action: Motion to Postpone Action: \Rightarrow At 3:57 PM, K. Reagor moved to postpone action on a conference for early childhood environmental education until a future Council Meeting. L. Brewer seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn: \Rightarrow At 4:00 PM, K. Reagor moved to adjourn. L. Brewer seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.