



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2019

Meeting Location: 300 Building, 4th Floor, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Billy Bennett, Wesley Bullock, Roberta Burnes, Rae McEntyre, Matt Chaliff, Steve Kull, Madeline Pruzenski, Michaela Lambert,

Quorum of KEEC Meetings

After review of KEEC bylaws, KEEC staff determined that quorum for any KEEC committee meeting is met by any members of the committee who are in attendance. This means that the membership of the Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education can be expanded once again to include all potentially interested parties without regard for whether they can regularly attend meetings.

EE Master Plan and Survey

B. Bennett provided an overview of KEEC's main programs. W. Bullock presented on the research that has informed KEEC's process of initiating the 5-Year Master Plan for Environmental Education in Kentucky, including promoting collective action for older children and adults, and promote nature connectedness for all ages, but especially in early childhood and early elementary.

Reports from Committee Members

- R. McEntyre reported that she is the K-12 science consultant for the Kentucky Department of Education, and she has not seen that environmental education is a priority within the department. She has been thinking a lot about the relationship of formal and nonformal education, not just in science, but in social studies.
- M. Chaliff works with agricultural education and FFA, with 280 teachers across the state. They have an environmental science pathway. Lots of people do the Envirothon. They also have a forestry and land judging career development event, and working on wildlife management. There is a huge push for agricultural sustainability. They are working on recycling programs and cleanups in schools, along with fish habitat projects.
- S. Kull is the Assistant Director of the Division of Forestry. The division has a challenge of reaching 459,000 landowners to do environmental enhancement on their properties. They use Smokey Bear for early childhood and work with school age children in Forestry Leadership Camp at Jabez. They do a crash course in forestry, wildlife, and water. The division has a Green River site that does forestry for FFA. They use a lot of different angles to do environmental education, for instance not moving firewood, awareness of surroundings. Education is part of everything they do, and all of their goals, but it's not a single person's job—it is part of everyone's job. They work with conservation groups, arbor days, public plantings. They are trying to use websites and social media to reach people. 12 million acres of forest in Kentucky means it is a big job.

- T. Logsdon is from Fayette County Public Schools, where she is the Sustainability Coordinator. She is helping to guide the Green Schools National Conference in March. There is a lot of history of collaboration between that conference and the NAAEE Conference, which is in Lexington in October. She has had teachers reach out about standards regarding human impact, and there are at least a dozen NGSS that relate. She is piloting Green STEM in a couple of elementary schools, middle, and high, to create a unit that addresses 8 different areas of sustainability. She has a Sustainability Coordinator in each school, whom she trains, and a Sustainability Scorecard. She said there are great efforts by the Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council, who want to do a green career fair.
- M. Pruzenski is the Green River Basin Coordinator with Division of Water. She has been in the position for just a month. She is a resource for the different organizations in her basin. They have done a stream field day, focusing on macroinvertebrates. She is certifying in Project WET, WILD, PLT. Each basin coordinator takes turns posting on social media.
- M. Lambert is the Big Sandy Basin Coordinator. All coordinators are tasked with improving environmental literacy in their basin. They are doing that through project certification facilitator training, and the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course. They are also reaching out to educators, 4-H programs, and working with them.
- R. Burnes does EE for the Division for Air Quality. Lately, she has done a lot of conservation and 4-H field days, for instance county-wide for an entire grade. She uses a combination of websites, social media, school events, and occasionally public events. She discusses alternatives to open burning trash. Sometimes she has an adult audience, and sometimes kids. She would love to write up her more successful lessons in a way that aligns with standards and put it up on the website. She is working on idle reduction campaigns, which is a very tangible collective action that can be led by students. She is trying to get up to speed on personal air monitors, which are affordable, but not very accurate, and provides a real public information challenge.

Master Plan Input

Attendees provided written feedback on how Kentucky can achieve its environmental education goals for the next 5 years.

Adjourned at 3:00 PM.