



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024

Meeting Location: Salato Wildlife Education Center, Schaaf Meeting Room, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Amber Hawkins, Division of Water; Kendall McDonald, Office of Nature Preserves; Carey Ruff, Department of Parks; Emily Hogue, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Chris Wiedamann, Division of Forestry; Kirsten Delamarter, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Roberta Burnes, Division for Air Quality; Shana Weber, Division of Enforcement; Brittany Kring, Division of Waste Management; Emily Hogue, Department of Fish & Wildlife; Amanda Skidmore, Department of Agriculture

Other Staff in Attendance: Wesley Bullock, KEEC; Risa Yost, KEEC

A. Introduction

1. Call to Order. W. Bullock called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and introduced himself and the new Environmental Education Specialist, R. Yost
2. Quorum. Per KEEC operating policies, the members of the committee present at any meeting of that committee shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business.
3. Action: Motion to approve May 14, 2024, ISEE Meeting Minutes: ⇨ At 2:05 PM, C. Wiedamann moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, ISEE Meeting. E. Hogue seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.

B. Agency Introductions

1. A. Skidmore, new to the committee, introduced herself as state apiarist with a native pollinators background and updated the committee on her agency.
2. B. Kring, also new to the committee, introduced herself as working on education initiatives as part of her position with Waste Management, and updated the committee on her work with the agency.
3. W. Bullock asked if there was anyone else with an organization tasked with maintaining a statewide plan. R. Burnes mentioned an outreach plan in her department, called on by program and planning colleagues with an emphasis on using EE to convey technical topics to people impacted by new rules, etc.
4. W. Bullock said the education components of each of these should be included somewhere in the KEEC Master Plan.

C. Agency updates

1. R. Burnes updated the committee on a current program she is assisting with for improved indoor air quality for learning institutions.
2. C. Wiedamann announced the Division of Forestry recently provided PLT training to foresters, one part of a busy season of workshops.
3. A. Hawkins brought attention to the stream snorkeling project, mentioning that Mason County Public Library is interested, E. Hogue told of work Fish & Wildlife has done with libraries to provide fishing poles to check out.
4. K. McDonald updated the committee on her work in partnering with Louisville Zoo. In order to meet standards during those trips she would appreciate help with a better understanding of the standards. W. Bullock suggested the science specialists with KDE including Amanda Prewitt telling it might align with something they are already doing. E. Hogue offered her help and mentioned Vivian Bowles, who taught her staff the standards.
5. C. Ruff updated the committee on a grant her department received for the purchase of camping equipment for up to 20 people or 4 families. She offered to lend it out when not in use, confirming there were no grant-based restrictions.
6. R. Burnes updated the committee on her accessibility work, citing ADA updates will eventually include virtual accessibility as a requirement for state agencies.
7. W. Bullock gave the KEEC updates including that A. Hawkins is enrolled in the 2024/25 PEEC course, the course is currently full and on a waiting list, and KEEC will have an EELCorps member to work with other state agencies. The role will be to help with EE, is available to all, and the plans are to continue having a member serve in the future.

D. Collaborations on state agency EE training

1. R. Burnes and W. Bullock have begun developing plans for state agency training. The date has not been selected yet, but they are looking at January dates and will schedule something to align with science standards training. What is most needed from partnering agencies is to get the word out to people who would benefit from participating. C. Wiedamann said there was a need for training on teaching skills, to which R. Burnes emphasized the basics of teaching skills being especially important. A. Skidmore suggested diffusing controversy as a possible topic. R. Burnes suggested even if it were a discussion point, it could be helpful in the training. C. Ruff suggested providing neutralizing phrases that can be used to maintain diplomacy in such settings. R. Burnes suggested flyers as a useful advertising resource. It was clarified by W. Bullock that there would be no charge for this training and that no food will be provided. The number of participants was also discussed with 20 being W. Bullock's estimation. R. Burnes and C. Wiedamann thought there was easily enough interest for that number, likely more. E. Hogue stated that 40 was the allowance for the Schaaf meeting room at Salato.

E. Next Meeting

1. W. Bullock announced that the next ISEE meeting will be held January 28th at 2pm at a conference room TBA in the Mayo-Underwood Bldg. E. Hogue encouraged everyone to see the new exhibit and walk around.