



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025

Meeting Location: Mayo Underwood building, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Chris Wiedamann, Division of Forestry; Roberta Burnes, Division for Air Quality; Amanda Skidmore, Department of Agriculture

Committee Members in Attendance via Teams: Hilary Writ (ELC); Amanda Prewitt (KDE); Kendall McDonald (EEC); Kirsten Delamarter (EEC); Brittany Kring (EEC) DENF – Division of Enforcement (with Shana); Eileen Hardy (EEC)

Staff in Attendance: Wesley Bullock, KEEC; Risa Yost, KEEC; Abigail Way, KEEC

A. Introduction

1. Call to Order. W. Bullock called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
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: Action to be taken at next meeting

B. Agency Updates

1. Amanda Skidmore presented on Ag Education Week March 17-21, 2025, and will follow up with information in an email after the meeting.
2. Amanda Prewitt and Erica Baker are developing standards-aligned lessons for ag week, and they are trying to find experts to develop high-quality experiences, tied directly to ag problems in Kentucky, want to tie it in to career pathways as well.
3. Amanda Skidmore introduced the Bertie the Busy Bee coloring book, Hilary Writ offered to place them at libraries.
4. Kirsten Delamarter brought up agency videos and another social media project called 'There Are No Stupid Questions – and asked about expert answers to questions.
5. Roberta Burns commented that it is never too soon to think about Earth Day and presented the Wolf Creek event to be held Saturday, April 19th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Central time.
6. Chris Weideman announced DOF has 14 contracts for inflation reduction grant –including tree plantings at 13 schools. KDF will also co-facilitate advanced PLT with KAEE in spring. Roberta Burnes offered to help with training. Kirsten Delamarter would like to go out and take photos of the school tree plantings for promotional purposes
7. Roberta Burnes brought up Lichen program at Raven Run – free program this Saturday at 1pm aimed at adults

8. New EE initiatives – Risa Yost gave brief update on 319 grant application for the freshwater snorkeling program.

C. Collaborations

1. Wesley Bullock introduced Abigail Way
2. Wesley Bullock and Abigail Way opened discussion on collaboration and previous meeting with Parks for a new EE activity booklet. Abigail Way asked what other activities could be shared.
 - i) Amber Hawkins with DOW previously shared activities including ‘How to Make a Nature Journal’ including prompts that could possibly be applied at any park across Kentucky.
 - ii) Roberta Burnes asked if there would be a template, Abigail Way mentioned she had created some and could potentially share some of those detailing that she is working in black and white on half page size, confirming it would be standardized once all activities were brought together.
 - iii) Also shared was a watershed Bingo card and Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives tag from Chris Wiedemann in which a forest service initiative ties green space and trees to our health, distributed to health departments.
 - iv) Kendall McDonald reviewed what she shared in terms of plant examples, tree diversity, seeds nuts and fruits that native plants produce, spring ephemerals (inspiring group of plants), relating flower smells to what they are trying to attract, floral rainbow for recognizing color, and life history of plant life, and existing programs such as firefly atlas (fireflyatlas.org), and iNaturalist Botany Big Year competition with yearly prizes.
 - v) Continuous line drawings were mentioned by Eileen Hardy still draws trees in this manner today – gesture drawings can offer connection and nuance – from art school experiences – not looking at the paper allows for expression – offered to write that prompt.
 - vi) Amanda Skidmore asked about a parent resource page or answer key to guide the parents when kids might ask further questions- these could be extensions to find out more
 - vii) Currently no deadline for this project
 - viii) Kendall McDonald announced that the Native Plant Society has agreed to partially fund this.
3. Amanda Prewitt shared about KDE training – 61 registrants.
 - i) The agenda includes 3 of the 4 key shifts in standards – the 4th shift revolving around culture will be offered as a follow-up virtual session.
 - ii) Hoping for this to become an annual event.
 - iii) Ky atlas of phenomena that teachers can use to localize what is within the state – developed by the educators for the educators – can be filtered through DCI and CCC – this is the beginning of the opportunity to expand this website – hoping to spark collaborations to build on.
 - iv) Amanda Prewitt thanked KEEC for help and partnership
4. Roberta Burnes started off with an overview of the agenda for the State Agency EE Training and invited those on the call to provide tabling examples and ideas at the training – ideally something experiential and unique.
 - i) 40 participants signed up so far, location announced as first floor of 300 building

D. Next Meeting

1. Fun Location – over time at 3:06 – Wesley Bullock asked about location for next meeting – Roberta Burnes suggested Cove Springs, Hilary Witt offered KDLA.