



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2025

Meeting Location: Hearing Room of the Clark-Cooper 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; Hilary Writt, Department for Libraries and Archives; Amber Hawkins, Division of Water; Carey Ruff, Kentucky State Parks; Seth Wheat, Kentucky State Parks; Hailey Mullins, Office of Energy Policy

Committee Members in Attendance via Teams: Amanda Prewitt, Kentucky Department of Education; Elizabeth McNulty, Department for Environmental Protection, Shana Weber, Department for Environmental Protection; Nikita Nunez, Division of Waste Management, USTB

Staff in Attendance: Wesley Bullock, KEEC; Risa Yost, KEEC; Willa Dawn Bayne, KEEC

A. Introduction

1. Call to Order. W. Bullock called the meeting to order at 2:03 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.

B. Agency Updates

1. C. Wiedamann – DOF was featured in a segment of University of Kentucky Department of Forestry & Natural Resources [From The Woods](#) podcast.
2. H. Writt – KDLA is planning for their summer reading and spring into reading events. Spring into reading will be held onsite April 24th, 2026.
3. A. Hawkins – The DOW Barren River event will be September 21st, 2026, and coincides with septic week. It is an all-ages event.
4. R. Burnes – The DAQ has established an outreach team and has hired 16 new people in EE outreach. They are collecting data and reached around 5K people in October alone. She will be participating in Audubon WILD weekend event scheduled for February 20-22, 2026, the DOW Barren River event, and a butterfly garden rehabilitation project.
5. H. Mullins – Office of Energy Policy is currently working with Bluegrass Greensource, data centers, ev, solar, etc., hosting tied to energy efficiency.
6. A. Skidmore – There is a paid undergraduate internship currently open. The position includes overseeing the bees and honey room at the state fair. There will be tables available throughout the 10-day period and there is interest for groups adjacent to pollinators to join. This could be an advantageous opportunity for a short-term presence at fair with the possibility to reach 500 people per day of without a full commitment to the 10 day period.

7. C. Wiedamann – DOF is partnering with the Kentucky Historical Society for the [Liberty Tree Project](#) in which 120 poplar trees will be planted, 1 in each county.
8. A. Prewitt – KDE is looking for a location to hold their second Day of Learning for up to 100 participants. The event centers around the new website resource, [Kentucky Atlas of Phenomena](#). They continue to look for partnerships with informal educators to elevate interesting phenomena.
9. E. McNulty – They are seeking creative ways to reach young adults due to a surge in internships.
10. S. Weber – She is now in a new position, implementing EE and outreach with the Commissioners Office. Her previous position was filled by Stacey Gadd coming from Salato Wildlife Center.
11. N. Nunez – USTB has introduced courtesy walk throughs and would like to begin more outreach with this added face-time with smaller locations.
12. W.D. Bayne – Offered an update on the Environmental Education Leadership Corps since the last meeting.
13. W. Bullock – In partnership with C. Ruff and others, KEEC EELCorps member, Abigail Way created the [Kentucky Nature Notebook](#). Kentucky Office of Nature Preserves donated \$300 for printing. Discussion was had on how to distribute and fund the printing of more copies. The DOW 319(h) Grant funding for the KEEC Freshwater Experiences Project is projected to begin in December.
14. R. Burnes – The Kentucky Association for Environmental Education is recruiting a new cohort of state employees for their online learning series, [eeCredentials](#). It will consist of a series of 5 online courses and model the NAAEE Guidelines for Excellence.

C. Collaborations

1. W. Bullock - Opened the floor for ongoing and potential collaborations.
2. A. Skidmore – Department of Agriculture has worked in partnership with KET for their [The Farmer & The Foodie](#) cooking show.
3. More discussion was had on was to more broadly share the Kentucky Nature Notebook.

D. Next Meeting

1. C. Ruff and S. Wheat offered a Parks location and will send more information.

E. Adjournment: At 3:01 PM, meeting adjourned.