



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)  
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2026

**Meeting Location:** Energy and Environment Cabinet, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, Kentucky

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 a.m. Eastern

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Roberta Burnes, Division of Air Quality; Claire Oyler, Division of Air Quality; Emma Moreo, Division of Air Quality; Shana Weber, Department for Environmental Protection, Commissioner's Office; Kirsten Delamarter, Office of Communications; Nikita Nunez, Division of Waste Management, Underground Storage Tanks; Emily Hogue, Department for Fish and Wildlife, Salato Wildlife Education Center; Stacy Gadd, Division of Enforcement, Environmental Assistance Branch

**Committee Members in Attendance via Teams:** Hilary Witt, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives; Michaela Lambert, Division of Water

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

A. Introduction

1. Call to Order. W. Bullock called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
2. Quorum. Per KEEC operating policies, the members of the committee present at any meeting of that committee shall constitute a quorum for business transactions.
3. Approval of February 2026 minutes. R. Burnes made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting, S. Weber seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. The motion passed at 10:02 a.m.

B. Agency Updates

1. S. Weber updated the committee on the push for ADA digital accessibility compliance within her department. The extension on the deadline has released some pressure. The first intern group started Monday, May 11 and there are two groups planned to follow. These interns will likely work on programming content for the internal training platform. If agencies outside of DEP have a need for training content they can help externally as well.
2. S. Gadd, new to the EEC, formerly with DFW at [Salato Wildlife Education Center](#), updated the committee on the Environmental Assistance Branch, explaining the agency's focus on compliance within small businesses. They have been working on updating [webpages](#) and upcoming workshops for the fall targeted at small businesses. This is called the 101 Series, including introductory workshops for air, water, and waste in which an expert from each division comes to present. Involving interns in that programming would be helpful. W. Bullock asked for clarification on the relationship with the Division of Compliance Assistance. S. Gadd explained

that the Division no longer exists, and those individuals now serve under the Division of Enforcement, which has no regulatory abilities.

3. R. Burnes updated the committee on their agency's outreach. They were enabled by the Director to pull in scientists to be additional outreach representatives. They collectively reached thousands of people this spring thanks to the team members that allowed that to happen. National air quality awareness week was the first week in May. K. Delamarter collaborated with R. Burnes for a [promotional social media video](#) featuring R. Burnes and a retired Director about driving habits and practices that could save money as well as have a positive impact on air quality. They are now preparing for summer after-school outreach.
4. E. Hogue updated the committee on their agency's outreach. It is field trip time of year at [Salato Wildlife Education Center](#), and they are currently filling up their three [conservation camps](#) which reach about 4600 kids each summer. May 15 will be a work day at Salato in honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of [Mary Carol Cooper](#).
5. K. Delamarter updated the committee on EEC communications. Recent outreach included a workday plus hike with OKNP, a work-place second-hand fashion activity, and documentation of the work happening throughout the cabinet. This summer may allow time for more promotional adult education videos like the collaboration with R. Burnes. One new idea is based on the science behind how species identification triggers a specific part of the brain.
6. E. Moreo has served with the Division for Air Quality for 10 years and has helped on and off with outreach throughout the years. C. Oyler extended the invitation for them to join the meeting to observe.
7. C. Oyler updated the committee on more outreach from the Division of Air Quality. It was overheard in pre-meeting conversation that [Adobe Express](#) could be a good alternative to Canva for an intern to create brochures. S. Gadd recommended the platform and confirmed it is free to use with a paid premium option. R. Burnes interjected that the [Living Arts and Science Center](#) will host an air quality discovery day, the third Saturday in June, using a set of oversized, inflatable human lung replicas the organization was able to purchase from a grant. They plan to open a new permanent air quality exhibit at the center as well.
8. N. Nunez updated the committee on outreach goals of the compliance section of UST. They are struggling with a way to connect to public outreach that illustrates their function in a captivating way. R. Burnes suggested an [enviroscape](#) that shows how leaks travel underground. K. Delamarter recently attended a UST removal event and was amazed at the scale and suggested an informative social media video offering to go out for that purpose. M. Lambert offered that there are [enviroscaapes](#) available for use through the DOW. S. Gadd offered they might also have something that can be adapted.
9. H. Writt updated the committee on KDLA's spring into reading program they hosted at the end of April which included a story walk through the outdoors with panels that included pages of story book. The [iRead Summer 2026 theme is Plant a Seed, Read](#). W. Bullock asked about the Collaborative Summer Library Program theme, which H. Writt said they have partnered with archeology for the 2026 theme: "[Unearth a Story](#)". W. Bullock asked if it was common to have similar themes as neighboring states because a former EELCorps member who works in Indiana has been collaborating with local libraries on the same theme. H. Writt said there are national themes and while not mandatory, states can link to the national themes. W. Bullock asked about upcoming themes and requested advanced notice when the themes are environment related. H. Writt provided link for upcoming [future themes](#).

10. M. Lambert updated the committee that Amber Hawkins, former outreach educator for DOW has changed positions, but there is a new education outreach person filling the position in June. In the spring they started the new [Splash into Learning](#) program, a water-themed month. This Storymap includes a link to fill out a survey to include an event. It will be taken down in the summer with plans to grow it next year. [Kentucky Water Week](#) resource was provided.

#### C. Collaborations

1. W. Bullock updated the committee on the agency's certification course, which is nearly complete for the 2025-26 year and will be welcoming new participants in October. W. Bullock followed up with an update on the EELCorps program acknowledging that state agencies can host a member. E. Hogue asked about contract details to which A. Mike spoke, explaining that the [site application](#) is due May 15, but program staff can extend that for committee members and will help with the process. A. Mike provided [contact](#) for questions or interest. E. Hogue expressed interest in the extension for a possible application.
2. W. Bullock asked E. Hogue to confirm news that DFW is now managing [Camp Kentahten](#), built and formerly owned by Tim Horton's of Ontario, Canada. E. Hogue confirmed the department has leased the property and it is currently being used for law enforcement training. There are no plans to run it as a residential camp, but it may potentially be used for outreach in the future. W. Bullock would like to stay in touch regarding the possibility of using the site as a PEEC workshop location. N. Nunez suggested state wilderness training as another possible use. E. Hogue reminded that Camps [Currie](#), [Wallace](#), and [Webb](#) are also available locations through the department.
3. N. Nunez added 7-Eleven will be coming May 20th to discuss their perspective with the UST compliance section. K. Delamarter expressed interest in joining the discussion.
4. E. Hogue attended the Community Based Science Learning Day hosted by the Kentucky Department of Education in Louisville and found it to be a beneficial experience. W. Bullock agreed it is a great resource for connecting to schools and that committee member Amanda Prewitt would be the person to contact to find out more. E. Hogue and R. Burnes added the KDE resource, [Kentucky Atlas of Phenomena](#) is an excellent resource for outreach educators that go into K-12 schools.

#### D. Next Meeting

1. All Cabinets are experiencing budget restraints on travel expenses; therefore, upcoming meetings will be held locally to limit travel. The next meeting will be planned accordingly and notice sent out. All who are able are welcome to join us for a walk along the nearby [Vaughn Branch Nature Preserve trail](#).

E. Adjournment: At 10:57am, meeting adjourned.