



Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education

December 11, 2013, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

803 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY

In attendance: Elizabeth McNulty, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Kenya Stump, Kentucky Division for Air Quality; Lona Brewer, Kentucky Department of Energy Development and Independence; Sean Elkins, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Nancy Givens, Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education (KUPEE) and Center for Sustainability and Environmental Education, WKU; John Eisiminger, Division for Compliance Assistance; Martina Hines, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC); Rae McEntyre, KDE; Billy Bennett, KUPEE and Center for Environmental Education at Eastern Kentucky University; Steve Meredith, Finance and Administration Cabinet/Governor's Garden Initiative; Joyce Bender, KSNPC; Horace Brown, Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC); Blaine Ferrell, Kentucky Academy of Sciences; Michelle Shane, staff, KEEC; Elizabeth Schmitz, staff, KEEC.

The meeting opened at 1:30 PM with introductions.

Joyce Bender, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, shared the mission and goals of the KSNPC, and presented the group with examples of Nature Preserves across the Commonwealth. Nature Preserves are protected in perpetuity, and their protection is considered in statute to be the "highest use of the land" possible. All told, a documented 727 endangered, threatened, and protected plant and animal species are found on KSNPC land. KSNPC has a strong history of partnerships with other entities, including Kentucky's State Parks. Not all nature preserves are always open to the public. To learn more about Kentucky's Nature Preserves, and to view a map of Nature Preserves across Kentucky, visit [www.naturepreserves.ky.gov](http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov).

Sean Elkins, KDE/Ohio River Valley Educational Cooperative, gave an update on implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). School districts are beginning to implement the standards in those grades that will not be tested this year, as students in grades 4 and 7 will be tested on the "old" science standards for the 2013-14 academic school year. The statewide assessment on the new science standards for accountability purposes will likely be implemented for the 2015-2016 academic school

year. To view Kentucky's new science standards, visit:

<http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/sci/pages/next-generation-science-standards.aspx>.

Dr. Blaine Ferrell, legislative liaison for the Kentucky Academy of Sciences, gave an overview of the new standards, emphasizing the importance to student learning outcomes of the depth of knowledge and scientific/engineering practices inherent in the new standards. Discussion was held about support and opposition of the new standards at the state and national legislative level. Dr. Ferrell announced that California has adopted the NGSS and that because California is a major textbook publisher, he expected to see more states adopt the standards as textbooks are adapted to help educators meet these standards.

Elizabeth Schmitz presented examples of the correlations between the NGSS and the North American Association for Environmental Education's Guidelines for K-12 Learners. These correlations are being developed by the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan Implementation Advisory Team, and highlight where best practices in environmental and science education meet. Wherever possible, these correlations include lessons from Project curricula (e.g. Project WET, Project WILD, etc.) that teach the science standard. The science correlations are still in draft form, and are not yet published. Correlations between the Common Core standards for English language arts and math are available here: <http://keec.ky.gov/Publications/Pages/KELP.aspx>.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.