



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2015

Meeting Location: Capitol Education Center, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Schmitz, David Allen, Joanna Ashford (for Chad Von Gruenigen), Stephanie Bunge, Roberta Burnes, Don Dott (for Joyce Bender), Mary Duncan, John Eisiminger, Arnita Gadson, April Haight, Maridely Loyselle, Johnna McHugh, Steve Meredith, Carey Ruff (for Lisa Deavers), Kenya Stump

Absent Members: Lona Brewer, Tressa Brown, Matt Chaliff, Melinda Curless, Brandon Davis, Christine Duke, Victoria Greenwell, Billie Hardin, Tresine Logsdon, Rae McEntyre, Diana Olszowy, Kimberly Richardson, Seth Wheat

Meeting Introduction

E. Schmitz opened the meeting with introductions around the table.

Quorum and minutes review

E. Schmitz reminded attendees that the committee has not had quorum for multiple meetings in sequence, and that the committee roster will be updated to remove any agencies that have not sent a representative to either the September or December 2015 meetings. Non-member agencies are always welcome to attend the meetings as guests.

E. Schmitz noted that a quorum of 15 committee members (out of 28) was present. She asked for and received corrections to meeting minutes, and asked for a motion to approve past meeting minutes.

Minutes Review

⇒ K. Stump moved to approve all ISEE meeting minutes from 2012 through September 2015. The motion was seconded by J. McHugh. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

ISEE website

E. Schmitz said that in an effort to support the marketing needs of ISEE committee members, KEEC would like to update KEEC's ISEE webpage with ISEE member agency logos, member representative photos, and a brief description of the work of the member representative and the agency's work. Members agreed that would be a helpful step and will submit requested materials.

ISEE member updates

Arnita Gadson, Environmental Quality Commission (EQC)

- New Resources: Time Capsule book, Crossword Puzzle book; both are available on the EQC website or on CD.
- Statewide Environmental Justice workshop: EQC partnered with the US Environmental Protection Agency to host an environmental justice workshop, held in Louisville this fall. The event was a big success – 125 individuals signed up and more than 100 attended. Attendees requested that EQC host another one next year. Highlights and notes are on the EQC website, at <http://eqc.ky.gov>. The goal of the workshop was to raise statewide awareness of regulators and industrial folks about the importance of including environmental justice in permitting reports and other business decisions. Specifically, plants that require a permit for operation should take location/siting should into account. This issue was brought to the EQC because an environmental engineer that works with a specific plant has children going to school in the area, and all three schools (elementary, middle, and high school) are close to the facility. Industry and regulators need to keep in mind what kind of facility/industry they are planning for, where it is, what is already in the area, and how the facility can affect the neighborhood physically or conceptually. Nominations for Earth Day Awards are due February 1.
- EQC received an open records request for a children’s environmental health study so they will be writing another 10 year report. EQC’s annual report is on their website.

Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation (DOC)

- Conservation Art and Writing Contest: Art and essays are coming in. On average, 66,000 children participate annually. As of mid-December 16,000 entries from 26 counties were received. The deadline is December 31. DOC is seeking judges for the contest to judge entries in mid or late January.
- Envirothon: 38 counties participated last year – prepping the 2016 contest now. Current environmental issue for the contest is invasive species. The local competition is in April and state competition is in May. Team training in March at Saunder Spring in Radcliff; last year 20 teams attended. Training is free. The local contest is hosted by FFA in Western KY, and by Maywoods Environmental and Educational Laboratory in Eastern KY. The state competition is at the University of Kentucky Extension Leadership Center in Jabez, KY.

Roberta Burnes, Division for Air Quality (DAQ)

- The Division for Air Quality Environmental Education staff is currently focused on conducting school visits and community meetings about the state’s open burning regulation.
- Air Quality Awareness Week: Roberta is planning air quality awareness week, which occurs the week after Earth Day. Last year, Roberta started using an on-line quiz maker for daily air quality awareness quizzes and sending the quiz links to DAQ staff; this year the quizzes will be sent to the whole department. The quiz is comprised of five multiple choice questions each day. The quiz also was distributed to the K-12 education list serve last year, and teachers shared it with their students in class every day to introduce the topic of air quality. Each day had a theme. The quiz maker program allows the quiz designer to insert photographs, etc. The program also gives

the quiz designer all the metrics of everybody's results – time taken for each question, percentage of correct and incorrect, etc. Plan to repeat the online quiz project again in 2016. Last year used a subscription-based, program called ProProfs.com, and coincided use of the resource during air quality awareness week with a free trial membership with no ads for one week.

- Lichen Biomonitoring Workshops: The Division for Air Quality is partnering with the Pine Mountain Settlement School (PMSS) on a series of lichen biomonitoring workshops on site. The next one takes place on the last Friday/Saturday in January. With enough data, the results can be used to draw conclusions about local air quality. Biomonitoring sites are at PMSS and at Lilly Cornett Woods. Folks are coming from all over to learn how and possibly use this at their sites. Space is still available at the workshop. Link to registration is on the PMSS website. Roberta will share with the committee.
- Roberta is seeking PowerPoints about bad PowerPoints for upcoming staff training.

Mary Duncan, Kentucky Educational Television (KET)

- This January Kentucky enters a new legislative session, and KET has coverage of the legislature that you can watch online (including committee meetings). This content is streamed live and is also available in an archived format. Renee Shaw and Bill Goodman will be producing Kentucky Tonight on Monday nights to discuss and interpret legislative issues, also Comment on Kentucky on Friday nights.
- KET has been focusing this past year on developing online early childhood resources after receiving a large grant for training parents and caregivers. To date: social studies, arts, health, and math resources have been developed. The grant was extended and KET staffs are preparing to work on science resources for preschool through grade one. Please contact Mary if you have any input about potential updates to existing online content, as soon as possible.
- Check out PBS Learning Media.org. It is a national repository established by PBS for any kind of educational resources related to science or the environment. Kentucky-specific resources include Kentucky Bio, an Ebook about biodiversity. Learning Media also offers an Image Bank that could be useful. To download images, individuals must register, but the resource is free and open to anyone. Also available are a new quiz maker, lesson maker, and storyboard maker all for A/V presentations. Users can drag media from PBS Learning Media into any of these items. Education consultants are available to give local onsite training for this. Let Mary know if you would like to have a training either 1:1 or for a group. On PBS learning media the resources are not yet aligned to the Kentucky Academic Standards.
- Seeking ideas and help for the next year in early childhood project, including a social studies recycling center lesson.
- Additional resources that could be used by or promoted by ISEE partners include a weekly NewQuiz 15 minute program for grades 4-8; primarily uses AP feed for video. Kids answer questions about 8 news stories. Often has an environmental focus.
- KET can put ISEE resources up on PBS learning media.

Don Dott, Nature Preserves

- Kentucky's Natural Heritage: A Guide to Biodiversity: Nature Preserves received grant funding for a second printing of the book for distribution to the libraries of all public schools grade 6-12, colleges, and universities, which it has completed. The agency is now in the process of distributing the remaining copies to private schools, colleges, and universities. Nature Preserves as a metal art display with images from the book – vivid colors 3D – 16 images if anyone needs a display.
- Nature Preserves Newsletter – Don can add announcements from ISEE committee members. The newsletter is produced twice per year.
- Recent projects include participation in the Kentucky Botanical Symposium, and a Bioblitz at Floracliff with Eastern Kentucky University.

Projects under development include:

- Biodiversity day with the legislature, traditionally coordinated with the Kentucky Conservation Committee. This may merge into a Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund day. The event is generally in February but date is not yet announced. Don will send us the announcement when it is ready.
- Freshwater Mussel Atlas is under development. Eight books part of the scientific and technical series.
- Working with the Kentucky Pest Plant Council – new Most Wanted poster available.
- Working next on developing more units with KET to support teachers. KDE may use the book to link to the science standards.

Maridely Loyselle, Division of Waste Management (DWM)

No update at this time.

Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education (KUPEE)

- David, Allen, Murray State University: Looking for more program participation in Western Kentucky – To support this, a 1-credit environmental education undergraduate course is a new requirement for wildlife program. David is working to allow college credit availability through Murray State for PEEC course graduates. KUPEE working to id top research topics for Kentucky – held focus groups and met in BG to distill data down to research priorities. Working to educate the Education Professional Standards Board to get EE reestablished as a theme for undergraduates. EPSB may be eliminating themes but with the idea that everything should be incorporated into all teacher preparation programs.
- April Haight, Morehead State University: Involved in a county/university watershed project to tear out the road through the center of Morehead State – all parking will instead become rain gardens and bioswales to reduce source water contamination. April is also working with Morehead Tourism and Trail Town to promote trails, bicycling; building new trails for biking and hiking on campus and connecting to national forest, developing new bike lanes in town. Assistance grant from the Division of Forestry to develop designs for Green infrastructure –

Virginia Tech in Partnership with DOF. In meetings with the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, McConnell's office and others about illegal gravel mining in February.

Joanna Ashford, Division of Water (DOW)

- The nonpoint source pollution basin team is now fully staffed and is updating the 319 (nonpoint source pollution) grant process. The Department for Environmental Protection now has an education and outreach program, which is re-evaluating promotional items. New promotional items for DOW include a Macroinvertebrate ID card with magnifying glass incorporated into it. Newsletters have been revised to a quarterly format and are targeted to a specific watershed basin within the state.
- Big successes: Launch of DOW's new water health portal and interactive map. Kentucky's water health guide is another new resource. This is geared to 6-8th grade reading level – a great resource for presentations. DOW recently contracted Project WET to the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education.
- Goals for next year: agricultural field guide for farmers – encompassing water, waste, and air – hope to release by sometime 2017. Implementation funds and programmatic funds (to build capacity) = introducing mini grants for each basin – 5K mini grant to increase capacity to create watershed based plans – EE, etc. Applications should go out late or early spring.

Stephanie Bunge, Kentucky Department of Education/Coordinated School Health (CSH)

- CSH is considering updating the health and PE standards in the next year. Also excited about health and PE are added as eligible for funding for a well-rounded education in the new Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Carey Ruff, Department of Parks

- Eagle watch weekends January 29 and first weekend in February. Grants are available to support Western Kentucky student participation in the program from December-January 5.
- Leave no Trace backpack tags – for resort parks – contact Carey if you want some!
- Alternative fuels project underway.
- All field staff to be trained through the Professional Environmental Educator Certification Program.
- Kentucky State Parks Foundation has statewide grants to support school groups visiting the park.

Steve Meredith, Finance Cabinet

- Governors and Commonwealth Gardens – 23 last year – high demand – connecting students with science and other parts of the curriculum.

John Eisiminger, Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA)

- Eco-Art contest for high school students due in early March – given out during Earth Week. New categories are Land, Air, and Water Based.
- DEP environmental awards are announced at the Governor's conference.

- Get the Green Ball rolling – sporting events training/conference at the U of L for high schools and colleges. Launched the Kentucky EXCEL farm application last week, and it is available on the DCA Website. Will share on list serve.

Kenya Stump, Department of Energy Development and Independence (DEDI)

In 2015:

- Great videos submitted for the Governor’s conference and are archived there at the website.
- Funded School Energy Managers and Kentucky now has 300 Energy Star schools. Kentucky School Boards Association is coordinating an event to commemorate. Significant growth in the last 8 years. Ranked second in the percentage of Energy Star schools in the nation.
- Energy in Kentucky timeline – turned into a classroom activity by Bluegrass Greensource.
- Coal education grant fund projects ongoing through June of next year.

Looking ahead:

- Waiting to find out if they will distribute grants for coal education.
- Using VennGage, a free account, for infographics.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.