



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2016

Meeting Location: Capitol Education Center, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Dale Booth (for Chad Von Gruenigen), Lona Brewer, Roberta Burnes, Billie Hardin, Brent McCarty, Rae McEntyre, Elizabeth Schmitz

Absent Members: David Allen, Joyce Bender, Stephanie Bunge, Matt Chaliff, Christine Duke, Mary Duncan, John Eisiminger, April Haight, Tresine Logsdon, Maridely Loyselle, Johnna McHugh, Carey Ruff, Kenya Stump

Other Staff in Attendance: Wesley Bullock

Meeting Introduction

E. Schmitz opened the meeting. Introductions were made around the table, with announcements of upcoming events.

- E. Schmitz announced the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools and Kentucky National Energy Education Development Project Youth Summit and Awards Luncheon on April 28, for which KEEC is seeking exhibitors.
- R. Burnes announced the Energy and Environment Cabinet Earth Day event at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 21. The cabinet is seeking exhibitors, for whom the cost is free.
- B. McCarty announced that Salato Wildlife Center will be hosting a fundraiser on June 4. He also mentioned that Salato's largest event is at Halloween, and that they will be holding a 4-mile trail run.
- B. Hardin announced the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education fundraising luncheon on March 10 in Lexington, and the High-Performance Public Buildings Workshop at Kentucky Community and Technical College System office in Versailles on March 15.
- R. McEntyre announced that she is working with the Captain Planet Foundation on a federal grant to educate teachers on how environmental education (EE) can be used across disciplines, and she is working with nonformal educators and science educators for professional learning on the EE Project curricula and Next Generation Science Standards.
- D. Booth announced that the Division of Water will be participating in the Earth Day event at the History Center. She also announced a stream sampling Phase II training at Elkhorn Creek that includes a tour of the Mussel Facility, with 32 endangered species of mussels.
- W. Bullock announced the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course starting in November 2016, with applications that will be available in a few weeks.

Minutes Review

Seven committee members were present. With a total of 20 members, this committee requires 11 members present for a quorum. Since no quorum was present to approve the minutes, the approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting. E. Schmitz reviewed the minutes.

Committee Membership

E. Schmitz noted changes to committee membership. Arnita Gadson has left the Environmental Quality Commission and has not yet been replaced. Steve Meredith has left the Finance Cabinet and has not yet been replaced. Lisa Deavers has left the Department of Parks; Carey Ruff will replace her on ISEE.

E. Schmitz announced new committee member Brent McCarty from Fish and Wildlife Resources.

D. Booth explained that the Division of Water will send one of the basin coordinators to the meetings as a proxy for C. Von Gruenigen.

E. Schmitz explained that B. Hardin represents KCTCS which is now part of KUPEE, also represented by D. Allen and A. Haight, so KUPEE may choose to change its committee membership as well.

Announcements

E. Schmitz announced the upcoming meeting schedule (all meetings to be held at the Capitol Education Center):

- June 8, 1:30-3:30 PM
- September 7, 1:30-3:30 PM
- December 7, 1:30-3:30 PM

W. Bullock will send calendar request for 2016 meetings.

KEEC newsletter and website

E. Schmitz noted that KEEC is publishing agency logos and descriptions and member pictures and bios on the KEEC website. W. Bullock will contact individuals to request missing information.

Reports from committee members

B. Hardin, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)

- Ashland Community and Technical College is a first-time Tree Campus USA. Bluegrass Community and Technical College was renewed as a Tree Campus USA.
- KCTCS is moving forward with energy saving initiatives including CEMCS, a sub-metering system.
- The KCTCS system office is continuing a recycling effort and looking at changing its already energy-efficient light bulbs to even more efficient LED bulbs.
- Colleges are updating their local sustainability plans, including concentrating courses in buildings to reduce energy usage.

L. Brewer, Department for Energy Development and Independence (DEDI)

- For three years, DEDI has been educating local communities on effective ways of implementing energy savings measures. One method is to use Energy Savings Performance Contracts, which

allow local governments to pay for energy-saving upgrades over time using the savings in energy costs. The program will probably end later this year unless DEDI can get additional funding.

- DEDI is also working with the Division of Water and Division of Compliance Assistance to take energy audits and nutrient reduction potential audits to wastewater treatments around the state, since the same measures are effective for both purposes.

R. McEntyre, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

- KDE has been meeting monthly with teacher leaders from most school districts for the last three years, but this month was the last meeting for science teachers. KDE is working on the next iteration of the teacher networks and expects changes in the format due to budget cuts.

D. Booth, Division of Water (DOW)

- DOW basin coordinators have been preparing an initiative to offer \$35,000 in mini-grants, divided between the seven basins. Applications are available at <http://water.ky.gov/watershed/Pages/default.aspx>.
- DOW is also preparing for the next round of 319 grant applications, referring to section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. These grants are for large projects addressing a watershed as a whole, and are usually funded in amounts around \$100,000 – \$1,000,000. DOW seeks watershed groups that are interested in the area and have the capacity to complete a large-scale project.
- Basin coordinators have newsletters that are always seeking content.

R. Burnes, Division for Air Quality (DAQ)

- The Kentucky Association of Government Communicators conference on the Friday before Memorial Day at the Administrative Office of the Courts building in Frankfort, with food trucks and hands-on graphic arts design logo activity. There is a proposed panel on how to communicate when exhibiting at events. The cost of the conference is low; past years have been around \$40.
- Air Quality Awareness Week is the first week in May.
- Friday night, May 6, is the last of three lichen workshops at Pine Mountain Settlement School. The goal of the workshop is to train people on how to identify three types of lichens, using a very simplified approach, and have them collect data at two sites. Contact Susan Brown or go on the PMSS website to find registration information. Contact R. Burnes for additional information on lichen biomonitoring.
- Because DAQ will be moving offices to a new building this year, R. Burnes has hard copies of great resources that she is looking to give away.

B. McCarty, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)

- KDFWR is focusing on reintroduction efforts for the roughed grouse.
- Salato Center will have a new exhibit, as part of the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program, called "Hunt and Fish Like a Girl." The BOW program will also hold a one-day bow-hunting event at Salato on April 2, and its annual Fall Bow Weekend Adventure at the Lake Cumberland 4-H Leadership Center in Jabez September 16-18. See [http://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Becoming-an-Outdoors-Woman-\(BOW\).aspx](http://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Becoming-an-Outdoors-Woman-(BOW).aspx) for more information about the program.

Discussion of EE Master Plan

E. Schmitz noted that KEEC coordinates an EE Master Plan every 5 years. In previous ISEE meetings, marketing of programs was raised as an element of the plan that committee members would like to focus on. She described upcoming marketing opportunities:

- The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) conference is in Madison, WI, October 19-22. The call for proposals closes March 30. More information is available at <https://naaee.org>.
- The Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAE) conference is at Lake Cumberland State Park September 23-24 with pre-conference workshops on September 22. The call for proposals closes April 15. More information is available at <http://kaee.org/>.
- The KAE symposium, with a focus on water, is coming up at Boone County Extension Office on June 24, <http://kaee.org/>.
- The Kentucky Science Teachers Association (KSTA) conference is November 10-12 at the Lexington Convention Center, <http://www.ksta.org/coninfo230.cfm>.
- The KAE awards gala will be November 12 in Lexington. Awards nominations are open in many categories. Self-nominations are accepted, <http://kaee.org/>.
- The Environmental Quality Commission is accepting nominations for Earth Day Awards until March 15, <http://eqc.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.
- The National Science Teachers Association Conference is in Nashville March 31-April 3, <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/national.aspx>.
- R. McEntyre, E. Schmitz, and C. Duke are developing a workshop series for nonformal environmental educators to help them learn how to apply what they are doing to Kentucky Academic Standards. They hope to hold the first workshop in May.
- There is an email listserv for environmental educators hosted by the University of Kentucky. You can subscribe to the KYENVED list, or any other lists that are not restricted, at <https://www.coe.uky.edu/lists/kylists.php>.
- ISEE members are welcome to put short announcements about upcoming events in the KEEC quarterly email newsletter. Email wesley.bullock@ky.gov with your announcement. The next newsletter will go out in April.

E. Schmitz discussed EEinKentucky.org, the central location for EE events in Kentucky. The website home page has a calendar of events and links to other features including a list of available grants. The website is part of a national network, so it includes national and regional posts as well as local. Teaching resources, contests and awards, and grants are easily searchable. If you have funding available, like mini-grants, you can post about it here.

E. Schmitz walked the committee members through creating an account and posting information. For assistance with putting your organization's listing on the website, contact wesley.bullock@ky.gov.

Adjourned at 3:35 p.m.