



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2017

Meeting Location: Room 418, 300 Building, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: March 29, 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Billy Bennett, Chad Von Gruenigen, Johnna McHugh, Brian Spellman, Brent McCarty, Emily Ohde, Christine Duke, Roberta Burnes, Tresine Logsdon

Other Staff in Attendance: Wesley Bullock, Tabitha Owens

Others in Attendance: Robyn Whitted (Division of Compliance Assistance), Danielle Rogers (Kentucky Division of Water)

Meeting Introduction

Introductions were made around the table. B. Bennett noted that a quorum was present. Committee members reviewed the minutes

Minutes Review

⇒ At 1:41 PM, J. McHugh moved to approve the December 2015 and March 2016 meeting minutes. T. Logsdon seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

EPA Grant and KGHS Program

T. Owens described KEEC's EPA grant program, which is for water quality and water conservation service learning projects through the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program. She requested assistance from committee members in recruiting teachers to participate in service learning projects. She mentioned that more than science teachers are sought; projects can be interdisciplinary. She emphasized that projects should be student-led and produce measurable results. Rain barrels, stream restoration, water quality monitoring were suggested as possible projects. C. Duke said that many teachers would be working on Through Course Tasks this summer through KDE, and she would be happy to distribute information. J. McHugh mentioned that the Jim Claypool Art and Writing Contest subject for 2017-18 school year is water.

Earth Day

R. Burnes announced the Energy and Environment Cabinet's Earth Day celebration at the 300 Building on April 19, in partnership with KEEC. Many committee members will participate as exhibitors. This is primarily for state employees, and includes contests and a photo scavenger hunt of the building's LEED features. It will take place indoors/outdoors on the first floor.

Professional Environmental Educator Certification Course

B. Bennett announced that KEEC has completed the last workshop of the 2016-17 course and is on track to certify all 27 participants. C. Duke suggested contacting Michael Marsee with KDE communications for video clips. W. Bullock mentioned that the course will be more marketed to teachers in the future because the interaction between formal and nonformal educators was highly beneficial.

Americorps

B. Bennett announced that KEEC is pursuing a statewide conservation corps focusing on environmental education through the Americorps program. He said that agency will be applying for a planning grant. C. Von Gruenigen mentioned that KDOW works with watershed coordinators that are Americorps VISTA volunteer.

EEinKentucky.org

W. Bullock announced that KEEC will be eliminating EEinKentucky.org because the costs of the website could not be justified based on the very small volume of traffic to the site. The list of organizations in EE in Kentucky instead will be hosted on the KEEC website, and KEEC will start to actively advertise this list.

EE Master Plan Annual Report

W. Bullock announced that KEEC, KAEE, and KUPEE are partnering to plan an annual report surveying the state of EE in Kentucky. It is based on a report from Wisconsin, and also planning done at the national level.

Updates from Committee Members

- Tresine Logsdon, Fayette County Schools: Fayette County Schools will open career academies with an Environmental Health Science focus in three high schools this fall. Students are monitoring Green Buildings dashboard.
- Roberta Burnes, Division for Air Quality: The head of DAQ would like to see an increase in idle-reduction campaigns at schools. Color-printed metal signs are available for free to schools who participate. May 12 is the Spring Conference for the Kentucky Association for Governmental Communicators, which R. Burnes is coordinating. The theme is gamification of communications.
- Christine Duke, KDE Division of Program Standards: KDE is still waiting on Senate Bill 1. They have field tested two components of the science assessment system—Through Course Tasks and Summative Assessments. The field testing has had a great impact on the awareness of teachers of what their instruction should look like. She asked for partners to collaborate on regional sessions where teachers will develop items, and teachers will need to know where to find programming.
- Danielle Rogers, KDOW: D. Rogers introduced herself as a new Basin Coordinator for DOW working out of Morehead.
- Emily Ohde and Robyn Whitted, Division of Compliance Assistance: DCA is wrapping up the Food Loop—teachers doing demonstrations of water and air quality—and they have a resource on their website that summarizes this. The program is mostly for adults, but has also done exhibits for children. R. Whitted is the new KY EXCEL program coordinator, and is working on making things more interactive. DCA is also finalizing the Eco-Art Contest, which may be in its final year. KY EXCEL also has a new farm program. They are creating P2 Pollution prevention workshops, of which the first is April 26 in Lexington, hosted by LFUCG. The workshops will feature things that individuals can do on a daily basis to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Brent McCarty, Fish and Wildlife: Salato Wildlife Center had a record number of attendees in 2016. They installed a “Be Bear Aware” exhibit this year. The Salato Sampler fundraiser will be held on June 3. April 8 is the Becoming an Outdoorswoman weekend at Salato.
- Brian Spellman, KET: Earth Day programming will happen all day on Earth Day. There are over 100,000 resources available on PBS Learning Media. KET is currently working on the science assessment learning resources as professional development for teachers.
- Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation: The Jim Claypool Contest will start gathering resources in mid to late May, after wrapping up Envirothon. There are usually about 60,000 participants in the contest and 44 teams in Envirothon. The Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Convention is in Louisville in July 9-11 at Crowne Plaza.
- Chad Von Gruenigen, Division of Water: DOW just wrapped up Water Week, with a proclamation of the governor, rain barrel workshops, stream health workshops, and cleanups. New waterproof Stream Health Pocket Guides are available. The next Watershed Coordinator meeting is a tour of watershed improvements, June 6 at the Boone County Enrichment Center. Mini-grants of \$5000 for watersheds are open all the time.

TACO Week

B. Bennett announced Take a Child Outside Week (TACO week), which takes place the last week in September.

Adjourned at 3:17 PM.