



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)  
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2017

**Meeting Location:** Room 413, 300 Building, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY

**Meeting Time:** December 6, 1:30 p.m. Eastern

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Billy Bennett, Roberta Burnes, Matt Chaliff, Tresine Logsdon, Elizabeth McNulty, Chad Von Gruenigen

**Absent Members:**

**Other Staff in Attendance:** Wesley Bullock, Greg Taylor

**Others in Attendance:** Jennifer Krieger, Legislative Research Commission; Brent Frazier, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission; Deborah DeLong, Kentucky Division of Waste Management; Lynn True, Division of Waste Management

#### Meeting Introduction

B. Bennett welcomed the attendees. Introductions were made around the table. Five committee members were present, which is short of the eight required for quorum.

#### Minutes Review

W. Bullock explained that the minutes of the September 2017 meeting would be approved at the next meeting in which a quorum is present.

#### EE Stakeholder Meetings

B. Bennett reviewed the dates of the upcoming EE Stakeholder Meetings held by the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education in partnership with KEEC and the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education. He explained that the purpose of the meetings is to initiate the strategic planning process for those organizations and the 5-year Master Plan KEEC is required by statute to create. He also invited agencies to send representatives to attend and give input.

R. Burnes asked if we would reach out to organizations like Pine Mountain Settlement School. B. Bennett noted that we could use the organizational list compiled with KAEI for the survey. W. Bullock asked if there were any other state agencies, other than those on the committee and invited guests and Forestry, that we should include. E. McNulty suggested reaching out to agriculture, perhaps Brandi Graves with the Science Mobile Unit. T. Logsdon suggested reaching out to Bluegrass Tomorrow. Bluegrass Forever Green is hosting a conference on local foods this Friday at the new stockyards.

## Survey

B. Bennett noted that we have amended the original survey to work with KAEE to include information they need about organizational membership.

W. Bullock noted that the ISEE is included in KEEC's statute, so KEEC is required by law to support this body.

## Environmental Education Information Day

B. Bennett noted that the KEEC Council supports the idea of holding an EE day at the Capitol annex in order to educate legislators and legislative staff about EE, what it is, and how it is conducted in state agencies. He asked committee members and guests for input on this idea. R. Burnes went to something like that for the Kentucky Conservation Committee with several organizations related to natural areas having exhibits about what they do; it was not for a lobbying purpose, but just educational. R. Burnes suggested picking an environmentally significant date, other than Earth Day. C. Von Gruenigen has been a part of something similar for the Jim Claypool Art and Writing Contest, which gives legislators a chance for a photo op, and also served a country ham biscuit that was many legislators main reason for attending. B. Bennett will work with Mardi Montgomery, EWDC Legislative Liaison, to talk about timing. Then he will contact committee members to find out about whether they can attend.

## Reports from State Agencies

- B. Bennett reported that the EPA grant has been beneficial for the KGHS program, which went from 9 active schools to 36 active schools. KEEC is still looking for a school in the Big Sandy/Little Sandy/Tygarts basin to participate in the program in order to meet grant requirements. He also announced that the KGHS Summit has moved to the Lexington Convention Center. W. Bullock invited all state agencies to exhibit at the Summit. T. Logsdon said that we should communicate early in the year to all schools. She requested a report from W. Bullock about the status of Fayette County Schools in the program to encourage the schools to participate. B. Bennett explained that the program categories have been simplified, and schools receive awards for each category. B. Bennett explained the KGHS program for committee members, how it is student-led, project-based, for nine environmental categories. He also reported that KEEC is still waiting for permission to post the Program Director position for our AmeriCorps planning grant. He discussed the working group that is revising the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan. And he announced that the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course will take applications in April and begin in November 2018. W. Bullock discussed that participation in the course will increase significantly if the AmeriCorps program is funded because all 20+ members will go through the program.
- R. Burnes reported on Earth Day preparations for state agencies in the 300 Building. Some collaborators were disappointed that no children participated in last year's event since it was not at the History Center, so she is working on ideas to bring them in, possibly to focus on environmental careers. She discussed personal air sensors' increase in popularity. A typical air monitor is \$15,000, but now they are designing pocket-sized air sensors, which are not as accurate, but still paint a picture of real-time air quality and have a lot of educational potential. DAQ may participate in testing new models for accuracy by comparing to air monitors. They are also considering purchasing models, testing for the best one, and purchasing a classroom set. T. Logsdon thought that those instruments might jump-start new interest in No Idling campaigns. Some schools are starting to use flags to indicate the air-quality index for the day, and she has a

couple of sets of flags that she can give to schools. It's been her busiest outreach season, including K-12 schools and universities.

- M. Chaliff reported on Kentucky FFA. He said that there are several environmental pathways in the program, Soil Conservation, Forestry, and Environmental Science, and their Envirothon teams had great success at the national level this year. C. Von Gruenigen reported that Gatton academy finished second nationally in Aquatics with only four out of five team members.
- T. Logsdon mentioned that B. Bennett awarded Green Ribbon Schools at the Fayette Board Meeting in October. The District has made an initial effort to benchmark all schools in Environmental Sustainability, Environmental Literacy, and Wellness. This year, the district is trying to get groups together to write a strategic plan, for which engagement in the community has been great, but there needs to be more engagement within the schools. Aquaponics and Urban Forestry are hot topics in Fayette schools. Finally have someone in operations who sees trees as a benefit rather than a drawback. BYSC has strong leadership this year and is hosting an Earth Day celebration, partnership with Bluegrass Tomorrow, to transition to an Idea Festival, a Career Maker Fair and a Youth TED Talk, which will be a Federick Douglass High School this year.
- E. McNulty noted that DCA is doing the Eco-Art Contest, which takes submissions from students in air, water, land, and natural habitats. It can be photography, sculpture, etc. Deadline is February 16. She noted that DCA no longer has a dedicated display space for the winners. R. Burnes suggested a display case in the capitol rotunda, and subscribing to the UK LISTSERV for art teachers.
- C. Von Gruenigen thought that we could build upon coordinating events and activities through KEEC. W. Bullock noted that KEEC would try to do this as part of the annual report for the EE Master Plan. R. Burnes suggested using the UK EE and Science LISTSERVs. Watershed Coordinator meeting this Friday focusing on Agriculture, and DCA will be there to talk about KY EXCEL farm. There will be an AmeriCorps member there through VISTA through the Headwaters organization in Letcher County. He suggested inviting Janie Cambron to participate in the ISEE committee. Project WET/PLT workshop in Campbellsville January 23-24. Jim Claypool Art and writing Contest closed yesterday. Second year of \$5000 mini-grants.
- D. Delong reported on Division of Waste Management. She is from the Local Assistance Program, which helps with plans that include waste management, including an educational component. Do 5-year plans, annual reports, help with recycle, reduce, reuse. Main role is with planning. She suggested a program that Solid Waste Coordinators could take to schools. She presented a report on some of the educational activities that they have done: Dumpster Dives, Recycle Relay, Participation in public and School Events, creation of resource Materials, Discussion and Planning, and specific Public Outreach. There is a Solid Waste Coordinator in every county of the state, some of whom have been PRIDE coordinators. L. True noted that there are curriculum projects for water, wildlife, and forestry, but nothing for solid waste. What they need from KEEC is assistance and information for EE, resources, contacts, things to explore to pass off to solid waste coordinators that they can take to schools. B. Bennett suggested KGHS. KEEC will look through resources to see what they can refer. L. True noted how important adult education is when they are talking with planners and judge-executives and other decision-makers. Led to a discussion of the connections between solid waste and water (trash in streams) solid waste and air (burning trash). R. Burnes suggested the mini-documentary "The Majestic Plastic Bag." W. Bullock noted that KEEC is presenting on the PEEC course to a SWAC meeting tomorrow. L. True suggested that we reassure them the DWM, through their branch, is working on putting together a more structured program to assist them with requests from schools and other community groups. D. Delong said that they are seen as just planning and reporting and can

help beyond those things. We need to emphasize that the Local Assistance Section is their resource for education and materials.

Schedule of meetings. W. Bullock asked committee members to review meeting dates for 2018 and let KEEC know if there are any major conflicts.

Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT