



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2018

Meeting Location: 300 Building, 4th Floor, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Committee Members in Attendance: Billy Bennett, Wesley Bullock, Tresine Logsdon, Rae McEntyre, Elizabeth McNulty

Other staff in Attendance: Ashley Mike

Others in Attendance: Michaela Rogers, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Quorum of KEEC Meetings

After review of KEEC bylaws, KEEC staff determined that quorum for any KEEC committee meeting is met by any members of the committee who are in attendance. This means that the membership of the Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education can be expanded once again to include all potentially interested parties without regard for whether they can regularly attend meetings.

Environmental Education Leadership Corps

A. Mike described the purpose, origin, and composition of the Environmental Education Leadership Corps, an AmeriCorps program created by KEEC. The program consists of members serving at host sites across Kentucky to promote environmental literacy. A. Mike noted that there is still an opening in London for a member to serve at the JM Feltner 4-H camp, and several openings in Lexington and Louisville. She described the host sites as nonprofits and government agencies that have all types of environmental education, including camps, parks, solid waste, and colleges. The member service opportunities start on September 1 and finish August 31 of each year.

E. McNulty said that she has a lot of college and graduate students coming to her looking for opportunities. KEEC will give her promotional materials for potential members and information about becoming a site, and also send the information to T. Logsdon

Professional Environmental Educator Certification

W. Bullock said that 24 the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course has 24 participants in 2018-19, half of which are members of the Environmental Education Leadership Corps. He said that the first 2 of 4 workshops have been completed. Noting that the participation of EELCorps members means that the course will now be conducted annually instead of every other year, he described potential changes to the course, including venue and structure of workshops. T. Logsdon asked about the percentage of formal teachers in the course, which W. Bullock estimated at below 10% for K-12 only, and around 15% including college and university professors.

US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

B. Bennett noted the release of KEEC's application for nomination to the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. He pointed out that the application has been revised based on a template from the US Department of Education, and that there will be a panel of judges reviewing them. T. Logsdon asked about how much data should be included in the application. W. Bullock noted that the US Department of Education is looking for innovative programming more so than schools to check all of the boxes of sustainability.

Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan

B. Bennett announced that the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan has been revised by a panel and will be published for public comment.

North American Association for Environmental Education 2019 Conference

B. Bennett said that the 2019 North American Association for Environmental Education Conference will be held in Lexington at the Lexington Convention Center. He estimated based on past conferences that there will be 1500-1800 attendees. He pointed out that people who volunteer 8 hours for the conference get free registration. The conference will also serve as the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education and Southeast Environmental Education Alliance conferences.

R. McEntyre noted that the National Science Teachers' Association regional conference will be in Cincinnati in November 2019, and the national NSTA conference will be in St. Louis in March, so science teachers will likely elect to attend those conferences rather than the NAAEE conference.

EE Master Plan and Survey

B. Bennett noted that KEEC will be working next year on the Master Plan for Environmental Education in Kentucky and Survey of Kentuckians' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors, both of which are conducted by KEEC every 5 years according to its legislative mandate. KEEC plans to work with the Kentucky Center for Statistics to conduct the survey. Stakeholder meetings for the master plan will likely be in Frankfort, and in the east, west, and south of Kentucky. Meetings will probably be conducted by a facilitator, then a smaller group will gather to draft the final plan.

Grant for Pollinator Curricula

B. Bennett and M. Rogers discussed a grant for pollinator curricula that KEEC applied for in partnership with the Department for Fish and Wildlife Resources. KEEC will find out in February if the project receives \$30,000 for workshops and sub-grants to schools. Teacher professional development workshops would likely be held in summer 2019. Teachers would receive a stipend and pollinator kit.

T. Logsdon said that Fayette County Schools have at least 20 rain gardens that are not maintained very well. She is working with the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education on the Outdoor Learning Symposium to get teachers to make better use of their spaces, and she would be interested in the grant project if it is funded.

Updates from Committee Members

- T. Logsdon noted that Fayette County is on the second year of their sustainability and wellness scorecard. They have revised the Go Green to Earn Green program to change how the money is earned. Instead of simply through energy savings, schools earn money through completing projects like energy audits. She said that the Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council has more than 50 participants. She said that much of the focus for high schools is currently on college and

career readiness. Her roadblock is a difficulty in finding Kentucky workforce data that points to sustainability career potential. She is also working on creating a sustainability strategic plan for the district.

- E. McNulty said that the Division of Compliance Assistance is undergoing a lot of transitioning between personnel and positions. Robyn Whitted is participating in the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course and doing a lot of networking to ramp up the KY EXCEL program. They had a few graduate students from Kentucky State University talking about getting into careers. She is looking at how to make a better mechanism for recruiting interested students into state government, like job shadowing.
- R. McEntyre noted that the Education and Professional Standards Board is now joining the Kentucky Department of Education. Her former Office of Teaching and Learning was dissolved, and 25 people working on curriculum and instruction is down to 6 because of budget cuts. She is enjoying her time in the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course.
- M. Rogers noted that she does not work in the same department with conservation educators. There is a Kentucky Monarch Conservation plan (published last January), and she is the outreach coordinator for it. There will be a Monarch day next year with tabling. She is trying to do more with conservation educators, who have had a lot of people retire. Her position was created through federal funding because of the threat to the Monarch butterfly. It is an environmental scientist position. Much of what she does focuses on funding for pollinators in places like wildlife management areas or nature preserves. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Columbia Gas are doing a lot of pollinator plantings. Kentucky Wild Ones also does a lot of outreach and education. She organizes with all of these different groups.

Adjourned at 3:00 PM.