



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)  
Winter Council Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2018

**Meeting Location:** 300 Building, 300 Sower Boulevard, Room 414, Frankfort, KY 40601

**Meeting Time:** February 7, 2018, 1:00 p.m. Eastern

**Council Members in Attendance:** Chair Billie Hardin, Vice Chair Marc Norton, Lona Brewer, Karin Ceralde, Karen Reagor

**Absent Members:** Horace Brown, Gordon Garner

**Staff in Attendance:** Billy Bennett, Gregory Taylor

Call to Order

⇒ K. Reagor moved to call the meeting to order. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Minutes Review

⇒ K. Reagor moved to approve the minutes of the November 2017 Council Meeting. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Vision Statement

The Council's Mission Statement was approved at the November 2017 Council Meeting. The Council's Vision Statement will be discussed at the July 2018 Council Retreat.

Executive Director's Report

B. Bennett delivered the Executive Director's Report on the status of the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program, the Professional Environmental Educator Certification program, and agency outreach efforts. G. Taylor, Environmental Education Specialist, updated the Council on his work with the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program and the sub-grants to schools for water quality and conservation projects through the grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. B. Hardin requested an estimate of the number of students participating in, and the number of students impacted by, Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools projects.

Quarterly Budget Report and AmeriCorps Grant

B. Bennett delivered the Quarterly Budget Report. He noted that, to better fulfill the responsibilities of its AmeriCorps planning grant, KEEC is working on a Memorandum of Agreement for a 501(c)(3) organization to serve as a fiscal agent for the hiring of a Program Director. The Council asked for a comparison of how grant funds would be spent with or without the MOA.

#### Motion to Approve Quarterly Budget Report

⇒ K. Reagor moved to approve the Quarterly Budget Report. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

Recess

#### 2018 Legislative Session and Proposed 2018-2020 Biennial Budget

B. Hardin reported on her participation in the last meeting of the Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board. She noted that Senate Bill 129 would re-organize the Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board to, among other changes, eliminate the participation of the chair of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council.

B. Hardin noted that the Governor's proposed 2018-2020 biennial budget would eliminate all funding for the Council. Council members discussed strategies for communicating the value of the Council's work, including highlighting the fact that the Council receives no general funds and works to ensure that environmental educators do not mix advocacy with education. M. Norton will draft a letter to the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee with these points and distribute it to Council Members for comment.

#### Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education

B. Bennett reported on the December 2017 meeting of the Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education.

#### Council Membership

Council members interested in re-appointment to the Council upon the expiration of current member terms in October 2018 should send their boards and commissions application to Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Legislative Liaison Mardi Montgomery. B. Hardin is forwarding this information to people who are interested in the vacant Council Member positions.

#### Motion to Adjourn (a quorum must be present to approve motions)

⇒ L. Brewer moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Norton seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.