



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)
Council Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2018

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

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Council Members in Attendance: Chair Billie Hardin, Vice Chair Marcus Norton, Lona Brewer, Karin Ceralde, Gordon Garner

Absent Members: Horace Brown, Karen Reagor

Staff in Attendance: Billy Bennett, Wesley Bullock, Gregory Taylor

A. Introduction

1. The meeting was called to order by B. Hardin at 1:09 PM. W. Bullock confirmed that public notice of the Council Meeting was given on the agency website, in a cabinet press release, and the agenda was posted at least 24 hours in advance in the meeting location, as required by Open Meetings law when a special meeting is called.
2. B. Hardin reminded the Council that the quarterly council meeting scheduled for May 9, 2018, was canceled due to lack of quorum, and that discussion at this Special Council Meeting is limited to items on the agenda, as required by Open Meetings law. G. Garner noted that
3. B. Hardin reminded Council Members to disclose their affiliations with other organizations if those affiliations are germane to a topic of discussion.
4. W. Bullock called roll. Of the seven Council Members, five were present, constituting a quorum.
5. Action: Motion to Approve February 2018 Council Meeting Minutes: ⇨ At 1:12 PM, G. Garner moved to approve the minutes of the February Council Meeting. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.
6. B. Hardin noted that Open Meetings law requires that the Council follow the agenda that was published in advance of the special meeting.
7. Action:
 - a. Motion to Elect Council Chair: ⇨ At 1:13 PM, L. Brewer moved to elect B. Hardin as Chair of the Council. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.
 - b. Motion to Elect Council Vice Chair: ⇨ At 1:13 PM, L. Brewer moved to elect M. Norton as Vice Chair of the Council. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.
8. Travel vouchers, volunteer forms

B. State Government/Legislature

1. Information: Senate Bill 129. B. Hardin noted that Senate Bill 129, reorganizing the Heritage Land Conservation Board, eliminated the longstanding seat on the Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board for the Kentucky Environmental Education Council Chair. M. Norton noted that, even if the Council does not have a seat on the Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board, a Council member should attend the meetings. B. Hardin agreed. G. Gordon asked if the seat was replaced by someone from another position, and B. Hardin noted that the seat was just eliminated and the board was reduced in number. M. Norton asked if the Council should make some effort to be restored to a seat on the board. B. Hardin said that she was willing to consider that. W. Bullock said that the staff would monitor the situation and advise the Council. B. Hardin requested that staff send meeting dates for the Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board to her and M. Norton so that they could attend.
2. Update: Leadership Changes. B. Bennett noted that, since the agenda item was prepared, Governor Bevin has appointed Derrick Ramsey to be the permanent Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. Secretary Ramsey was most recently the Secretary of the Labor Cabinet. B. Hardin noted that the Governor directed the Secretaries of Education and Workforce Development; Tourism, Arts, and Heritage; and Labor to find efficiencies. B. Hardin asked about how best to advise those secretaries.
3. Information: Communicating Council Value. B. Hardin asked for suggestions for how to prepare materials so that we are not preparing them at the last minute if asked by, for instance, an education committee in the General Assembly. L. Brewer suggested focusing on EE as developing critical thinking skills, at least in conversations with Secretary Ramsey. B. Hardin asked if staff had come across research in that area. B. Bennett has found some new research in relation to the KERP. L. Brewer and B. Hardin asked that staff prepare a completed report within the next three months. M. Norton emphasized that staff focus on these issues when they have conversations with Secretary Ramsey. K. Ceralde noted how she has seen EE engage students in the skills needed by employers. B. Bennett and K. Ceralde noted that KEEC will be going to schools to present KGHS awards at the beginning of next school year. L. Brewer and B. Hardin asked staff to ensure that those presentations get scheduled and present that schedule to the Council at the July meeting. K. Ceralde suggested contacting principals to get these scheduled and contact local newspapers for publicity. B. Hardin suggested highlighting individual stories of EE on our website, perhaps one per month. G. Garner noted that Kentucky Waterways Alliance is the Kentucky affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, and that they have struggled to interest outdoors organizations in conservation. B. Hardin noted that KEEC should reach out to the sports show on 84 WHAS. B. Hardin would like the following for the July meeting: value of EE to workforce development, awards to schools, draft of testimonials, highlights and blurbs of EE outside of K-12, and contacting the WHAS sports person, Jim Strader (unless there is conflict with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Service), and elaborating on the bullet points that were presented to legislators during the budget session. L. Brewer suggested linking to the Naturally Connected story on the KGHS/NEED Summit.
4. Action: Resolution to thank Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Fiscal Services staff. Motion to Draft Resolution: ⇨ At 1:59 PM, G. Garner moved to have KEEC

staff draft a resolution to thank fiscal staff for their support for Council activities and send it to the Council for approval. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

5. Information: Biennial Budget Approval. W. Bullock presented the amounts that were approved for KEEC's budget by the General Assembly. L. Brewer requested that staff check in whether the cabinet budget has been submitted with information by account for KEEC funds. She discussed the fact that we should make these projections before the end of the fiscal year. B. Hardin noted that in future years, these projections should be made in February meetings, with final approval in May meetings in the future.
6. Information: Federal EE Funding. W. Bullock discussed national EE programs that were funded in the federal budget.

C. Budget

1. Information: Quarterly budget report. L. Brewer and B. Hardin suggested having B. Bennett send a memo to EEC staff requesting the \$150,000 transfer from KHLCF on August 1, with follow-up monthly.

D. Vision, Mission, Goals, and Workplan

1. Action: Schedule of upcoming council meetings. Council Members decided to keep the current structure of a 2-day retreat in July because it makes sense to do both year-in-review and planning at the same time, the retreat allows members to focus on council business, and new members can have a separate orientation when they are brought on. W. Bullock will look into Shaker Village, KCTCS central office, and Life Adventure Center as possible locations. Staff will send an email to Council Members in the middle of June asking for topics for the Council Retreat agenda and sending out the form for pre-work on the Vision statement. B. Hardin would like the retreat to be separate from the regular Council Meeting.
2. Information: Vision. B. Hardin requested that staff incorporate the Council's mission statement be on all Council web sites and documents.

E. Environmental Education

1. Update: Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools. W. Bullock reported that 35 schools received awards through KGHS this year, of which 20 were EPA grant participants. B. Hardin asked staff to make sure to use Bobbi Lee as a contact for recruiting teachers to the workshops. W. Bullock also reported on the activities of the KGHS Advisory Committee.
2. Action: Green Ribbon Schools. B. Bennett reported that Greg Dunbar of KDE asked if KEEC would take over the program due to personnel cuts in KDE, which will no longer be able to support the program. L. Brewer asked if there is any money attached to the duties of administering the program. B. Bennett said that there is not money attached, but recognition. B. Hardin said that administering the program would further cement the legitimacy of the Council. B. Bennett noted that KEEC could require KGHS membership as a condition of being a Green Ribbon School. Council Members reviewed the chart of green schools programs. B. Hardin asked if we could encourage the Eastern Kentucky PRIDE board to require KGHS membership as a condition of the grant. L. Brewer asked whether Eastern Kentucky PRIDE gets their money for the grants directly

- from ARC or through flow-down from Kentucky. B. Bennett was not sure but will look into it. B. Hardin asked staff to put together an additional part to the chart showing how the green schools fit together, but decided against it when she realized that we weren't trying to market bundling them together. Motion to Administer Green Ribbon Schools:
⇒ At 3:44 PM, M. Norton moved to direct KEEC staff to take the necessary steps to become the administrator of the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program. K. Ceralde seconded. L. Brewer said her concern was that the staff time required would not be worth the recognition received for administering the program. K. Ceralde, B. Hardin, and M. Norton were in favor. L. Brewer was opposed. The motion passed.
3. Update: Professional Environmental Educator Certification. W. Bullock reported that the PEEC course had reached capacity with 17 applicants for 14 spaces, with the rest reserved for AmeriCorps. He noted that the CAC met and discussed improving the course based on feedback from the last course and how to accommodate more participants.
 4. Update: Outreach. B. Bennett reported on KEEC's new outreach efforts with the KY EXCEL program for business and the Kentucky Association of Schools Councils.

F. Coordination

1. Update: KELP revision working group. B. Bennett reported on the efforts to update the KELP, which will be published in updated electronic form after the final meeting on June 4. L. Brewer noted that the only participants were from central Kentucky. B. Hardin asked if there was a plan to send out the draft to a broader audience before it is final, or if KEEC could have a larger stakeholder meeting. B. Hardin asked who owns the KELP. B. Bennett said it is the Council. B. Hardin said that, because of that, we need to ensure to include the entire state. L. Brewer said to make sure to at least offer the opportunity for input. Invite a lot of people for a one-day meeting in the summer. B. Hardin requested a timeline for the meeting the publication of the KELP.
2. Update: University Centers for Environmental Education. In addition to the agenda item report, B. Bennett reported that he is working with contacts at University of Louisville to schedule a meeting in the fall to discuss establishing a center. He also reported that April Haight has retired from Morehead State University, and Lesia Lennex and Sara Lindsey will be taking over some of the center responsibilities, primarily working with preservice teachers. Also, Kim Yates at NKU has created a micro-credential program in EE, and she is taking over as President of KUPEE. KUPEE is working on a new webpage and has submitted an EPA grant proposal.
3. Update: Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education
4. Update: Kentucky Association for Environmental Education.

G. Support – Public and Private

1. Information: EPA grant report. KEEC received a one-year extension on the grant which will allow it to do the grant activities already planned, but with more time to allow for the workshops and school sub-grantee activities.
2. Information: AmeriCorps grant report. B. Bennett reported on the search for a Program Director. The grant was submitted in early May, and KEEC expects to hear back from KCCVS on the grant by the end of June. He reported that approximately half of the KCCVS funds will have to be returned from the planning grant.

3. Information: Fundraising report. B. Bennett reported that KEEC has not applied for as many grants in the past quarter because of the budget situation, but he is starting to apply for more grants again.

H. Communication and Marketing

1. Information: Survey of EE organizations. B. Hardin suggested looking into revising the logo. W. Bullock will send around the survey for input.
2. Stakeholder Meetings

Motion to Adjourn: ⇒ At 5: 14 PM, L. Brewer moved to adjourn. K. Ceralde seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion passed.

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