

Environmental Education Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Reminder of virtual protocol

Statement in memory of former commissioner Angela Capello followed by a moment of silence

Call to order, Jennifer Roberts: 1:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Present - Denise Bennett, Mary Cooper for Dean Blackett, Ashley Cain, Murt Conover, Morgan Crutcher, Heather Egger, Brian Gautreau, Pierre LaCaze, Dinah Maygarden, Ronnie Morris, Breigh Rhoads, Jennifer Roberts, Brian Salvatore, Kea Sherman

Also in attendance: Thomas Gresham, Nathan Corley, LDOE Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Academic Content, Office of Teaching and Learning Chanda Johnson, LDOE Policy Advisor Ryan Gremillion

Coordinator's report, Thomas Gresham: Environmental Education Grants Program plans to increase the maximum award to \$10,000, single unified application, remove some reporting requirements, new theme each year—this year is outdoor education—and encourage partnerships. These are contingent upon allocations. Awards will be reviewed and awardees selected before the June BESE meeting. In-person Teacher Leader Summit is planned for May. Several environmental education sessions are planned. Staff and commissioners are involved in a workgroup developing Key Environmental Principles and Concepts to guide environmental education. Nathan Corley is leading work on revising the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Pathway. Providers have proposed courses. Those are under review. Thomas attended OpenSciEd training.

Environmental Literacy Plan update, Morgan Crutcher: To launch development, the working group wrote a vision, mission and values statement. This document was sent to the ELP committee, then full commission. The only feedback was two email comments. First, should the ELP place more emphasis on adult education? Commissioners decided at the most recent strategic planning session that efforts should be focused on K-12. The second comment asked to clarify who “we” refers to in the statement “for too long, we have not addressed the misperception that environmental education is a non-academic pursuit...” Morgan suggested removing “we” and stating that the misperception has not been addressed.

Morgan presented the ELP draft timeline. The group adjusted the mechanics. Instead of one team per chapter, different working groups will address specific topics, provide recommendations and send them to a strategy synthesis team. Morgan recapped the timeline and introduced the workgroups.

Brian Salvatore commented that an adult education component is crucial. Denise Bennett, Jennifer Roberts, Kea Sherman and Pierre LaCaze agreed.

Nathan Corley paused to re-call roll to ensure a quorum.

Kea Sherman moved to adopt the vision statement. Pierre LaCaze seconded. After brief discussion, none opposed. The motion carried.

Vote to accept September and November 2020 meeting minutes: Breigh Rhodes moved to accept minutes from September 28. Morgan Crutcher seconded. None opposed. The motion carried. Breigh Rhodes moved to accept the minutes from November 10. Ashley Cain seconded. None opposed. The motion carried.

Vote for officers, Nominating Committee Chair Brian Gautreau: The commissioners elected Morgan Crutcher as chair-elect and Connie Conner as secretary.

Bylaws discussion, Kea Sherman: Kea Sherman gave background on changes. Brian Salvatore requested clarification about selections and appointments. LDOE Policy Advisor Ryan Gremillion offered clarification. Kea Sherman moved to dismiss the 60-day-before-vote requirement for the bylaws committee to review changes to drafts. Breigh Rhodes seconded. None opposed. The motion carried. Brian Gautreau moved to accept the proposed bylaws. Breigh Rhodes seconded. None opposed. The motion carried.

Project Spotlight: Key Environmental Principles and Concepts, Thomas Gresham: Thomas presented background information on the concepts development process and invited commissioners to join a brainstorming session.

Project Spotlight: Environmental Protection and Sustainability Pathway, Nathan Corley: Nathan updated commissioners on EPS progress, including new course proposals. Brian Gautreau asked for details about potential providers. Nathan provided additional information.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: May 11 and August 24

Announcements: Environmental Education Code at Teacher Leader Summit. Key Concepts Brainstorming. Denise Bennett asked if educators beyond K-12 were invited. Breigh Rhodes confirmed that all environmental educators were invited and that EE attendees would not count against the seats already allocated to school systems. Nathan Corley provided a budget update. Pierre LaCaze, Brian Gautreau and Morgan Crutcher requested information about how statutory funds are received and spent. Breigh Rhodes and Chanda Johnson provided clarification.

Thomas Gresham announced former LEEC coordinator Venise Ortego's retirement and thanked her for her service.

Adjournment: Kea Sherman motioned to adjourn. Pierre LaCaze seconded. None opposed. Meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.