

**KENTUCKY FILM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025  
MINUTES**

A special meeting of the Kentucky Film Leadership Council (KLFC) convened at 3:02 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2025, through both in person attendance and video conference. The primary location for the meeting where all members could be seen and heard and the public was able to attend in accordance with KRS 61.826 and 61.840 was the Conference Room at 500 Mero Street, Mayo-Underwood Bldg, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl, Frankfort, Kentucky. While participants, media and members of the general public were able to attend the council meeting in person at the primary location, space was limited, and attendees were encouraged to join the meeting virtually and provided a link for a video teleconference.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Soozie Eastman, Chairperson of KFLC, called the meeting to order and verified press notification. Molly Lancaster called the roll.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Soozie Eastman, Misdee Wrigley Miller, Jeremy Winton, Steve Zahn, Secretary Jeff Noel, Secretary Lindy Casebier and Secretary Jamie Link.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Kylee Palmer, Shannon MacDonald, Chad Zimlich, Joseph Gearon, Nasim Moula, Ashiq Zaman, Cody Pennington, Jason Harley, Brennan Tucker, Tim Bates, Andrew Osborne, Peyton McElmurray, Casadi Bramer, Breanna Dolan, Gabrielle McGee, Raven Aiken, Sara Fontaine (502 Film Office), Mary Jackson (CPE), Lisa Brin (FilmLEX Lead), Bryan Houston, Kristi Kilday, Gregory Schroeder.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was introduced by Soozie Eastman to approve the minutes of the Kentucky Film Leadership Council special working group meeting held on Thursday, July 24, 2025. Misdee Wrigley Miller made the motion and was seconded by Secretary Jeff Noel. The motion carried without opposition.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

The three subcommittees presented reports to the full Council following small meetings that were held the previous week.

**Vision/Mission Subcommittee**

Misdee Wrigley Miller, Soozie Eastman and Jeff Noel met on Wednesday, August 6, to formulate both a comprehensive mission and vision statement for the KFLC. The language of the proposed statement was, as follows:

***"Kentucky Film Leadership Council Mission Statement***

*The Kentucky Film Leadership Council is dedicated to fostering a vibrant and sustainable entertainment industry in the Commonwealth. Our mission is to promote the state as a premier destination for production by offering robust tax incentives, building and supporting local talent, attracting diverse productions, and showcasing Kentucky's unique landscapes. Through collaboration, education, and advocacy, we will drive economic growth, create opportunities for communities and individuals alike, while celebrating the art of storytelling to continually develop world renowned infrastructure across our production-friendly state.*

***Kentucky Film Leadership Council Vision Statement***

*The Kentucky Film Leadership Council vision is to position Kentucky as a leading hub for innovative entertainment production, where storytellers, artists, and communities collaborate to drive economic prosperity, cultural growth, and deeper appreciation of the Commonwealth."*

All comments were supportive. Soozie Eastman introduced a motion to accept the proposed statement. Secretary Lindy Casebier moved; Secretary Jeff Noel seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

**Executive Director Search Subcommittee**

Soozie Eastman, Secretary Link and Secretary Noel met on Wednesday, August 6, to discuss the draft Executive Director Position Posting as presented by Soozie Eastman. After review and open discussion with the KFLC members, it was decided to modify as follows:

- Full time work week corrected to 37.5 from 40 hrs/week
- Remove yellow highlighting to emphasize open discussion – no change
- List a probationary period of six-months

The posting will remain open for up to ninety (90) days, or until we select/hire a candidate. After the first twenty-one (21) days, KFLC can begin to screen and interview any candidates. The posting will be distributed on many employment sites and on the CED website for ease of review. All interested candidate's resumes will be collected by Shannon MacDonald.

Soozie Eastman proposed to create a subcommittee to review the incoming resumes for consideration. Proposed members include

- Soozie Eastman
- Misdee Wrigley Miller
- Steve Zahn

Soozie Eastman introduced a motion to accept the Executive Director Posting. Jeremy Winton moved; Secretary Jeff Noel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **Guidelines Subcommittee**

Jeremy Winton, Misdee Wrigley Miller, and Steve Zahn presented a draft set of topics for discussion related to potential programmatic changes moving forward. There was extensive discussion on the topics as they were presented. Specifically, topics were changing the program's incentive caps, following industry standards on budgeting, prioritization during the project ranking process, including training partnerships, required levels of funding, administrative fees, documentation required in the application process, and treatment of previously committed funding for projects that elect to no longer proceed. The members of the Guidelines Subcommittee requested a second meeting with Chad Zimlich and Matt Wingate to clarify potential proposed changes to the current KEI Program guidelines and to create proposed comments to the KEI Program's administrative regulations through the notice and comment process. The Guidelines Subcommittee will present proposals at the August 28 KFLC meeting for consideration/approval.

Soozie Eastman introduced a motion to replace Steve Zahn with Soozie Eastman on the Guidelines Subcommittee due to Steve's extensive travel commitments. Misdee Wrigley Miller moved; Jeremy Winton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Kylee Palmer presented the KEI Program "cap summary," which identified the number of approved projects and approved incentives Year-to-Date, along with the remaining balance and number of proposed projects for the current month.

The following projects were presented for consideration by the KFLC:

1. Sunshine Films Florida LCC, production in Jefferson County, presented by Cody Pennington

Soozie Eastman introduced a motion to approve the project. Misdee Wrigley Miller moved; Secretary Jamie Link seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jeremy Winton disclosed a financial interest in GR Film Slate 1, LLC and GR Film Slate 5, LLC, in accordance with the KFLC Bylaws, and refrained from participating in discussions relating to or taking any action on those projects. Jeremy Winton left the room during these discussions.

2. GR Film Slate 1 LLC, production in Hopkins County, presented by Tim Bates

Misdee Wrigley Miller inquired as to the overall budget for the project, which was noted as post-production only. Misdee Wrigley Miller also inquired as to the nature of the project. Kristi Kilday, on behalf of GR Film Slate 1, LLC, was present at the meeting and discussed the nature of the project being archival footage utilized to create 13 episodes of a true crime television series. Secretary Noel inquired whether the archival footage was shot in Kentucky. Kristi Kilday identified that the footage was not made in Kentucky but was shot in various locations throughout the world, and related to archival footage in the true crime genre.

Soozie Eastman introduced a motion to approve the project. Steve Zahn moved; Secretary Jeff Noel seconded. The motion carried with abstain.

3. GR Film Slate 5 LLC, production in Hopkins County, presented by Tim Bates

Soozie Eastman introduced a motion to approve the project. Secretary Jeff Noel moved to approve; Steve Zahn seconded. The motion carried with abstain.

Jeremy Winton returned to the meeting to discuss the remaining projects.

4. Frontier Lives LLC, production in Edmonson, Jefferson, and Powell counties, presented by Brennan Tucker

Brennan Tucker identified that a page of the budget needed to be substituted and reprinted for the Council's consideration of the project. After discussion of Wellness Trails, LLC, below, the Council returned to this topic to discuss the project.

Additional questions regarding the production were discussed. Soozie Eastman made a motion to table consideration of the project, requesting the documentation outlined below. Misdee Wrigley Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. Wellness Trails LLC, production in several counties, presented by Brennan Tucker

Additional questions regarding the production were discussed. Soozie Eastman introduced a motion to table consideration of the project, requesting the documentation outlined below. Secretary Noel made the motion; Misdee Miller Wrigley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The KFLC identified the following items requested to be provided for the tabled projects:

- Additional forms of proof of funding (bank statements, contracts, etc.)
- Plans/documentation for distribution
- Deal memos (agreements between key personnel and the applicant)
- Detailed, episode-by-episode synopsis and involved/committed talent
- Descriptive breakdown of budget
- Explanation of production timing – Both projects seem to use the same key personnel, such as the DP

The KFLC's next regular scheduled meeting is August 28, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Lindy Casebier made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Misdee Wrigley Miller. The motion passed without opposition.

Soozie Eastman, Chair  
Kentucky Film Leadership Council