

## MINUTES

### WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP

#### KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

DECEMBER 10, 2014

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The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Resources Management Work Group met at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, December 10, 2014.

Work Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Tyler Campbell; Todd Clark; Sharon Furches; Pete Goodmann; Pat Henderson; Kenneth Imel; Kevin Jeffries; Gary Larimore; David Rowlett and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Dr. Nancy Cox; Terry Gilbert; and Roger Thomas. Ex-officio members present were: Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey; Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, Natural Resources conservation Service. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; and John McCauley, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency. Others in attendance were: Drew Graham, representing Dr. Nancy Cox; John Johnson, representing Tom Fern; Biff Baker, representing Roger Thomas; Pete Cinotto; Dawn Riley; Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; David Beck, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Dan Smaldone, Public Relations Director; Carilynn Coombs, Social Media Specialist; Roger Nesbitt, Editor, KFB News; Bob Shrader, Video Production Coordinator; Bryan Alvey, Local Affairs & Policy Development Director; Fran McCall, Commodity Specialist; and Katie Spradlin, Administrative Assistant. The meeting was staffed by Joe Cain.

This meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., EST by Chairman Steve Coleman, who welcomed and reviewed the purpose of the meeting. The Chairman asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mrs. Phyllis Amyx, former member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Board of Directors, past chairperson of the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Women's Advisory Committee, involved in Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary, and local Wolfe County Conservation District. Introductions were made.

Mr. Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, spoke to the Work Group about the premise of the Work Group and how direction can be developed for enhancing water resources in Kentucky. Mr. Haney urged the group to focus on

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three objectives: (1) research the status of water supplies in the state; (2) examine potential action to raise the availability of water to farms; and (3) make recommendations to the appropriate federal, state and private entities.

Mr. Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; and Mr. David Beck, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, each welcomed and thanked the Work Group members for their willingness to participate.

Mr. Joe Cain, Director, Commodity Division, Kentucky Farm Bureau, provided insight on how Kentucky Farm Bureau will be supporting the Water Resources Management Work Group's efforts through the use of media resources and noted water resource management is included in both Kentucky Farm Bureau's state and national priority issues for the 2015 year. He also reported that a depository of meeting information (presentations, useful links, supporting literature and minutes) will be located on the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Newsroom website at [www.kyfb.com/water](http://www.kyfb.com/water).

Mr. Pete Cinotto, Supervisory Hydrologist, USGS, presented to the Work Group on the 'Water Use and Monitoring Networks in Kentucky' (copy of the PowerPoint is available on the website). USGS compiles data on water use every five years and that data shows groundwater withdrawals have increased slightly in the eastern part of the United States but surface-water withdrawals have declined in both the east and the west. In Kentucky, one challenge we face with data is the shift to urban gages from rural gages. While this improves our understanding of urban hydrology it weakens our overall view of the state's water resources. Observation wells in an optimized network can tell us something about regional/local groundwater and resources. There are approximately 210 sites in Kentucky with real-time streamflow data. However, Mr. Cinotto noted there is only one groundwater real-time observation well in Kentucky meaning any conclusions regarding state-wide groundwater are speculation at best. USGS has been monitoring surface water with a stream gages for some time, with some gages having been in operation over 100 years in Kentucky. USGS also uses modern non-contact sensors to measure stream flow with acoustics and radar.

Mr. Coleman asked members of the Work Group to give their top priority topics for future meeting programs. Topics voiced included the following: the financial impact of water resource management and development, current scientific information that will serve as the basis of recommendations, education opportunities that will be a major component of all aspects of the work group's efforts, being as inclusive as possible in development of information and future programs, looking at long-term water resource trends for availability and affordability, and how does water resource development and management impact different groups in agriculture and the urban sector.

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Mr. Coleman noted efforts will be made to include other groups to attend future meetings and asked the Work Group to consider who, or what groups should be invited in the future to work group meetings. Recommendations included the Commissioner of Agriculture as well state and federal legislators who may consider future legislation or regulations should be invited once the working group begins to develop more detailed information and begins charting a plan of action.

Mr. Coleman opened the floor for additional comments or suggestions the Work Group might have. Members noted it would be interesting to look at new emerging technologies such as soil sensors, more efficient irrigation technologies and explore the opportunity Kentucky might have to begin producing food currently being produced in areas of the country or world that have limited water resources were mentioned.

The Work Group discussed the specifics of future meetings such as dates, location, time allotment, possible subcommittees, and action items that need to be completed by the next Water Resources Management Work Group meeting. Members suggested possible speakers for upcoming meetings might include presenters from Kentucky NRCS on water resource development concepts, a presentation on the Kentucky Drought Mitigation Plan from the Kentucky Division of Water and possibly inviting well drillers to discuss the development of groundwater wells. The Work Group also suggested site visits to the Louisville Water Company, USGS Kentucky Water Science Center or visiting a stream gage could prove beneficial for Work Group members.

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Resources Management Work Group meeting will be held Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky, starting at 10:00 am eastern time. Dates for upcoming Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Resources Management Work Group meetings were also set for February 18, 2015 and March 25, 2015, also at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

**Recorded by: Katie Spradlin  
Administrative Assistant**

**Approved by: L. Joe Cain, Director  
Commodity Division**