

MINUTES

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

MARCH 25, 2015

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group met at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Sharon Furches; Terry Gilbert; Pete Goodman; Pat Henderson; Kevin Jeffries; Gary Larimore; David Rowlett; and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Tyler Campbell; Todd Clark; Dr. Nancy Cox; Kenny Imel; and Roger Thomas. Ex-officio members present were: Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; John McCauley, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency; Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS. Others in attendance were: Drew Graham, representing Dr. Nancy Cox; Biff Baker, representing Roger Thomas; Johnna McHugh, representing Kimberly Richardson; Dr. Steve Higgins; Dawn Riley; David Chinn; Tripp Furches; Charles Taylor; Bill Caldwell; Pete Cinotto; John Covington; Reed Cripps; Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Jeff Harper, Director, Public Affairs; Bob Shrader, Video Production Coordinator; Roger Nesbitt, Editor, KFB News; Ed McQueen, Market Information; 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. Introductions were made.

Chairman Coleman asked the Working Group to consider the minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, and seconded by Ms. Sharon Furches second that:

"We approve the minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting."

Motion carried.

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Mr. Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, spoke to the Working Group thanking them for providing their time and knowledge to the group in order to enhance water resources in Kentucky. Mr. Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; and Mr. Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, each welcomed and thanked the Working Group for their willingness to participate.

Chairman Coleman reminded the Working Group that a depository of meeting information (presentations, useful links, supporting literature and minutes) is located on the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Newsroom website at www.kyfb.com/water. Chairman Coleman also addressed the dress code for the Water Management Work and decided the attire will be business casual at the office and field attire when offsite.

John Covington, Executive Director, Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, provided information on the work the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority provides to the state. The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority has Regional Water Management Councils in Kentucky's 15 area development districts are comprised of a group of elected and appointed leaders, utility representatives, health department representatives and citizens at large. This council sets four planning elements of goal setting, objectives and strategies, alternative analysis, and financial strategy. Having the council benefits the state by minimizing the cost, maximizing the results of investments, improving the ability to analyze alternatives, greater community support for utility, and ensuring financial and revenue strategies are adequate. The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority's Water Resource Information System (WRIS) website provides information pertaining to proposed infrastructure, existing infrastructure, and system information. Mr. Covington discussed the different type of loan programs Kentucky Infrastructure Authority provides. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Mr. and Mrs. Tripp and Sharon Furches spoke to the Working Group about their farm irrigation experience on their farm in Calloway County. The Furches first tried drilling a 400 feet well in the center of their farm and were unable to drawl water due to the Porters Creek Clay underneath the ground. After gathering research they then tried drilling a well in the corner of their land and were able to hit water at 490 feet deep. The total cost of putting in a farm irrigation system on their land was \$163,840.00. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Mr. Jeff Harper, Director of Public Affairs, Kentucky Farm Bureau, discussed the provisions of HB 510 as they related to the Agriculture Development Fund and the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share program. He also discussed the provisions of HB 299 relating to Kentucky's fuel tax.

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Mr. Pete Cinotto, Supervisory Hydrologist, USGS, presented to the Working Group on the Monitoring Networks in Kentucky. The USGS monitors large rivers in Kentucky to determine what is coming into the state and leaving. In order to know requires both discrete sampling and continuous monitoring. Mr. Cinotto noted the water-quality network needs some upstream sites between the counties of Greenup and Cannelton to better measure the sources, such as at the Kentucky River, Salt River and Great Miami River. The smaller streams draining the Jackson Purchase are also a data gap, but it is less important than the major river basins. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Mr. Charles J. Taylor, Water Resources Section, Kentucky Geological Survey, University of Kentucky, discussed the Kentucky Geological Survey Well Sample and Core Library, which holds over 22,000 sets of well samples from all 120 counties in Kentucky. The Repository provides access to physical samples of bedrock and unconsolidated overburden strata of all types, oil and gas reservoir rocks, and aquifer media. Kentucky is a topographically and geologically complex state. Obtaining data needed for proper understanding and assessment of groundwater resources is often technically difficult and requires multidisciplinary study approaches. The KGS website (www.uky.edu/KGS/) provides much of the data that KGS collects and includes published reports and maps. In 2015-2016, the KGS will start up the new statewide Kentucky Groundwater Observation Network (KGON), consisting initially of fourteen long-term water-level monitoring wells and four karst springs. The goal of the network is to provide groundwater data needed to better assess groundwater availability, recharge, aquifer characteristics, and interaction with surface streams for the benefit of all Kentuckians, including the agricultural community. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Chairman Coleman opened the floor for additional comments or suggestion the Work Group or public might have, there was none.

Chairman Coleman introduced the Agriculture Drought Mitigation Subcommittee of the Water Management Working Group. The subcommittee will be chaired by Department of Agriculture, Mr. Warren Beeler and the members are as follows: Cooperative Extension Service, Dean Nancy Cox or her designee; Division of Conservation, Ms. Kim Richardson or her designee; Division of Forestry, Ms. Leah MacSwords or her designee; Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, Mr. Roger Thomas or his designee; UK Agriculture Weather Center, Dean Nancy Cox's designee; and Division of Water, Mr. Bill Caldwell. The objectives of the subcommittee are to define the specific problems that are most often encountered during drought and recommend viable solutions, strengthen the agriculture section of the Drought Mitigation Plan and expand on those things envisioned in the Plan, and to identify multiple ways that agriculture drought preparedness/response could be improved from impact assessments, climate/soil monitoring, financial assistance,

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on-farm water management projects, ect. The subcommittee will meet parallel to the Water Management Working Group or as needed. The subcommittee will report back to the Water Management Working Group on its progress.

The Working Group discussed possible speakers for upcoming meetings including possibly touring the Louisville Water facilities and a briefing on the progress of the Agriculture Drought Mitigation Subcommittee of the Water Management Working Group.

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting will be held Wednesday, April 29, 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 Management Working Group meetings were also tentatively set for May 20, 2015, at a tentative off-site location; will be discussed further at the April meeting.

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**